

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 22 September 1982

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Chairman:
Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:
Mr J. C. Bannon
Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr T. H. Hemmings
The Hon. D. J. Hopgood
Mr G. F. Keneally
Mr J. K. G. Oswald
Mr R. J. Randall

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: I have examined the minutes and, if there are no objections, I will sign them as being a correct record of the proceedings. In giving answers to questions the Minister might say that he will obtain information at a later date for the Committee. I ask that the information that the Minister does obtain is in a suitable form for insertion in *Hansard*. I welcome the Minister, the Hon. C. M. Hill.

I draw to the attention of the Committee that the programme for today also includes the Minister of Environment and Planning. Can the Committee indicate at what stage of its proceedings it would like the Minister of Environment and Planning to appear before the Committee?

Mr HEMMINGS: At 4 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that the wish of the Committee?

Mr HEMMINGS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Environment and Planning will be so advised. Does the Committee wish to set a rough programme on how it should apportion the time between now and 4 p.m., or is it happy to take things as they come?

Mr HEMMINGS: We can give a guarantee that we will deal with Arts after the luncheon adjournment. I wish to point out that, because of the way the Estimates of Payments is detailed, there is really very little information we can extract in relation to housing.

It is my intention, as the shadow Minister for both Local Government and Housing, to deal with both those questions as we go along, rather than dealing with local government first and then housing.

The CHAIRMAN: I advise the honourable member that he has to deal with them as they are laid before us, and the Chair will ensure that that course of action is taken.

Mr HEMMINGS: The point I wish to make, Mr Chairman, is that volume 2, book 6, deals with the detailed programme information for the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Housing, and surely I am entitled to deal with that particular document at any time I wish?

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest to the honourable member that the Estimates of Payments on page 61 is the guideline. I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.

Local Government, \$7 601 000

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Dr I. R. McPhail, Director, Department of Local Government.

Mr M. A. Herrmann, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Local Government.

Mr J. O. Messner, Acting Joint General Manager, South Australian Housing Trust.

Mr J. L. Crichton, Acting Joint General Manager, South Australian Housing Trust.

Mr E. McL. Miller, Acting State Librarian.

Ms M. S. Fallon, Acting Deputy State Librarian.

Mr B. Krumins, Chairman, South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister wish to make a brief statement before I invite questions?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, I place myself in the hands of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the spokesman for the Opposition wish to make any comments before asking a question?

Mr HEMMINGS: No, Mr Chairman: like the Minister, I am in the hands of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions?

Mr HEMMINGS: On page 5 of the Programme Estimates (book 6) under 'strategies' it says:

To draw more funds, both public and private, into housing and direct assistance as precisely as possible to those in the greatest need, and to emphasise the private housing market.

Has the Government considered taking up the suggestion by the Federal Government on page 58 of its Budget paper which says in part:

Beyond that, subject to the provision from its own resources of the same amount for welfare housing as in 1981-82, each State may nominate an additional amount from this Loan Council programme for the purpose of welfare and housing. This amount will then be advanced to the State subject to the normal concessional Loan terms and conditions of other welfare housing assistance.

The rate of interest for that money given to the State Government would be 4.5 per cent per annum.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: A sum of \$16 500 000 will be provided as matching money. Does the honourable member want to know the overall sum, how it is provided, as planned for the Housing Trust this year?

Mr HEMMINGS: No. What I want to know from the Minister is that during the 1981-82 programme (which I have before me) the Government claimed credit for additional finance through S.G.I.C. and the Public Service Superannuation Fund. There will be an additional question on the actual cost to the Housing Trust for these sums, but in the latest Federal Budget sums of money were available to the State Governments at 4.5 per cent interest, which is very cheap money. There is no indication in the programme papers or any statements or press releases that I have seen from the Minister that we are going to take up this low interest money. I would like the Minister to inform the Committee whether the Government intends to take advantage of this 4.5 per cent interest money to assist in what we would all agree is a crisis situation in housing in this State at the present time.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, the State Government intends to take up the proposition of the Federal Government and, as I said, we will provide the sum of \$16 500 000 as a matching amount.

Mr HEMMINGS: If it is correct that the State Government intends to take advantage of that offer from the Federal Government, can the Minister advise the Committee exactly

how that money will be spent, whether it will be spent in the public sector or through the State Bank for low interest loans to those wishing to purchase their own homes?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The money will go into funds being made available for the Housing Trust's construction programme which involves the plan to commence construction of 2 150 homes in the current financial year for welfare tenants who are on the trust's waiting list. Therefore, it means that the amount of \$16 500 000 will be provided for the construction of housing for tenants whom we term 'welfare tenants'; in other words, low income tenants.

Mr RANDALL: On a point of clarification, Mr Chairman, I understand from my activities on the Committee yesterday that the area under discussion is determined by the Estimates of Payments. I understand that we are presently discussing items on pages 61 and 62 of those papers. It is my understanding that the yellow booklet is a back-up source of information. Is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN: That is the correct course of action.

Mr RANDALL: On page 25 of the Programme Estimates under the programme title 'Policy Advice to the Minister of Housing', and in regard to specific objects the following information is given:

Establishment of the mortgage and rent relief scheme to assist home buyers and private renters experiencing difficulties. The scheme—to commence in August 1982—will provide funds of \$3 500 000 for interest-free loans and non-repayable allowances to households in need, including pensioners. The initial target for 1981-82 was expanded to include all eligible home-buyers and private renters in need, in lieu of aged pensioner renters only.

In regard to the initial Home Purchasers in-Crisis scheme introduced in October 1981, how many people have received relief under that programme, and at what cost? I refer to the initial \$100 000 that was allocated by the Government for this scheme in the last Budget?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Under the Home Purchasers in-Crisis Scheme, which was the original scheme implemented by the State Government, as at 14 September 1982 the committee had received 58 referrals for assistance of which 33 were approved. Incidentally, the remainder fall into the following categories: not approved, eight; assistance no longer required, nine; awaiting further information, six; and referrals back to the lender, two.

Mr HEMMINGS: At what cost?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: At a cost of \$68 875 as at 21 September.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I would like to ask the Minister a question relative to the administration, and whether the administration monitors the indebtedness of local government in its financial borrowings and, if so, whether the Minister and the department can give a figure of the current total indebtedness of local government in South Australia to the lending authorities. The second part of that would be the current interest rate being adopted by those lending authorities.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We do not actually monitor the issue as explained by the honourable member. The second question dealt with the total amount of indebtedness by local government collectively throughout the State. I understand that that can be obtained through the Bureau of Statistics, but I will endeavour to obtain that specific figure for the honourable member. The third question dealt with the interest rate or the semi-government borrowing rates. The rate at the present moment is 16.2 per cent, and in a general reply to the three questions I should add that we, within our administration in the department, assure only that councils are within their particular Loan Council limit and the Local Government Act limit, so we do police it as far as those requirements are concerned. We do not keep that overall picture of the totality of the loans, but I can

make every endeavour to get that figure for the honourable member.

Mr GLAZBROOK: In the tax sharing formula that the councils receive, has the department, through the administration, monitored those councils that have used the tax as a prop to the rate collections as against those councils that have used the money for specific purposes each year from those collections?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes. The honourable member is talking about the untied grants that come from the Commonwealth, being 2 per cent of the personal income tax collected by the Commonwealth and distributed to local government throughout Australia.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Yes.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We do not monitor or question how each council spends that money. It is entirely in the hands of a council as to whether it uses it, for example, to reduce council indebtedness, whether it uses it for roads and footpath construction, or whether it uses it to go into perhaps new community involvement and expenditure on social workers and community arts officers, and that kind of rather new area for local government. We just do not question them because we hold very strongly to the principle that, in the State's relationships with the third tier of government, an untied grant is an untied grant.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Does the administration keep a check or any information on councils' variations to collecting rates? I can give an example so as to look at this more closely. Some councils adopt the principle of checking through perhaps the yellow pages of a telephone book to see whether or not people run a business from their private home, and then adopt a commercial rating system for that property. I wondered whether or not the administration checks to see the methods used by local government bodies and to see whether they conform to the Act in regard to the collection of rates.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We do not become involved with council policy where councils endeavour to ascertain whether there is contravention of zoning regulations within respective council areas. In other words, if the administration of the council has grounds to suspect that a business is being carried out in an area in which the carrying out of a business is not permitted by the council's zoning, it is a local matter entirely as far as policing is concerned, and we do not become involved with the strategies or the techniques to which some council administrations might resort to ascertain or check those situations.

My own thinking would be that it would mainly be based upon complaints. In other words, if a ratepayer in an R1A street complains that a neighbour is carrying on a business from his residence, there is every chance that the person so offended might lodge a formal or an informal complaint at the local council office.

Mr GLAZBROOK: The Minister misunderstood my question completely. In a case where a person lists his home phone number as a business contact, and because of that a council decides to rate that property as a commercial property, I wondered whether or not the department checks to see whether there are any infringements or variations that might not be within the intent of the Act in regard to the method of rate collection. In other words, does the department take a policing role in checking what happens within an area of local government?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The answer is, 'No'. The honourable member is perhaps referring to differential rating, where a council (and I believe that this has happened, for instance in the City of Marion) has struck differential rates that apply to situations where a business is carried out.

Mr GLAZBROOK: My question was in regard to policing. I wondered whether or not the department took a policing and checking role.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The short answer is, 'No'.

Mr HEMMINGS: Will the Minister advise the Committee what rate of interest is being paid by the South Australian Housing Trust on loans taken out from the S.G.I.C. and the Public Service Superannuation Fund?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I believe that the honourable member is referring to the plan that he mentioned a few moments ago, in which it was announced in the last financial year that money would be sought from those institutions for the Housing Trust for capital works. Because of the need to complete those arrangements properly, it was not possible for agreements to be completed in the last financial year, and, indeed, those agreements are now at the stage of finalisation. The approach to the interest rate that will apply in that arrangement will involve indexed borrowing and will be based on a negotiated real rate of return to the lending institutions. The amount to which the trust expects that it will be committing itself is a 1.5 per cent real rate under this indexed system.

Mr HEMMINGS: Under the low-deposit rental-purchase scheme introduced in September 1981, how many people applied for loans and how many applications were approved?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I have the information that, as at 25 August 1982, a total of 31 households had bought houses under this scheme. It was introduced by the Government in September 1981 for households with a combined income not exceeding 70 per cent of the average weekly earnings. It also has a condition in it that the cost of a house to be purchased must not exceed \$33 500.

Mr HEMMINGS: Mr Chairman, I hope you will not class this as being another question, but I did ask how many applications had been received.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The applicants are not grouped separately. The applicants are already on the State Bank list. In other words, people go to the State Bank and lodge their name with it. At that time they do not have a house in mind to acquire but because of the waiting period they lodge their name and as the bank makes contact with them as funds become available some of those applicants (the ones in the low income bracket and those whose deposits are very limited) are switched over to this scheme, because it would be the only method by which they could become a house owner. There is not a separate waiting list, so it is difficult to say how many actual applications are received. I must hold to the statistic I gave of the number who have taken the benefit of that scheme.

Mr HEMMINGS: From what I understand of the low-deposit rental-purchase scheme, people who wish to take advantage of it have to make that point when they go to the State Bank. I have not the form in front of me, but I think from memory it states quite clearly that, if a person wishes to take advantage of this rental-purchase scheme, whilst the waiting list is still the same, (that is, 12 months I think is the current waiting time), they have to identify themselves as wanting to take advantage of that scheme, so one would have thought that within the State Bank system and through the Minister's department one could clearly give statistics of those people who want to take advantage of this low-deposit scheme. I accept that the Minister might not have that information in front of him now, but I would ask that he should get the details at some later date and furnish the Committee with those statistics.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will endeavour to obtain more information on that point for the honourable member, but I must repeat that the people whose names are on the waiting list, when their turn comes around for the bank to contact them, are all able to be satisfied except the ones on

the list whose deposits are very low and whose incomes are very low, and whereas previously they would not have been able to be satisfied by the bank or with a home purchase scheme they can now be so satisfied.

I repeat that there is not a separate list of applicants for this scheme. If the honourable member is wanting to compare those who would like this kind of finance or could be satisfied with house ownership only with this kind of finance and the numbers we are satisfying, then it might help him if I say that at present we are carrying out, indeed this month, a further investigation of the whole scheme with a view to making it more accessible to a greater number of people. I am hopeful that we will be able to come up with different criteria which might mean that we could increase the numbers of people who can take advantage of this scheme.

Mr HEMMINGS: It is stated on page 25 of the yellow book that the eligibility criteria for State Bank loans have been varied to ensure loans to those households in most need. In an advertisement which appeared in the *Advertiser* on 1 September 1982 offering information to people on what this Government is doing for house buyers and renters the statement was made that the State Bank is making 55 home loans a week at interest rates as low as 5.7 per cent. Can the Minister give information on how many of those loans are for established houses and how many are for new dwellings?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Of the State Bank lending at the moment in round terms two-thirds is going for established houses and about one-third for the new house market.

Mr EVANS: I wish to follow up the line of questioning followed by the member for Brighton. The interest rate was given at 16.5 per cent and, unless I read it incorrectly, I saw this morning an advertisement by one council stating that it would borrow at the moment at 17.5 per cent as a guarantee against rates for some work in its area. Will the rate for the future be 17.5 per cent, or is the 16.5 per cent figure tied to some other area of lending other than that as a guarantee against rates?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I think we have a situation here where the varying interest rates currently are causing some variation that easily give rise to such a query. Local government cannot borrow at a rate higher than that specified as the borrowing rate; it cannot fix its own rates beyond that particular figure. I would think that that advertisement would have been inserted when the approved rate was higher than it is today, and that would be in line with the general recent trend for interest rates to lower a point or two.

Mr EVANS: If that is the case it amazes me because I believe the advertisement I saw was published in a paper only today. I will check immediately after I leave the Committee, but I believe the advertisement appeared in the press today, and the rate specified is 17.5 per cent. Does the Minister believe it is desirable that the department have readily available at all times figures of the total indebtedness of local government in this State and also the interest rates that prevail in each area of indebtedness? I visualise that the total public debt in this area is of some importance to the department and also to the Government and, although the Bureau of Statistics may publish the figure annually, there may not be any greater monitoring of just how big the debt is in total. I do realise that there is a limit to the amount any particular council can borrow under the prevailing regulations.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is true that the department is basically concerned about the prudent borrowing level of councils, and officers keep an eye on those councils that tend to borrow excessively. We are interested too, of course, in the percentage of the rate revenue going towards the

repayment of council borrowings. We advise council officers (and I feel sure that the information gets through to the elected members in local government) when we feel that councils are borrowing, or are proposing to borrow, in an excessive way. However, we are mindful that ratepayers themselves act as a check on this general question of high borrowing by councils.

On the general principle of leaving local government to look after its own affairs to the optimum degree (and we certainly do not want to interfere if it can be avoided), we realise that council elections are fought on this issue of high council borrowing and, therefore, we accept that there is some check on council policy in this area locally, that is, by the local ratepayers.

I assure the honourable member that we can readily obtain the total indebtedness figure, as I mentioned to him in answer to an earlier question, but our main concern in this area is with those few councils that have borrowed heavily or have sought advice concerning heavy borrowings, and we will certainly retain that concern about those particular councils.

Mr RANDALL: As I understand it, local government does not pay fuel tax and sales tax. Is that correct?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Local government receives sales tax exemptions on motor vehicles and on some plant.

Mr RANDALL: But pays fuel tax?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It pays diesel tax.

Mr RANDALL: Does the Minister's department have copies of the financial records of local councils in order to provide what I would term good policy advice on their financial management?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have the full annual accounting records of every council and, when they seek permission to expand their borrowings, those particular records are referred to. Regarding your question as to the degree of advice that we give and the number of officers involved in this advisory service, it is true that it is not an extensive service. I have endeavoured to keep numbers down, and indeed that conforms with general Government policy in regard to ceilings within the Public Service generally.

I think the principle must be borne in mind, that if it is easier for a clerk to ring up and get some quick and cheap advice, he will tend to do that and not stand on his own feet out in his council area, and I do not think that that is a very good trend to develop. We are there, and we certainly help when help is sought. We provide ongoing accounting management and legislative advice and, of course, we take part in the educational programmes on a broad scale. I think we have struck a balance at the present time between the necessary size of the department in this area and the ability of the clerks, many of whom of course do a splendid job, standing on their own feet. The clerks have the ability to manage their own affairs at their own level.

Mr RANDALL: As the Government is concerned about public expenditure of money and public borrowings, does it extend that concern to the local government area? In other words does it encourage local government to be concerned about its own borrowings in terms of 'ensuring compliance with Government policy'?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have certainly encouraged local government to resort to private contractors wherever they can. We would hope that local government has seen the State's programmes in those areas as an example for them to follow, and I just mention that as one particular example of my own observations of local government, which is an efficient tier of government within their administration. I have a very high regard for the officers in local government and, of course, we must recognise that elected members themselves keep a tight rein on their council staff and council expenditure.

Mr HEMMINGS: I again refer to page 25 of the Programme Estimates which deals with the amount of \$3 500 000 that has been allocated for interest-free loans and non-repayable allowances for householders in need. I am not considered by my colleagues to be a cynic or a pessimist but, in regard to the answer that the Minister gave me earlier concerning the home mortgage relief scheme that was introduced in October last year, the fact is that there were only 33 approvals under that scheme, and only \$68 875, was spent. In my own humble opinion, the criteria for eligibility for relief under the scheme, which has been allocated \$3 500 000, are more stringent than are those for the existing scheme and, therefore, one could assume that very little of that \$3 500 000 will be spent. I ask the Minister how many applications have been received by the South Australian Housing Trust for assistance under that scheme, which I understand commenced in August this year.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The number of people who have submitted applications under the mortgage and rent relief scheme was 66 as at 13 September. I point out that I am referring to those who have submitted applications as distinct from simply making an inquiry. Of those 66 applications, 23 have been approved as at 13 September.

Mr HEMMINGS: Bearing in mind all the expert advice that the Minister has available to him at his fingertips, can he forecast how much of that \$3 500 000 the Government expects to disburse for relief purposes during the current financial year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is a very difficult matter to assess. The Government wants to satisfy those who are in genuine need of this kind of assistance. That sum has been set aside by the State and Federal Governments on an equal basis. If we reach a point where it has all been absorbed before the end of the year, certainly full consideration will be given to finding more money. I do not in any way foresee that people who satisfy all the criteria and who need this type of assistance will suffer because of lack of funds.

The second point that must be made when a question like this is proposed is that no-one really knows how many people are in very genuine and urgent need of this kind of assistance. We know that a few of the very serious cases receive a lot of publicity, and it is very easy for public opinion to believe that there are a great number of people who fall into that category. Some of the Government's investigations that are carried out, totally away from the emotional scene, rather indicate that the young couples in their homes in the fringe suburbs of metropolitan Adelaide, for example, although finding the increased commitments for their mortgages very worrying, are indeed readjusting their private budgets in such a way—

Mr Keneally interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest that if the member for Stuart wants the call he indicate that to the Chair and he will be given the opportunity.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The point I was making is that one cannot make a definite assessment of the amount of money that will be needed, because no-one knows with certainty the exact number of people who will qualify for it. We are monitoring and watching the situation and, incidentally, as we are the first State in Australia to participate in the scheme, we are doing our best to help those genuinely needy people who do require assistance.

Mr HEMMINGS: I suggest to the Minister that, despite what his advisers tell him, if he were a member of the House of Assembly and had an electorate office in the fringe areas of Adelaide he would know that what he has just said is not totally true. When one talks about readjustment of lifestyle, such readjustment involves going without food and clothing. However, I will not dwell too long on that point, as I have made it before in this Chamber.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Is this a question or an explanation?

Mr HEMMINGS: That was a statement. How many applications for assistance does the Minister expect to receive under the scheme for which \$3 500 000 has been allocated? I make the point that the other scheme that has been in existence for a year has approved of only 33 applications, at a cost of \$68 875. In his reply the Minister said that if the money runs out more will be made available. Does the Minister really anticipate that, with the stringent criteria imposed for those seeking assistance, the State Government will use the whole of that \$3 500 000, bearing in mind that the existing scheme, which was far more lenient, approved only 33 applications at a cost of \$68 875? There is no way that that \$3 500 000 would be spent even over a 10-year period.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Let me explain by pointing out that the criteria will be liberal.

Mr BANNON: That is the point we are making.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair has been most tolerant in allowing discussion to proceed on an informal basis. However, if the cross-talk continues the Chair will insist that the normal Committee proceedings take place, although I do not wish to do that. The Minister has the call, and if the Leader wants the call in due course he will have the opportunity.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There is no intention whatsoever to prevent people who deserve aid from seeking it. The criteria will be quite liberal. They are not stringent at all, as was claimed by the honourable member. The Government and the Housing Trust, which is administering the scheme, want to help those who need help, and the Government intends to help them. The pool of money is set aside for this purpose. As a State we rushed in and agreed to the Commonwealth's proposition put to us. South Australia was the first State in Australia to agree to it and the first State in Australia to find our 50 per cent of the funds required. We were the first State to get into action and accept applications, and surely that is evidence of the keenness of this Government to assist those unfortunate people who are in need in this area.

Mr BANNON: Just continuing perhaps on housing, looking at the trust's annual report and the various arrangements that are being made in relation to housing finance, it is clear, that as with most institutions, the present interest rates are having a very big impact on any organisation that is forced to borrow money, or that is processing or recycling funds. What sort of forward predictions are there in relation to the trust's ability to remain financially viable in the various sectors of its operations over the next few years without increasing subsidies from taxpayers' resources?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We are getting very close to a stage in the history of the trust when this problem is looming as to whether or not the State itself has got to subsidise the trust. The trust is now totally a welfare institution. For instance, it does not build houses for sale and for profit; it is there to help those people who are on its waiting list, whose incomes are low, and who cannot obtain accommodation on the outside private market, that is, either as tenants or as home owners. The Government believes that it is the Government's responsibility to provide shelter for these people who cannot help themselves.

We have got a waiting list in excess of 20 000 for such accommodation. We have a housing stock of over 45 000 homes. This year, or as shown in the report in the 1981-82 year, a small surplus of just in excess of \$600 000 was achieved by the trust. This was achieved for the first time in four years, but after a sum of approximately \$20 000 000 has been set aside for rent rebates; in other words, the low income people who are paying lower than the normal trust rents are subsidised by the revenue that the trust itself

generates as a landlord. Putting it another way, if rents were not rebated or subsidised, the surplus would have been about \$20 000 000 plus the \$600 000 that I mentioned. Now, that rebate figure is going to increase, and its escalation over the past three years has been quite phenomenal.

I think I am right in saying that three years ago the rebate figure was about \$6 000 000, and now it has gone up to \$20 000 000. As the honourable member has said, the trust has got to supplement Government funds for its capital programme. The interest rates out on the open market are very worrying indeed, and that is going to be a pressure which is going to cut into the normal surplus that we are now achieving in the trust. How long this State will be able to maintain the Housing Trust with the trust itself providing all these welfare subsidies is uncertain, but certainly the time is not far off when the trust may approach the Government and may be forced to approach the Government to in fact consider the question of general welfare allocation.

Mr BANNON: The Minister said that the trust is now totally a welfare institution. I put it to the Minister that, in its conception and its operation over the years, that certainly has not been the way in which the trust has been operated or has operated or been conceived. Is the Minister stating a matter of Government policy, that is there has been a change in the policy and the role that the trust should play within the South Australian economy, or is the Minister saying this is something that has been forced upon the trust because of current circumstances? Therefore, if the Government's policy is still the same as it has been since the inception of the trust in the 1930s, what plans does the Government have to attempt to restore that function of the trust, that aspect of the trust's work which goes beyond the provision of purely welfare housing, the bottom line, if you like, of the housing sector?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The original concept of the trust was to provide accommodation for working people of a far better standard than was obtainable in the open market, and also at rentals which were moderate. Vast estates were built in the vicinity of industrial centres, and accommodation was offered to the employees of factories and industrial concerns at a lower than market rate. Traditionally it was about 80 per cent of the market rental, and there was not a question that did not involve the subsidies as I am referring to them in the general question of subsidies; that was simply a slightly lower than market rate. It was a concession to the working people of this State, and it helped in the long term to keep our production costs down so that we could export the goods from those factories to the eastern sea board and elsewhere.

The trust then evolved over the years with that particular base. However, now we are confronted with an entirely different lifestyle to that which existed many years ago. We have a lifestyle, for example, where young people leave home soon after leaving school, and before we know where they are, they come under the umbrella of youth housing and they are demanding shelter. At the other end of the scale, the elderly mother was often kept in her daughter's home for the twilight of her life, but now she does not live there anymore and she asks for elderly citizens accommodation. We have this great pressure for housing which I have termed 'welfare housing', and it is the Government's duty to do its best to provide it. If there has been any change in policy, it is simply an evolutionary process tied very closely to our social lifestyle.

Mr BANNON: I do not think there is much point in further pursuing the philosophy. I am not quite sure from the Minister's answer whether he is announcing a change in Government policy by constraint of circumstances, or is just commenting on the situation as he sees it.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: If the Leader wishes further explanation, I am not announcing any change in Government policy at all. All I am saying is that the Government intends to do its best to provide housing to those people in the lower income brackets who are in dire need of housing and who are on the waiting list now at the trust.

Mr BANNON: Many of whom may well wish to buy houses, and the rental purchase scheme, for instance, has been abolished and the ability of the trust to influence the market in that area, that is not available any more.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The old rental purchase scheme was abolished by Mr Hudson, not by this Government. This Government has reintroduced a rental purchase scheme to which reference has been made a few moments ago, and I indicated in that discussion with that particular honourable member that the criteria of that scheme was under review now to see whether we could expand it and satisfy more people, and I agree with the honourable member: and hopefully take some people off the waiting lists for tenants and move them into home ownership. That, by all means, is one of our aims.

Mr BANNON: In the financing area, the House recently considered a measure to establish a central borrowing authority, and in the course of the debate reference was made to the way in which funds are lent to various statutory bodies. The concept of this central borrowing authority is to consolidate such programmes and to act as a conduit for Loan funds to stimulate activity in particular areas. The Housing Trust was referred to as one of the bodies involved recently in that sort of scheme. This bears on the viability and the ability of the trust to finance such loans.

It was not clear from the debate (and I would like the Minister to try to clarify the situation now) how the new central borrowing authority will affect the trust and its ability to raise funds to borrow money in its own right. Secondly, what sort of terms and conditions are being applied to the trust in borrowing from such organisations as the Superannuation Fund, which has been mentioned?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Regarding the last question, the borrowing arrangement will be concluded before the authority is established under the legislation. The general method of interest charging under the current arrangement involves an indexed system in which the trust must pay a percentage that is deemed to be a real rate of interest. In other words, it varies from time to time with the c.p.i., and the trust will be committed to what we express as a 1 1/2 per cent real rate in regard to that interest. This indexed form of borrowing is now entering into commercial transactions considerably, because lenders are not happy with the old traditional fixed rate of interest.

In regard to the trust's situation relative to this new borrowing authority, the trust will come within the umbrella of the authority, and in future the trust will not undertake negotiations and make arrangements with potential lenders: the borrowing authority, in broad terms, will arrange the funding for all of those departments and instrumentalities that inform the authority of their needs. Plans are in train under which the trust's officers and the trust's board will work very closely with the borrowing authority. It is the Government's view that the authority will provide improved efficiency in comparison to the previous system under which instrumentalities and departments were permitted, with the Treasurer's consent, to negotiate directly with potential lenders.

Mr OSWALD: The yellow book (page 34) refers to training programmes for elected members of council and officers. I notice that the resource allocation applies to advice to local government on procedures and functions. Last year \$12 000 was expended, and this year \$100 000 is proposed. The number of staff has increased from 0.5 to four. In regard to

the resource allocation under 'Assisting in the education and training of local authorities officers and elected members', last year \$19 000 was expended and this year \$25 000 has been allocated.

Will the Minister advise the Committee what training programme is being implemented, and how will that training programme be expanded? How will the staff be employed, and what role will the South Australian Institute of Technology play in the training programme for councillors and staff?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In regard to the first question, staffing has increased because of the transfer of some staff members from other programmes to this area. There has been no increase in overall staff numbers in the department, but a reallocation of resources has taken place. It is because of this reallocation of labour that that quite appreciable increase appears—from \$12 000 to \$100 000.

The \$25 000 proposed for the training of local authority officers and elected members is made up as follows: Industry Training Committee \$10 000; local government committees, \$1 000; Keith Hockridge scholarship, \$10 000; and scholarship in local government administration, \$4 000. The two \$10 000 allocations are now made every two years; it is not an annual award. That has resulted in an evident increase.

Mr OSWALD: There still appears to be an emphasis on the expansion of training for councillors and staff. Have staff numbers been increased because the department intends to expand the training programme?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In conjunction with the South Australian Institute of Technology, it is proposed that this year we sponsor a leading overseas academic to provide a series of lectures for local government staff. That is one reason for the increase from \$19 000 to \$25 000. In general terms, we place strong emphasis on overall training for staff, and we also provide the opportunity for elected members to undergo training if they so wish. The Industrial Training Committee is a joint committee which is funded not only by the State but also from Commonwealth funds.

Mr OSWALD: In regard to the Local Government Training Committee, the Western Regional Council has talked for some time about a local government apprenticeship training scheme, under which gardeners or mechanics would be given an apprenticeship and the council would become the employer. Would this type of scheme be permitted within the role of the Local Government Training Committee? Has the department any means to assist the implementation of such a scheme?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That could not come within any apprenticeship arrangements. This industrial training committee and its work deals with short courses for training purposes, and I think the concept in the western region is for possibly longer term training for future officers.

Mr OSWALD: Is there any means by which your department could get this under way or is it a matter for the Department of Industrial Affairs and Employment?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The approach should really be made to Industrial Affairs. We know of the proposal that has been put up by the western regional authority to get that funded apprenticeship scheme, but it is a proposal which ought to be pursued through the department of the Hon. Mr Brown in which all apprenticeship schemes fall.

Mr BANNON: Just reverting to a topic I took up with the Minister earlier in relation to the trust's management of Loan funds and its financial position, that was also brought up but was not satisfactorily covered in the debate on the central borrowing authority Bill. At present the trust has section 3a of its Act which, in a sense, gives it a protection, as it were, a type of autonomy, in relation to its financial arrangements where the Minister so directs. He has the general power of direction which is common to all

statutory authorities and which, of course, is something that I support. Where a direction is given particularly in relation to financial arrangements, if any loss is occasioned, and I guess what is contemplated, is for instance, as a matter of Government policy the trust is required to undertake a particular programme and provide funds for that purpose but on terms or conditions that the trust itself would deem to be uneconomic or objectionable, or may be uneconomic in terms of the market place and, as we are getting to these arrangements where real rates of interest are involved, as the Government has done in the case of the Moore's building with the Superannuation Trust and a number of other areas, then this question of what really is the market rate becomes important.

At the moment there is a protection for the trust and its finances which provides that, where the Auditor-General certifies that a loss has been occasioned by reason of that financial arrangement and direction, then the trust shall be reimbursed from the revenue. As I understand it, the central borrowing authority arrangements in that Act could override that particular clause. I would like the Minister to tell us whether that is so and what implications that has for the trust and its ongoing financial position.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I think we will have to wait until the legislation is proclaimed before I can comment on the exact power of the borrowing authority to allocate money, but the machinery in which the trust has its own board and has considerable autonomy, despite the fact that there is a provision there of Ministerial control, means that negotiations take place if the board is unhappy with any proposal for interest or for funding. Our experience as a Government to date has been that, when some concerns or queries do come from the board, it is a question of discussion between Treasury officers and the trust's board and any concerns that have arisen have most certainly been ironed out.

There is a close liaison between the senior Housing Trust officers in this area and Treasury officers, and I do not foresee any problem along the lines mentioned. I hope that the very composition of the authority might indicate eventually that same close liaison with the trust. The Government is going to see that it will be maintained, and I do not foresee any difficulties in this area because of the traditional good relationship between the parties involved.

Mr BANNON: Is the Minister giving us an assurance that that statutory protection of the trust as it is at the moment will be maintained under section 3a of the new arrangements under the South Australian Housing Trust Act?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We expect that the newly established authority, because of its establishment, because of the volume of its borrowing, will obtain funds at even better than market rates. In situations such as that the risk to the trust is quite negligible. Certainly, protection is needed where the trust has enforced upon it or where there is any suggestion of the trust having enforced upon it, high interest rates involving a borrowing. One of the purposes of the authority is to be able to borrow and have the statutory authorities in this State and the various departments supplied with those loans at even better than market rates which certainly limits the risk. What the exact statutory situation will be in regard to the authority and its arrangements with the trust, I cannot say with certainty at the moment, but it does not in any way concern me that there is any danger at all of the risk that is being envisaged.

Mr RANDALL: I seek clarification of the impression that I have gained from the member of Napier's line of questioning. Does he believe that the \$3 500 000 is free money to be given out to help people solve their problems regarding housing? I think there needs to be some clarification on

what the \$3 500 000 is for and how is it to be disbursed. Is it free money?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: You are asking whether this \$3 500 000 is loan money or is grant money.

Mr RANDALL: I think that is the crux of the whole thing. What the \$3 500 000 is for ought to be clarified. The impression I got from what the member for Napier said is that he believes that it is to be given out freely to help alleviate housing problems. I was surprised to hear the Minister say that he has only 66 applications, bearing in mind that this money is to help alleviate housing problems. As the member for Napier has said, a lot of people have been coming through his office with housing problems, and my own office also reflects that. With only 66 applications, I think the \$3 500 000 needs to be clarified.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: What is the actual question?

Mr RANDALL: What is that \$3 500 000 all about? Is it to help people pay their home mortgages, is it in interest-free loans, or will it be used to resolve people's problems in another way?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We expect that about half will be given out for rent relief and about half for mortgage relief. The amount for mortgage relief will be by way of a loan to the person in need and the rent relief (which has a maximum of \$20 per week attached to it), is by way of grant.

Mr RANDALL: Moving into another area, the Minister said there were 20 000 on the waiting list. Would the Minister or his department have a breakdown of the percentage of elderly persons and the percentage of single-income parents applying for rental accommodation?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are more than 20 000, and in giving that very round figure, I said it was an approximate figure. It is difficult to say how accurate the figure is, because the trust itself does not regularly contact the applicants on its list to see whether their needs are still current. The trust expects the people themselves to keep regularly in touch with it and, by that method, one can gain some impression of the number of people in urgent need, as compared with some whose names are on that list but who may have obtained accommodation elsewhere and may not have had their names removed from the list.

The trust estimates that 9 per cent of the applicants are aged people and about one-third are single parents with one child or more. The last figure I was given was that single-parent families were adding their names to the list at the rate of about 3 000 a year, indicating that this is a growing area of need. This is a welfare area because, in most of these cases, these people are on pensions, and we have to satisfy them as best we can.

Mr RANDALL: My last question relates to the trend of moving towards helping to accommodate welfare people. The concern I have is the hidden question relating to the fact that we have raised rents and we charge those who pay, market-type rents. I suspect that many people who were in private accommodation and were paying market-type rents, found, when their name came up, that if they moved into Housing Trust accommodation they would be paying similar rents. Their names may be in the list, and I do not know the percentage involved. There is an obvious trend in the Housing Trust requirements towards welfare accommodation and accommodating the elderly, and I guess that is an unknown percentage.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: About 53 per cent of all our tenants are now on subsidised rentals, and that percentage is growing. Incidentally, as yet we have not increased the old proposition of 80 per cent of market rental up to 100 per cent; we are bound to do it over a period and we are bound, under the provisions of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, to do that, and that agreement has been ratified by this and other Parliaments in Australia. There is a situation (I think

the honourable member was referring to this) where old established Housing Trust tenants who are not welfare tenants are in accommodation, no-one makes any move to remove them from that accommodation, and, at the moment, they are benefiting by lower than market rentals. However, this situation will change over the years. The trust also seeks some adjustment in some cases where other people with income are living in the same house (whether they be members of the family or not), so that matter is policed as much as it can be.

Mr HEMMINGS: Going back to the mortgage relief scheme, the Minister used the words 'liberal scheme', not in the sense of being Liberal Party, but liberal in criteria. I have before me the document put out by the South Australian Housing Trust, which is administering this scheme, and I wish to make it perfectly clear that, despite the problems the member for Henley Beach has about this scheme, we on this side all know it is an interest free loan which has to be paid back to the Government. I preface my question with the observation that it is estimated that there are 168 000 homes under mortgage in this State at present. If one is being very generous, and if one says that, of that 168 000, only half are experiencing problems with rising interest rates (that is, the other 50 per cent have almost paid off their mortgage or have a fairly low interest), that leaves 80 000 households with housing finance problems.

The liberal criteria for this scheme provide that the gross income must be 85 per cent of the average weekly earnings or less. That takes out a substantial slice of those people who would be eligible. The next criterion relates to mortgages with \$35 000 or less outstanding, and that takes out another considerable slice (and excludes people in the north-eastern suburbs). Then one takes the other criterion (which is the point of my question) relating to those people 'with mortgages with banks, building societies or finance companies, but not concessional mortgages with the State Bank or Housing Trust'. When one deletes those people, one can well understand, if the same criteria are being used for the mortgage in crisis relief schemes, why only 33 people have been approved. The majority of people with real problems are those who originally received concessional loans through the State Bank or the South Australian Housing Trust: they have been denied any form of relief.

The other category covers those young couples who entered the housing market some two or three years ago, when interest rates were fairly reasonable, and who are earning in excess of 85 per cent of the average weekly earnings and therefore they are excluded. Can the Minister define how, in his opinion, this mortgage relief scheme criteria are liberal? On the criteria before me (which comes from the Housing Trust), only about 5 per cent of people are eligible for any relief under this scheme. I think the figures of the scheme introduced in October 1981 and the number of applications approved to date confirm that impression.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The figure of 50 per cent that the honourable member has plucked out of the air has no real basis, and he completely overlooks the fact that this scheme is not the only scheme to help people in difficulties. Borrowers who get into difficulties either contact or are contacted by their lending institutions, their mortgagees, and in many cases loans are rearranged. In other cases other forms of relief are provided; most certainly they are provided by the Housing Trust and by the State Bank when people get into difficulties.

Any such new arrangements that are necessary are concluded before consideration is given to help under the mortgage and rent relief scheme. Indeed, that scheme is, in effect, the last resort. I suggest respectfully to the honourable member that young people owning their own homes and having their own mortgages certainly do become concerned about

interest increases, but they set about the task of trying to overcome their problem without first seeking relief under the mortgage and rent relief scheme.

I must point out that borrowers from the State Bank are on concessional rates anyway, down to 5¾ per cent in some cases, and that some other purchasers are obtaining tax relief at the moment. Further, many more people will obtain tax relief from 1 November thanks to a splendid policy of taxation relief introduced by the Federal Government.

I now refer to the matter of the liberal criteria to which I referred earlier. The criteria that the honourable member read out are only half the story. There are no clearly defined criteria in regard to this scheme; the existing criteria must be taken as guidelines only. The overriding criterion is financial hardship and the Government and I have emphasised that time and time again to the Housing Trust, and the Housing Trust accepts it.

The more one gets tied down to clearly defined criteria, the more one will find that there are some unfortunate people who come just outside of the guidelines set down and who must be turned away. It is the Government's intention that no-one in need of this type of assistance will be turned away. No-one has been turned away, and I challenge the honourable member to cite one instance of a person in financial hardship and in genuine need of mortgage relief who has been rejected. I refer to a person who has reached the end of the line, who has been assisted by our officers who are prepared to go out and talk to people in their homes, who has not been able to obtain assistance from his lending institution by way of deferral of payments or some other method depending on the policy of the lending institution, and who has eventually had to come to apply for this end of the line mortgage relief. I do not know of one instance.

If any member, by way of his electorate office or through his own contact with his constituents, becomes aware of any person in that category, I want to hear about it, because it is not the Government's intention that anyone should suffer the final ignominy of losing his home solely because of an increase in interest rates. I am very firm on that point. The criteria that have been bandied around this morning are guidelines only. Eventually the committee involved makes a decision on the basis of the extreme financial hardship of the person involved, and in that way, ultimately, no-one need to be rejected.

Mr HEMMINGS: I am pleased that the Minister has that view. I do not bandy things around; I was simply quoting from information received from the Housing Trust. Will the Minister provide information to the Committee on the number of mortgage foreclosures that have taken place over the past 12 months by the private lending institutions, the State Bank and the South Australian Housing Trust? I realise that possibly the Minister does not have that information at his fingertips, but I think that that information is relevant in view of the Minister's reply. It would be useful to compare the figures relevant to the private lending institutions, that is, the mortgage societies and the private banks, the State Bank and the South Australian Housing Trust.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will obtain those statistics as best I can. I do not know about the overall number of foreclosures. However, I will certainly obtain figures from the State Bank and from the Housing Trust. However, I point out that statistics can be very misleading. For example, if some Housing Trust tenant does a moonlight flit (I think that is the expression) and is found no more from dawn onwards, there is no alternative but to obtain a transfer of the title from the person who has disappeared entirely back into the trust's name. In those cases there is no alternative but to use that legal foreclosure procedure. Therefore, even the statistics that I will provide must be viewed with some

caution because of such unavoidable circumstances. I will do my best to obtain those figures for the honourable member.

Mr HEMMINGS: I refer to an answer given previously by the Minister concerning the criteria of eligibility for loans provided through the State Bank. The Minister stated that two-thirds of the approvals would be for established homes and that one-third would be for new dwellings. I do not dispute those figures, although I have been informed that it is more likely that 90 per cent of the approvals will be for established homes and 10 per cent for new dwellings. The Minister and members of the Committee would be well aware that over the past 15 to 20 years, pressure has been placed on governments to abolish the old two-list system—one for established homes and one for new dwellings. That was resisted by previous Premiers from Tom Playford to Des Corcoran. The present Government has abolished the twin list and used the one-list system, which has resulted in a complete imbalance of people buying established homes and those buying new dwellings.

Has the Minister, or the Premier as Treasurer, received any submissions from the private building sector for this Government to revert back to the twin list system, and what were the names of the organisations that made submissions?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Mr Chairman, I may have misled or given some incorrect information earlier on. That two-thirds figure that I gave was based on the situation that simply evolves from the present policy. I can recall the figure of 65 per cent that was given to me some time back, and by that figure I took a two-thirds round sum, but as the situation results there is no policy by the bank that two-thirds shall be given as loans for established houses. The policy of the bank when this Government came to office was to give preference to new home purchasers, and that was introduced by the previous Government, I think, to try to assist the building industry. As a result of an election promise, the Government decreed that the banks should not give priority to those people wanting to borrow for either established houses or new houses. The banks, simply for the purposes of convenience, kept their two lists going but gave priorities based upon the length of time that the applicant had placed his or her name with the bank, and so I just want to make that point clear. In 1981-82, 60 per cent of loans were given on established homes, and so the trend seems to be that more and more people are wanting to borrow for the purpose of owning established homes.

It is true that the Housing Industry Association and members of its governing body have made strong representations to the Government to change the present policy at the State Bank, preferably reverting to the former plan of giving preferences to borrowers who would be prepared to purchase new homes and that matter is under consideration at present. However, I have gone to some lengths to point out to representatives of that association that this Government believes in freedom of choice and that it is quite obvious that a lot of home purchasers at this time want to buy older homes and want to spend a considerable amount of money, which does filter through the building industry, to restore and to renovate those old homes.

This trend assists the Government somewhat in that the old homes, generally speaking, are close to the city, and the question of minimising expenditure on services, and so forth, which is a serious matter when outlying areas are developed, is overcome. In general terms, the citizens seem to prefer a decision of purchasing an old home rather than purchasing a new home which is probably out in the outer suburbs, and the Government's policy up to this point in time has not altered on the question. I understand the building industry's point of view. They hope, of course, that

it would boost new home construction and assist employment in the building industry. We appreciate that very much, but as yet we have not made any decision to change the present policy of not having a priority system through State Bank lending in which new home purchasers gain precedence over established home purchasers.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I would like to pursue the line of questioning that the Leader of the Opposition touched on earlier. Following your appearance at this Committee over the past two years, I have noted some figures on the problems of the subsidies of rentals that you referred to earlier, and from the Housing Trust documents I note that, in 1976-77, 18 per cent of your stock was leased to those on rent subsidies, costing \$1 160 000; in 1977-78 it had risen to 25 per cent, at \$2 500 000; 1978-79, 35 per cent (\$4 500 000); and in 1979-80 it had gone up to 36 per cent, costing \$6 300 000; 1980-81, 49 per cent, costing \$12 430 000. I have projected figures for 1981-82 which would show that 55 per cent of your stock would go to subsidised rentals, which would cost about \$21 000 000, and I understand that is fairly close.

However, I also did a calculation on a graduating scale through to 1985-86, and it concerned me to see that on that same formula of progression, from 1976 right through to 1985-86, it could well be that Housing Trust stock would represent 85 per cent to 90 per cent on rent subsidies by that year, which would cost the trust in excess of about \$100 000 000 a year in rent subsidies. That, coupled with the rates and taxes progression, would indicate to me a very severe strain on Housing Trust accommodation in the years to come, and it raises the question in my mind as to the trust's ability to keep producing homes and repaying the loans which it must take obviously to build those homes. In your research, do your advisers take into consideration the number of ageing people and pensioners who are perhaps taking up accommodation in larger homes that could be let to families, and who determines the percentage of elderly cottages and hostel-type accommodation that the trust is building?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The trust makes its own forecasts and watches the future as best it can. It is staffed extremely well in the senior and research areas, and some of the concerns that you have expressed are well known to it and have been brought to my knowledge. The trust has already in train plans to meet some of the challenges to which you have referred. For example, its new approach in regard to joint ventures is proving to be very successful. The joint venture principle is, for example, that a local government body might provide the land and elderly citizens' accommodation is built upon it, and that means that the total cost of that development is considerably reduced to the trust by that contribution from the council, and so one goes on into industry; some companies are now providing land. B.H.A.S. at Port Pirie has done that, and recently Adelaide Brighton Cement made a very generous proposal along the same lines.

Service clubs are also entering this joint venture plan, which means that society at large, in effect, is assisting to solve the problem, and that can help the situation, as compared to society doing nothing and the Government eventually having to find the money from welfare sources. I do not believe that we should be too gloomy about the situation. It might well be that our lifestyle will change back a little to what it was previously. We might be able to convince people of the worth of the family unit, and perhaps young people will not leave home in the future as early as they do now. A little more care by parents of elderly people within the home might well assist. Of course, the very worrying demand from single parent families would certainly change if there was less marital breakup.

These social considerations have to be borne in mind, and I do not believe that we should predict too much doom by saying that all those social situations will worsen as the years go by. At present, the Government is well aware of the situation. We are certainly not restricting our funding programme. Indeed, we have poured money into the trust, so that it now has a record-breaking production rate. We have achieved the building of a total number of houses that is the highest of any Government instrumentality in housing on a per capita basis.

We should also recognise that, while the Federal Government has been pulling back a little in recent years in regard to its funding for housing, it could well enter the field if some of these forecasts become real. Indeed, the present Federal Government, with its \$20 000 000 package and the other decisions in regard to helping those who are in dire circumstances, has during this year shown considerable understanding and sympathy in this situation. While I appreciate the work that the honourable member has done on his graphs and with his predictions, I believe that we should be positive and optimistic about the ability of this State to house its citizens who are simply unable, from their income, to pay normal market rates for accommodation.

[Sitting suspended from 12.59 to 2 p.m.]

Mr GLAZBROOK: In relation to present tenants and those people on the waiting list, are there breakdowns of the percentages of those who come under the different categories of, say, single-parent family, pensioner family and the normal family unit? It appears to me that we might sometimes be misled into thinking that we have a total welfare problem, whereas it might be broken down into those categories bearing in mind that we have an ageing population.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The trust has not done an overall census to find out the exact numbers and statistics that the honourable member is seeking but, on the other hand, the trust does know, of course, when it fixes and later reassesses the specific rent applying to a unit of accommodation, the details of that tenant's situation. Therefore, it does have some information available based on that continuing process of reviewing rents, but it does not have that complete picture which I think the honourable member is seeking. It has, for example, information under the heading of 'reasons for rental reduction' which shows that one-parent families comprise 26.39 per cent, but that information has come to it as a result of reassessing the rental. It shows other groups such as aged pensioners at 17.67 per cent, unemployed 10.78 per cent, and so forth.

Mr GLAZBROOK: That is a percentage of the total occupancy of trust homes?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, it is the total occupancies of the homes affected by rent reductions, which is about 53 per cent of the total. I can give the honourable member that breakdown but, on the other hand, he cannot automatically collate this with the whole, because the 47 per cent not on rent reductions would not fall into these categories. The breakdown of those on rent reductions is as follows: one-parent families 26.39 per cent, benefit card holders 17.12 per cent, aged pensioners 17.67 per cent, unemployed 10.78 per cent, invalid pensioners 8.9 per cent, civilian widows 7.71 per cent, wage earners requiring a rebate 2.57 per cent, war pensioners 3.64 per cent, Social Services, sickness 2.68 per cent, special cases 1.98 per cent and war widows .56 per cent.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Of those, the numbers that you have listed in the percentages who would be receiving rent concessions, owing to economic circumstances through unemployment or low incomes, are considerably less than those on a

widow's pension, a single pension or an aged person's pension.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not know whether you could define one group as being due to economic circumstances and another group due to other social circumstances: there is a grey area in between. The highest group is the one-parent family group but that might be either male or female, so would that be a social reason or an economic reason?

Mr GLAZBROOK: The reason why I am pursuing this line and trying to determine it is that my district has a high proportion of Housing Trust homes, and I am very much aware of the number of ageing population we have as compared with the increasing number of single-unit accommodation being taken up by single-parent families. What concerns me is whether or not the department is looking at the change in emphasis in accommodation bearing in mind that the population is gradually getting older and that people whom we accommodated many years ago in areas which then comprised family-style houses and units are now, because they are getting older, being isolated in sections of the community because of their inability to get to transport and other facilities. Is the trust concentrating on accommodation for the elderly and freezing other accommodation for the single-unit families?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is one reason why the trust has embarked on its huge increase in the production of elderly citizens' accommodation which is going up with an estimated commencement of 700 houses this year. Five years ago we had 71 such commencements. This is not only to satisfy the increasing number of elderly people on the waiting list but it is to make these readjustments in accommodation because the trust acknowledges that there is a certain degree of unused housing in cases where families have at one time occupied a house but now there is only a pensioner or two pensioners left in that family in that same house. That means that in some cases one or two bedrooms are vacant in that particular trust house.

The trust's policy is not to compulsorily shift such people but to liaise with them. Bearing in mind the high respect that these people have for the trust as an organisation, generally such people can be encouraged to shift into elderly citizens' accommodation provided, of course, it is available and other conditions are acceptable to the tenant or tenants. It is hoped, by this large increase in commencements of such flats, units and houses, that a more economic use of space can be achieved, and I think that was the point that the honourable member was getting at.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Could you give me an indication of the criteria used for selecting people for aged persons' accommodation? Is it based on monetary criteria, needs criteria, or both?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is a mix of the two: no single clearly defined criterion is used.

Mr HEMMINGS: Last year, the Government made great play about providing homes for homeless youth in the 50-home programme and much publicity was given to it. The member for Spence has since pursued his inquiries in an effort to ascertain how many homes have been made available in this programme. I note that in this year's programme youth housing has been relegated to inclusion in a one-liner, which also includes special-need groups, women and the aged. How many homes have been made available under this programme to homeless youth? What organisations have taken up the Government's offer and where are these homes located?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The 50-home programme was introduced in an effort to solve the problem of homeless youth. In all, 24 dwellings of the total 50 have been leased to organisations providing accommodation for young people, and I understand that 12 others of that 50 are subject to

current negotiations for letting for that purpose. One of the reasons why all 50 have not yet been let relates to the difficulties caused by community resistance within certain suburbs to this kind of home being established, and that resistance usually filters through to the local council. Indeed, some councils have objected to the use of residences for this purpose.

Another factor that has slowed the process somewhat has been the shortage of staff and organisations prepared to administer such homes. In other words, when such youth occupy the homes there must be someone supervising the dwellings and some of the institutions have had difficulty finding the funds and labour for this to be done. However, we are making progress, albeit a little slowly, to reach the target of the 50 houses being fully used. Some of the larger residences or mansions are being transferred from the Department for Community Welfare, and those homes, or the proceeds from the sale of those homes, will also be used to provide youth housing.

Mr HEMMING: Can members assume that this downgrading of importance of housing homeless youth compared to the emphasis given it last year means that the Government no longer sees this programme as a high priority? If not, why has it not been given greater prominence in the programme before us? Could the Committee be given more information on how the Government intends to continue housing those young people, estimated to number about 6 000 in metropolitan Adelaide who are in that category of homelessness? If the Government is so keen to continue the programme and not only fill the 50 homes promised last year but extend the programme, has the Minister been able to agree with the Minister of Community Welfare as to who shall provide funding for the paid supervisors? There was a problem that was explained in the House of Assembly when the scheme was first announced and we learned that the Minister of Community Welfare was not aware that it was his responsibility to provide funding for the paid supervision of the homes.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I reject any suggestion that the Government is downgrading its attention to the responsibility of assisting in the youth housing programme. Indeed, we were the Government that brought youth within the responsibility of the Emergency Housing Office. In other words, when the present Government came to office the Emergency Housing Office did not have the power to deal with youth housing: its responsibilities were restricted to other categories. That is evidence of our concern for this project, and it is only on the line to which the honourable member has referred because that line deals with the general supervisory outgoings of the department. However, the Housing Trust itself deals with the whole question of youth housing. Indeed, the trust is prepared to make 100 houses available this financial year to assist with the housing of homeless youth, and it is positive and aggressive in its endeavours to assist this section of the community to find accommodation.

Regarding the allocation from the Department for Community Welfare to help fund the supervisors and institutions that would be willing to administer such houses if they had the funds, the matter of allocations from the Department for Community Welfare must be considered with other priorities within that department. Although that department was willing to allow this large resource under the swap and sell plan to which I referred earlier, when these five properties from the Department for Community Welfare were transferred to the trust (three have now been sold), that was an injection of funds from the Department for Community Welfare into this general area of welfare need.

However, I know that my colleague knows the need and I am sure that he is making every possible endeavour to transfer optimum resources to us. We have certainly got

some distance along the track already and further progress will be made this financial year.

Mr HEMMING: The Minister referred to an understanding by local government to the area of needs of the homeless, and I agree with the Minister: there has been a marked lack of interest by local councils in this problem. However, I am happy to say that in my district a local council has fully supported the setting up of one of these homes. Dealing with the policy of the provision of general assistance and advice to local councils, the Minister regularly sends out officers of his department to talk to councils on the problems facing them.

I know the Minister has repeatedly said that local government should be the master of its own destiny but does not the Minister think, in this particular case regarding homeless youth, that there should be some positive recommendation from the Government to local government as to their areas of responsibility? For example, that they do give planning consent to these homes being set up. Too often we hear of a situation where local government quite selfishly listens to the minority view of a few ratepayers and totally disregards the needs of homeless youth in the community.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: My officers certainly discuss these matters, and other matters, too, in regard to housing with council officers but I hasten to point out that the real problem is not the actual deliberations within the council chamber on this question; the real problem goes back to the local community. It is the local community attitude that I would like to see changed in regard to this issue. If the local community makes representations to its local councillor, and the councillor and other councillors take that matter into the council chamber, the situation that we have to try to overcome involves the actual ratepayers in the street. They are the ones with whom we have had experience in this area. In one particular case ratepayers were most strong in their objection to a house being provided for this purpose, and I publicised the point and went into the press and said it was a most unfortunate situation: I do not know what more I can do than that. It is a fairly long-term project, to change public opinion in this way, and anything I can do to assist in gaining more support from local people to permit such homes to be established in this vicinity, I am prepared to do. I can assure the honourable member (and I think he probably knows) that it is not easy to try to change community resistance on this subject.

Mr HEMMING: Moving to the Emergency Housing Office (on page 25), additional funds of \$131 000 were provided to the office in 1981-82. I am fully aware that, when we come to the Miscellaneous line, we will find that that money has now been transferred to the Treasurer, but I would like to say to the Minister, who I am sure must still have some involvement in the Emergency Housing Office through the South Australian Housing Trust, that there seems to be a considerable shortfall in funding being made available to the Emergency Housing Office bearing in mind that people going to the office have increased by 75 per cent from the 1981-82 financial year.

Obviously the question of the sums of money will be discussed with the Treasurer by the Committee but it would seem that there has been an acceptance of the downgrading of that office bearing in mind the massive increase in people seeking assistance from that office. It should also be borne in mind that the outlets where the public can get to the E.H.O. have increased yet, nowhere in the documents I have before me, do I see any increase in the staffing of that office.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The actual amount allocated by the trust for the E.H.O. for this current year is \$440 000 against an actual expenditure last year of \$412 000. That of

course is an increase. We have, as the honourable member said, extended the E.H.O. service beyond the Adelaide office during this last year, which is evidence that we want to reach the optimum number of people, and it is now extended to Noarlunga, Woodville, Port Adelaide, Salisbury and Elizabeth. There is not any intention, by bringing it under the umbrella of the trust, to downgrade the office in any shape or form. What became evident was that there was some duplication of officers' time in the Emergency Housing Office and at the front counter of the South Australian Housing Trust. It seemed we were moving to a point where we had two places in which people in difficult circumstances were going, whereas they need have gone to only one contact point. That was a proper move and, if anything, the move can be construed as evidence that the Government places greater importance than it did previously on this aspect, by marrying up the Emergency Housing Office with the organisation of the South Australian Housing Trust.

Mr EVANS: I ask the Minister or his advisers whether, when persons are given a Housing Trust home because of their economic circumstances or other circumstances that place them in a position of being eligible for a trust home, it is emphasised to the tenants at that time that, subsequently, upon improving their position, they are expected to either look at purchasing the house or paying what is truly the market rent in lieu of the sort of rent that the trust now tends to suggest is market rent. In what way does the trust assess a person's situation? For example, where a couple sell their home for \$60 000 and invest that money in such a way that they can still get a pension and thus produce a pension card in order to get a concessional house at, say, \$22 a week, if they then go on using the \$60 000 as it is invested, while still being entitled to the pension, and go for trips and the like, is an assessment made of the people and the money that can be invested, or does the trust go by the pension card?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will answer the first two points and then go to the later one. The answer to the first question is 'No'. The answer to the second question is that people are advised, when they are given their first tenancy, and that tenancy is given on a reduced rental basis because of their small income, that thereafter there will be a six-monthly review and, if their financial circumstances change, that will be taken into account in reassessing a new rental. Coming to the third question, as I understand it, the instance quoted was of a person who might be on a pension but who might have a large capital sum put to one side that was not earning income because that might well have been the desire of the person not to earn income from that amount.

The question is whether the trust requests details of the assets and liabilities as well as the revenue and income of the applicant. The trust seeks a declaration from an applicant which, I understand, does not involve the question of capital; it involves the question of income of the applicant. Therefore, if there are people in those circumstances, who first get through the pension authority, which subjects people to close investigation, if they overcome that hurdle and then apply for a Housing Trust home, the Government is quite prepared to look at the matter of whether details of capital should be involved, which is done by way of a statutory declaration.

Mr EVANS: Does it concern the Minister or the trust that there are some people who improve their position quite considerably and who may, as the member for Brighton suggested earlier, be in occupancy of a quite large trust home, whose children have moved on or who are still at home but working, although I know that the income of working children is taken into consideration? Does it concern the trust that sometimes such people might have quite expensive boats and caravans which in a way they have

been able to purchase through their own efforts, but at the same time through a form of subsidy from other taxpayers? It should also be borne in mind that some taxpayers are just outside the monetary limit of being entitled to a trust home and are forced into a position of having to supply their own accommodation. Such a disadvantage is of concern to such taxpayers.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: If a person is paying full trust rent (in other words, if he is one of the 47 per cent who are paying full trust rent), it does not concern the trust how many boats that person has in the driveway or what the assets of that person are.

Mr EVANS: I take it that the trust does not encourage that type of occupant to attempt to at least purchase the home so that the money that is invested can more properly be used for the truly disadvantaged in the community, which is the real role of the trust?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The trust gives a tenant the right to purchase a house if the tenant so wishes. I understand that periodically, I think once every three years, contact is made with tenants for discussions on these general subjects between the trust and the tenants, so that such questions can be the subject of mutual discussion and sometimes agreement between the trust and the occupant.

The Government would like to see some people who are able to afford market rents move out and occupy accommodation in the private sector because it would make more accommodation available to those in urgent need who cannot afford market rents. However, there is no mandatory requirement placed on any trust tenant to move out in those circumstances.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I refer to libraries and I draw the attention of the Committee and the Minister to references to the Public Libraries Division and the State Library Division on page 61 of the Estimates of Payments. My first question is in relation to the change of emphasis demonstrated in the Budget papers between the Public Libraries Division and the State Library Division. Last year an amount of \$670 000 was voted for the Public Libraries Division and this year the sum is \$1 697 000. However, expenditure for the State Library Division has gone the other way from \$3 467 000, voted in 1981-82, to a proposed expenditure of \$2 686 000 for 1982-83. On the face of it this would seem to be a response to the public library system that we have in this State. I guess that an argument could be put that, as libraries are more and more accessible to people in the suburbs, perhaps there will be a declining use of the State Library. If that is the case, do these figures reflect a change in Government policy, or do they rather reflect a change in the habits of the habitués of the libraries? Are people using the State Library services rather less because they are using other public library services more?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There has been a rearrangement between the Public Libraries Division and the State Library Division, which is why the figures on page 61 of the Estimates of Payments take a little time to understand, and I appreciate that. The central lending services of the State Library Division, for example, have been transferred to the Public Libraries Division. In 1982-83 there was a transfer to the Public Libraries Division from the State Library Division of the adult lending and young people's services functions. Therefore, there has been a rearrangement of activities between those divisions which has caused the change.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I thank the Minister for that, but I guess that the nub of my question still stands. If the Minister does not have the figures available now, can the figures be made available concerning the change (if there has been a change) in the habits of people using libraries? To what extent can it be demonstrated that the use of municipal libraries has increased, and what impact, if any,

has that had on the State Library or is demand on the State Library continuing unabated despite the considerable build-up in public library facilities?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Municipal libraries increased their loans by 10 per cent last year. Also, there have been several changes in the childrens library in the State Library. Borrowings from the childrens library have dropped by about 10 per cent and adult lending services have had an increase of about 2 per cent. All those statistics can be provided for the honourable member and I will send him that information as soon as I can.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Thank you very much. My third question to the Minister arises from information available to us on page 17 of the yellow booklet. I draw to the attention of the Minister and the Committee the subprogramme title on the table at the bottom of that page. At the top of the page there is reference to 'Formulation and overview of implementation of policy by the Libraries Board of South Australia' for which proposed recurrent expenditure is to move from \$64 000, the amount voted last year (the amount actually spent was \$72 000), to \$119 000, which is the proposed expenditure for 1982-83. I would be interested in some information about what additional activities the two people involved will be undertaking involving the expenditure of that extra amount of money.

While I am about it, at the bottom of the table we see with the reverse figure that there was an amount of \$129 000 set aside last year for increasing and improving community use of libraries. In fact, I notice that only \$81 000 of that was spent and nothing is appropriated for that for this year. Just exactly what was the nature of that programme? Can it realistically be said to have met its objectives, and is that the reason why there is no commitment to it in the coming financial year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I think perhaps the Acting Librarian, Mr Miller, might be able to give a more detailed explanation.

Mr Miller: In relation to the first question, there has been an increase of \$60 000 in the first subprogramme, and that is \$60 000 of the trust funds that have been used to buy additional books for the lending services to make up for the fact that the reference library has been made not for loan. Regarding the change that the member asked for in the final subprogramme, there has been an alteration made within the State Library Division, and the expenditure in that area has now been allocated to the provision of a centralised reference service and the provision of a South Australian library.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I thank Mr Miller for that. I wonder whether I can take up one of the points that he mentioned in the information that he gave us. This is in relation to the fact that the reference library is no longer available for loan. Have there been complaints from the general public in relation to this matter? Is it suggested that we are going to have to put a considerable amount of additional resources in to make up for the fact that there are books that one could once borrow from that section that one no longer can, or what is the present position there?

Mr Miller: We have in fact received only two complaints. There used to be somewhere between 25 000 and 30 000 borrowers a year who borrowed from the reference library and, since we have made it not for loan, we have had only two written complaints from borrowers about that. It was felt by the Libraries Board that there was a need to transfer some additional funds into the lending services to compensate for that, so that those people were not going to be seriously disadvantaged, and that is the reason why the additional funds have been put in there as a one-off grant.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: On page 18 of the yellow book we are given a list of the specific targets, objectives,

significant initiatives, improvements, and results sought. We see the following statement, in the second subparagraph:

To establish new libraries, provide demonstration mobile services, and to bring new libraries initiated during 1981-82 to operational stage in accordance with the principles of the Crawford Report and within budgetary limitations.

I am sure that the members of the Committee would be very interested in, first, any new libraries to be established in this financial year; secondly, a list of those libraries initiated during 1981-82 which will be brought to operational stage; and, thirdly, any initiatives in any area in relation to demonstration mobile services.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In the current year it is proposed that a payment be made to the Unley council in regard to the Goodwood library. That was a library which in fact it proceeded with and built under its own bridging finance. There will be new libraries at Bordertown, Robe, Saddleworth and Auburn, Jamestown, Streaky Bay, and Port Wakefield, and there are also new libraries (but these are school libraries), to be established at Quorn, Cowell, Two Wells, and Coomandook; a mobile service at Laura and Georgetown; and a housebound service in the Kensington and Norwood area.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Are these libraries, for the most part, being established in areas that have institute libraries and will they take over the function of those institute libraries in a different sort of way, or are they a completely new service for those areas?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, they replace the institute libraries.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I think I have two more questions.

The CHAIRMAN: As long as you are brief.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Indeed. On page 16 of the yellow book there is a reference to 'preparatory work completed for microfilming of newspapers'. Having spent two whole years of my life virtually buried in the newspaper reading room of the library, I am aware of how important it is that these documents, which, of course, are subject to some deterioration with the passage of time, should be microfilmed. I would be interested in any information the Minister can give us as to progress in this matter.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will ask Mr Miller to give that information.

Mr Miller: A number of steps have been taken to improve the microfilming projects going on in the library at the moment. For a start, we are improving space allocation and the use of staff in this area by transferring some of the functions to the bindery section of the library. We are making use of funds being made available by newspapers. There is a newspaper trust which is assisting in the funding of the microfilming project. We are looking to increase private sources in assistance in microfilming, and we are also looking to improve the master list of titles, withdrawing titles that are of no further use or are redundant. All of this, of course, is being developed with the objective of having newspapers microfilmed in time for the bicentennial, or for Jubilee 150.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I have one final question that might get me out of the way as far as libraries are concerned, and it is this: on page 19 of the yellow book, the table at the bottom 'subprogramme title', shows a considerable increase in the subline 'Provision of advisory and planning assistance to local authorities' on what we voted last year, \$94 000, up to \$275 000. I am sure the Committee would be interested in information as to what will flow from this quite considerable increase in expenditure.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The increase results from a change in Government policy whereby funds provided for debt servicing will be provided by the Treasury to the department, paid to the lending organisations by the department, and

will be reflected in its books of account. This is in lieu of direct payments to lenders by the Treasury, as was the past practice. By way of explanation, in an earlier answer I mentioned the Kensington and Norwood library. It is the arrangements for that service to be provided at the Burnside library to which I was referring.

Mr OSWALD: I refer to page 61 of Parliamentary Paper 9, under the line 'Ethnic Affairs Commission'. I see on that line a slight increase of about \$22 000 over the actual payments last year. My question perhaps relates back to last year. As I recall, we had a discussion on the interpreter services and the Minister at the time referred to an expansion of that service in the future into the health field. I refer not only to hospitals but to community health centres, and anywhere in fact where there is a need for interpreter services to our ethnic community. Will the Minister advise the Committee whether that increase will be taken up in interpreter services in the health field? Assuming that some of the increase will be taken up in that area, in what other areas will interpreter services be increased?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We are increasing the funding for interpreter services provided by both salaried staff and contract interpreters. The exact plans have been a little restricted, because we have been waiting for the Commonwealth to finalise its plans and to inform us officially as to its commitment towards contributions to such services. Incidentally, the letter from the Commonwealth came across my desk only yesterday. The Commonwealth will support services to the extent of a 50 per cent subsidy for the next three years. Therefore, it is difficult for me to give the exact figures.

On our earlier estimates, we anticipated increasing the allocation for contract interpreters in the courts and for similar purposes from \$59 000 to \$67 000 and the allocation for interpreters in the health field from \$15 600 to \$18 000. This meant a total increase from about \$75 000 to \$85 000. In view of the Commonwealth proposal, we will probably endeavour to find a little more money than that to further expand that area. The Government places great importance on the need to provide an adequate interpreting and translating service for people from ethnic communities and other people who need assistance to communicate.

We are particularly keen to expand in the health area, although there are great difficulties in that regard because of the large number of languages spoken by patients in hospitals. Obviously, there is some restriction on the number of staff interpreters that we can employ in that work. It is better to have contract workers cover the many languages involved. In general principle, we are making special efforts this year to expand the services so that people from ethnic communities are not in any way disadvantaged.

Mr OSWALD: Will the Minister tell the Committee something about the proposed museum of migration and settlement? From where will the funds come? What involvement has the department? Where is the museum to be set up, and who will run it?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The history of this proposal involves the promise of the present Government to establish what we called an ethnic museum. We paused on the subject early in our time in office, because we wanted the museum to be properly established and soundly based as a long-term, successful operation. However, when the History Trust was established, it was given responsibility for the museum, and the board of the trust established a committee to investigate the whole proposal. The findings of that committee have now been presented to the board and funds have been provided in the Budget this year for the establishment of the museum.

It has been suggested that the museum be called a museum of migration and settlement, but I do not know whether we

will leave it at that. I think perhaps an easier and more sensible name might be 'migration museum'. The museum is to be established in the old institute building on North Terrace. There has been a great deal of interest from ethnic communities in regard to the establishment of the museum, and we will endeavour to obtain an input of voluntary labour from the ethnic communities in that some of their membership may act as guides and general information officers when the museum is open to the public. The position of Curator of the museum has been called, and was advertised in the press on 8 September. Generally, the whole plan is now under way, I am pleased to say.

The initial funding is being obtained from various sources, such as the Ethnic Affairs Commission. There has been a contribution from the Libraries Board in that the board is renovating the building to house the museum, and there has also been a contribution by the Department of Local Government towards the overall funding that is required to establish the museum. The estimated salaries payable by the History Trust this year in regard to this line amount to \$23 000.

Mr OSWALD: Under which line does this sum come?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It comes under the line 'Transfer to Ethnic Affairs Commission', \$251 000 (page 62). I hasten to point out that the commission is a statutory body, and, therefore, a further breakdown of its budgetary situation is not provided in these figures. More information would be available in the annual report of the commission. However, I would be pleased to obtain more detail, especially in regard to this issue, for the honourable member from the Chairman of the commission.

Mr BANNON: Prior to the last election, the Minister made a number of statements about an inquiry into the needs in education of migrant children. This was to be one of the first tasks of the Ethnic Affairs Commission when it was set up (according to the press release), and in the policy documents put out by the Government it was stated that the Government would establish an inquiry into the needs in education of migrant children so that they would no longer be disadvantaged. It was also stated that the terms of reference would encourage members of ethnic communities and their leaders to give evidence and make recommendations to ensure that ethnic children who have been brought up in a language other than English would not be disadvantaged in any way in the community.

What has happened to that inquiry? I know that there have been various inquiries into education generally. For instance, the Keeves Inquiry looked into a range of educational issues, but very little in the report related to ethnic communities; in fact, about 1½ pages dealt with the composition of schools but did not go much beyond that.

In fact, the final report cut across that sort of indication which one would see involved in the promise to have a major inquiry into the educational needs of ethnic and migrant children, where it said that it is well nigh impossible to maintain ongoing courses of foreign language instruction at the primary level and as a consequence the learning of foreign languages must in general begin at secondary level. The Keeves Inquiry had no-one on it of an ethnic minority background, and it did not have any special research or other input. It seems to me that that was a major plank in the policies of the present Government about which I would like the Minister to tell me what has happened.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: When the present Government came to office it looked at this particular commitment. We were unable to start our investigations before the Keeves Inquiry was mooted, and we were under the impression that the terms of reference of Keeves did provide for this same type of inquiry to be included in the overall investigation by the Keeves Committee.

We went to a great deal of trouble to try to ensure that this subject would be included in Keeves's deliberations. One of our senior officers, Mr Giardini, who as the honourable member knows is an educationalist as well as having other disciplines, was given the role to make contact with the ethnic communities and to assist them in compiling their submissions to the Keeves Inquiry. Indeed, Mr Giardini volunteered to act as a co-ordinator to assist them if they so wished to combine their representations into a more major submission. This procedure continued, and submissions were made. However, we were disappointed when the Keeves findings were issued in that the subject was not covered as we hoped it would be by that particular inquiry.

To further the inquiry and the commitment, the Ethnic Affairs Commission was then asked to take what action it thought best to have this investigation carried out. The commission decided to establish its own educational committee for this specific purpose. The personnel of that committee have been grouped together but we still do not have one particular representative that we hoped to have. The Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Commission has informed me that he thinks that possibly they have had a meeting or meetings but that they have not as yet formally reported to the Ethnic Affairs Commission, their parent body. The simple answer is that, because of the delay occasioned by the Keeves report, we still have not completed that inquiry as we intend to do but at least we have the machinery in train and the Government still intends to do that and thereby honour the promise to which the Leader has referred.

Mr BANNON: Another aspect of this question is contained in the promise that the new Government would ensure that every non-English-speaking child would be given special language tuition immediately upon entering school and that this would continue until a satisfactory standard of fluency was achieved. When the Government came to office there were two schools conducting bilingual classes specifically, and I understand that that is still the case. What steps have been taken to ensure that every non-English-speaking child is given special language tuition, what resources have been put into that programme and what reports, if any, has the Minister had from the Ethnic Affairs Commission on the success of the implementation of that programme?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The matter has not been one in which the Government has specifically asked the Ethnic Affairs Commission to become involved. It has been one in which we have relied upon the Education Department to try to expand this service and to achieve the goals we have sought. I do not have with me details of the exact number of schools or classes involved, but I understand that great emphasis is being placed within the education system upon this matter. In fact, I believe that we lead Australia in our efforts to do our best to assist such children. I think it would be more informative for the Leader if I obtained a report from the Minister of Education on this matter, and I shall do that.

Mr RANDALL: As I understand it the library service has pursued cataloguing in such a way that the ever-increasing use of our public libraries by the community will be made that much easier when it is possible to ascertain the whereabouts of any book in any library in the State. Can the Minister give us the latest information on library cataloguing facilities?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The State Library has already commenced using the Australian bibliographic network, and that began in March this year. All major libraries throughout Australia are gradually being linked to this system. We are currently examining the wellknown cataloguing system of microfiche for all books held in South Australian public libraries. The committee is examining this question at the

present time, and it is expected to present its final report to the meeting of public libraries on 15 November. There has been an interim report, but I think the official report is the one that will be most helpful.

Mr RANDALL: Are policy guidelines given to public libraries by your department regarding material to be held in libraries? I have received a complaint in my office from an Italian lady who said she had read all the Italian books in her local public library and that she was a bit concerned that they were not being updated regularly. Apparently she was told by the council involved that it depended on the supply and demand situation; the books had not been read enough times by enough people. In other words, they had not had enough 'due date' stamps in the back to warrant their replacement. That is one area of concern. Also, could video cassettes carrying video games be stored in the local library so that borrowers could take them home for use on their television sets?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I hope that the honourable member is not advocating a free service in respect of the last matter he mentioned.

Mr Miller: As much as 3 per cent of the book budget is spent on multi-cultural materials for people of ethnic origin. We are not specifically allocating those books to libraries, but they are part of a book collection circulated around the libraries. So, if the Henley and Grange library was read out in that area, there would be no difficulty in getting a complete change-over. An entirely different range of material would be available for the Italian reader in those circumstances.

Dr McPhail: Consideration has been given to extending into other types of material such as video cassettes, and some other State libraries provide access to mini-computers. Although I suspect we might be concerned about lending out programmes for video games, the prospect of more regular lending programmes for mini-computers could be considered. The lending of video cassettes is also being considered because they have become a major commercial enterprise. However, specific class of video film is most popular commercially and we would not contemplate that class of film being introduced into our lending system.

The CHAIRMAN: There being no further questions on this line, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs, Miscellaneous, \$7 197 000.

Chairman:

Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:

Mr J. C. Bannon
Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr T. H. Hemmings
The Hon. D. J. Hopgood
Mr G. F. Keneally
Mr J. K. G. Oswald
Mr R. J. Randall

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Dr I. R. McPhail, Director, Department of Local Government.

Mr M. A. Herrmann, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Local Government.

Mr J. O. Messner, Acting Joint General Manager, South Australian Housing Trust.

Mr J. L. Crichton, Acting Joint General Manager, South Australian Housing Trust.

Mr E. McL. Miller, Acting State Librarian.

Ms M. S. Fallon, Acting Deputy State Librarian.

Mr B. Krumins, Chairman, South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission.

Mr HEMMINGS: Last year, \$500 000 was voted to the Local Government Assistance Fund and \$859 514 was spent. This year, that vote is \$771 000. At page 31 of the supporting document, the reason given for the increase from the sum voted to the sum spent last year is said to be the provision of \$100 000 to provide funding for the Coober Pedy Miners and Progress Association for the establishment of a form of local government in Coober Pedy, and the provision of \$250 000 for work by the Marion corporation on roads, footpaths and kerbing in its district.

I am given to understand by interested groups that the sum allocated for the Local Government Assistance Fund has remained at \$500 000 for each of the past two years, and I believe that this represents a serious drop in the real value of the grant that reflects the decreasing interest of the Government in the local government projects to be funded under this scheme. The total of \$350 000 that went to the Marion corporation and to the Coober Pedy association was in effect tacked on to expenditure from the Local Government Assistance Fund for a reason other than that for which the fund was set up. As the sum proposed to be voted for the current financial year is \$771 000, is the Local Government Assistance Fund being used in effect to launder money for projects other than those for which the fund was originally established?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, there is no question of laundering money by this means, although I am not sure what the honourable member means by that expression. However, for the purposes of convenience, the \$250 000 grant to the Marion corporation and the \$100 000 grant provided in respect of the newly established local government arrangement at Coober Pedy were brought through this line and, of course, that has meant a great increase in the total expenditure during 1981-82. Also, it is proposed that a further grant of \$250 000 to the Marion corporation for work on roads, footpaths and kerbing would also come through this line during the current financial year.

Mr HEMMINGS: Can the Minister assure local government authorities and the community generally that \$771 000 will be available for community projects, or will only the traditional \$500 000 be provided for such work? If the latter is the case, what is the additional \$271 000 earmarked for?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The provision stands in this current year within the total of \$771 000. There is the \$500 000 for the traditional local government assistance purposes, to which is added the \$250 000 to which I referred. Then there are three small items that have been added for the current year: flood relief, District Council of Tatiara, \$9 000; contribution towards a water main at Coober Pedy, which is essential because of the great fire risk there, the water main being laid down the main street where the commercial buildings are located; and removal of carcasses from beaches, most of the carcasses being those of sheep, \$1 000.

Mr HEMMINGS: Although I would be the last to suggest that the Minister is trying to confuse the Committee deliberately, I point out that he is talking about the \$250 000 that was spent last year. Why should that programme or any other programme referred to by the Minister be tacked on to the Local Government Assistance Fund when there

are other more relevant resources from which such programmes could be funded?

For the first time since we have had these programme papers, and with this Government's way of questioning a Minister, we suddenly find that the Local Government Assistance Fund is being used to fund projects in a way other than that originally intended. Looking at page 31, we see:

621 applications (some of which did not meet the criteria for assistance) were received from community groups. 182 were funded to a total of \$286 578. 11 recurrent grants were made to community/information services.

That is fair enough, and I accept what the Minister said last year, that that sum was never intended to meet all the requirements of community groups, and that one has to be fairly stringent in providing money. However, suddenly there was a proposed sum of \$500 000, with \$360 000 tacked on which we find out went to Coober Pedy and the City of Marion, and now the Minister is saying that this year the proposal is \$771 000. He admits that only \$500 000 will be spent on community groups, with other local government bodies receiving the extra \$221 000, but it is not going through the normal channels. Why are we suddenly using the Local Government Assistance Fund? I used the term 'laundered' money: what we are doing, in effect, is setting up this fund and saying to the community, 'Yes, we are spending an extra \$221 000', and yet they have Buckley's chance of getting any extra money from this Government.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I remind the honourable member that matters dealt with under this general heading of 'Local Government Assistance Fund' in this current year are all matters relative to local government. There is the \$500 000, which I will not say has been the traditional amount, because it was increased to that during the term of this Government, but nevertheless, as has been the case in the last couple of years, we intend to allocate the \$500 000 this year to the applicants for aid and for the establishment of information centres by local community groups, and so forth. There is no change whatsoever in that.

It would not matter very much how the question of the road grant to the City of Marion was dealt with or whether it was placed in a separate line: it so happens that the Treasury officers were asked where they felt the best place for the grant was, and they suggested that it be under this particular heading. It does, of course, involve assistance to local government. The situation regarding Marion was that on the slopes beneath the hills face in the Marion region there was a considerable number of old Housing Trust homes (timber-frame houses built around 1950) and the surface drainage as it came down the hill had to be dealt with by the council.

To provide reasonable comfort for people living there, to overcome flooding and to provide kerbing to manage that flooding for the benefit of these people who had lived in terrible circumstances for 30 years, the Government was convinced that it was beyond the normal resources of the Marion council. Therefore, a special 'one-off' amount of \$500 000 was put aside to help the Marion council overcome this problem and to assist those working people in that area who had not been assisted very much previously. We have found the first \$250 000 and this year we find the second \$250 000. It seems to me quite in order for that to be grouped under the heading in the Budget line of 'Local government assistance'.

Dealing with the flood relief at Tatiara that, from memory, was because of the unique flood that came through from Victoria, in the main, last winter creating havoc across the plains, across the roads and everywhere else in the Tatiara region. The Government agreed to help that council with that 'one-off' amount. The money for flood relief at Tatiara

and the water main at Coober Pedy, involving \$9 000 and \$11 000 respectively, is actually interest on loans. We are subsidising the interest rate in those two instances as a means of helping the people concerned with what are local government problems.

The Mayor of Port Adelaide was very upset about the sheep washed up near Port Adelaide and so the Government, wanting to do its best by local government, found \$1 000 towards the removal of those carcasses from the beach front. Whilst I appreciate that the honourable member might well question the wisdom of grouping those items together, I do think there is a commonality there with local government that makes it quite reasonable to put those grants into the one basket, as we have done.

Mr RANDALL: Regarding the Keith Hockridge Memorial Scholarship, I notice that interest has gone from \$1 000 (or an actual payment of \$510) last year to something like \$10 000 this year. What is the reason for the steep increase?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The sum goes up and down like that, because it is now a policy decision that that be a two-yearly grant rather than an annual grant. I should add, as a further explanation to the honourable member, that there has also been a policy decision regarding the Keith Hockridge scholarship in that, instead of bearing the cost of a clerk going overseas on a study tour with this money, there will be a different style of approach taken for the next expenditure: a local government academic from overseas will be brought out to South Australia, and he will counsel, lecture and talk with local government staff in South Australia. We hope that that is another means by which we both commemorate the memory of the late Keith Hockridge and perhaps at the same time assist local government in a wider manner than just restricting it to one scholarship for one person.

Mr EVANS: I believe it is a direction that local government cannot charge a membership fee for people who use local government libraries. I am aware that the cost of running the libraries is becoming quite high and that rate-payers are becoming concerned at the cost of operating these libraries. Is it a Government direction that the local government authority cannot charge membership fees, as against the case of groups of people known as 'friends of the library'. If that is a Government direction, why is it different in this case, when the Government's policy has been stated to be one of letting local government decide its own fate and when, in the case of moneys that are made available to local government bodies, they decide where the money is used (in this case for libraries)? If it is a Government direction not to allow membership, why is that so?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The matter goes beyond the question of Government direction; it is a statutory requirement that it be a free service for books. That is written into the new legislation passed by this Parliament only a few months ago. In regard to the argument that local government should be given optimum control to decide its own policies, I hasten to point out that in this area local government is not on its own financially in regard to libraries. The Government appreciates very much this contribution, but the State is also involved heavily in the provision of funds. I am aware that in some rural areas, particularly, there has been some discussion on the point that the honourable member has made, but it remains the Government's firm policy that the library services in this State shall be a free service.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Glazbrook): There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Arts, \$3 062 000

Chairman:

Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:

Mr J. C. Bannon
Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr T. H. Hemmings
The Hon. D. J. Hopgood
Mr G. F. Keneally
Mr J. K. G. Oswald
Mr R. J. Randall

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr L. Amadio, Director, Department for the Arts.
Mr. C. Winzar, Acting Director, Arts Development Division.
Mr J. Mildrum, Chief Administrative Officer.
Mr R. Wright, Administrative Officer.
Mr K. Lloyd, Administrative Officer, Art Gallery of South Australia.
Mr B. Wale, Administrative Officer, South Australian Museum.

Mr BANNON: On page 66 of the yellow book reference is made to an anticipated reduction of \$122 000 in expenditure of board trust funds. The programme referred to on that page is Art Exhibitions and Education. On page 64 of the Programme Estimates reference is made to an anticipated reduction of \$65 000 on the Art Gallery's collections programme. Can the Minister explain how and why those reductions have taken place?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Referring to page 66, the question concerns the reduced operating expenditure of \$6 000?

Mr BANNON: No, I am asking about the reduced expenditure of the board trust funds which is referred to in both the items mentioned. In fact, there will be a total reduction of \$187 000 in expenditure of board trust funds. How is that being achieved, and what will be the impact of that?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The explanation for those reductions is that the previous year was the centenary year and everyone was keen to acquire as much as possible in that year. Of course, at that time the Art Gallery established its successful foundation which provided it with a great pool of resources. However, it also over spent its normal trust funds to an extent which necessitated tightening the rein. Therefore, the Art Gallery anticipates that this year it will not spend the normal funding that it usually spends.

Mr BANNON: At page 64 of the Programme Estimates reference is made to support for the Art Gallery of South Australia foundation and to the fact that one of the targets or objectives of 1982-83 is to increase support for that foundation by raising about \$100 000 from the private sector to complement the Government's contribution of \$100 000. Is the Government's contribution of \$100 000 in this financial year contingent upon the raising of \$100 000, and has the \$100 000 which is to come from the private sector already been pledged as part of the foundation's appeal, or does this amount refer to a new phase of the appeal, extra fund raising during the current financial year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: When the foundation was originally established the Government promised it five lots of \$100 000

to be provided in consecutive years. The arrangement at that time was that the foundation had to match that sum. As it happened, the amount raised during the early period of the establishment of the foundation exceeded in aggregate the Government's promised amount, anyway. Whilst the board of the Art Gallery has included this comment in the Programme Estimates, which does give an inference that unless it raises another \$100 000 it may not get the State's contribution, I do not think that a great deal of emphasis should be placed on that comment, because the amount that the Art Gallery has collected to date far exceeds the Government's total outlay of \$500 000, anyway.

I should think that the Art Gallery would like to show through their accounts the amounts raised on the first five years operation of the foundation. I do not know of any plans concerning the Art Gallery's gaining an especially new lease of life in regard to its foundation activity. However, the foundation is a permanent vehicle that now exists and it is expected that, because of its permanency and its success, it will from time to time gather donations and other contributions publically, as well as bequests, which will assist the gallery tremendously.

Therefore, in regard to whether there is any special campaign planned this year, I point out that the activities involved now are on a more regular basis of contact with people who may be generous enough to provide contributions to the foundation.

Mr BANNON: I refer to page 68 of the Programme Estimates which concerns the museum. Reference is made to savings that are to be achieved by the non-replacement of the Curator of Minerals. In terms of policy decision, has it been decided that this is a function not to be carried out anymore by the museum? If this is the case, has an equivalent curator position been made available in some other field and, if so, where?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The whole question of the staffing of the museum is being looked at at the present time with the plans to provide the museum with better accommodation. We acknowledge that there has to be a comparable improvement in the staff structure and, as I understand it, the question of this particular curatorial position is in this general investigation. I am informed that the work, or some of it, is being carried out in a voluntary capacity at the present time, so that the general standards of work within the museum in this area are not suffering.

The CHAIRMAN: There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Minister of Arts, Miscellaneous, \$16 556 000

Chairman:

Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:

Mr J. C. Bannon
Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr T. H. Hemmings
The Hon. D. J. Hopgood
Mr G. F. Keneally
Mr J. K. G. Oswald
Mr R. J. Randall

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr L. Amadio, Director, Department for the Arts.
Mr C. Winzar, Acting Director, Arts Development Division.
Mr J. Mildrum, Chief Administrative Officer.
Mr R. Wright, Administrative Officer.
Mr K. Lloyd, Administrative Officer, Art Gallery of South Australia.
Mr B. Wale, Administrative Officer, South Australian Museum.

Mr RANDALL: I have developed an interest in my years here in the area of public radio. I refer to the lines on page 67. I note in the community an expanding desire of the community to branch into community radio-type projects, given the fact that the Federal Government is also making it easier for people to get licences. I also note the trend for the future whereby community television is, I would say, very close to us in the future. Has the Minister's department grappled with that as a policy for the future?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, as yet we have not looked closely into the question of public television for South Australia. We know it is one of those tasks which are going to confront us, and we intend to come to grips with it. We have been content to try to establish the general area of public radio which has taken, and is still taking, years to establish because of the long delays in the granting of licences and so forth, and also in some rearrangements that take place within committees and groups which start off with ambitions to administer these public radio stations. We are very pleased with that progress, but we have not as yet moved into investigating the question of public television. I would be quite happy and prepared in a positive way to have a preliminary look into it in the next few months and I would be very happy to inform the honourable member of progress that we make during that period.

Mr RANDALL: Public television, as I anticipated, is going to become something of importance, coupled with the already announced ethnic television for South Australia. I am not too sure whether that would become part of this line, or whether it is going to be looked at in that area or another area of the Minister's portfolio. That needs to be committed and we need to give a clear indication to the people of South Australia where we are going in that area, as far as ethnic television goes but, whether that is seen by the Minister's department as part of the public television or not, I am not too sure.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, it is not. Ethnic television is a subject that will come within the general review of the Ethnic Affairs Commission and, therefore, I do not relate it to the general question of public television. The situation in regard to the ethnic television is, as has been publicised, that the Commonwealth (as the honourable member knows, I am sure) has indicated that it intends to fund the extension of the existing services to the capital cities of Queensland and South Australia, to extend it into Canberra and, I think, to one other of the regional cities of New South Wales. This planning is in train, but this is all being conducted by the Commonwealth and through Commonwealth channels. We are giving any encouragement that it is possible to give to hasten the arrival of ethnic television, but we recognise that in the main we are in the Commonwealth Government's hands because it is providing the funds for the extension. I have not been given any reason to believe that there will be undue delays or any alterations to the programme announced by the Commonwealth Minister a few months ago.

Mr RANDALL: The third point, as I made earlier this afternoon regarding libraries, concerns having access to the cassettes of the State film and video library. When one

looks at the potential, I am not too sure what role they play at the moment. When one looks at the potential of gathering that sort of information together, again if it is elicited through public libraries the community knows what information is held at that video library, and obviously the public would have a lot of encouragement to have access to that video library.

Likewise, if we are talking about ethnic television or multi-cultural television, if we store multi-cultural information at the State film and video library, it can be used at the time of the television station's being established in South Australia. I think it would be a good idea and I wonder what policy areas we are looking at in that area.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The general policy in that area is that the library acquires that material which is in demand by the public of this State: I mean private citizens, institutions and Government departments. Particular mention should be made of the Education Department, which is a very heavy borrower from that department, and in recent times it is quite evident that the demand is strengthening for video material rather than the traditional films which previously were stocked and borrowed from that library. The operation is an extremely efficient one. It is now housed, as the honourable member probably knows, within the total area at Hendon, where all the other South Australian Film Corporation's activities are concentrated. I discussed the library only yesterday with the Director of the South Australian Film Corporation. He is very pleased with the standards that are being maintained there and it is quite evident that there is a strong emphasis towards and a movement towards the acquisition and lending of video equipment as against old traditional films.

Mr BANNON: My questions concern the production of films by the South Australian Film Corporation. The present Government as part of its arts policy talked about encouraging the development of the film corporation, though that corporation has been under attack by some of its members. I think the Minister has maintained a public support for that organisation and its activities.

The concept of the Government Film Committee and the specific allocation was to provide an underpinning for those independent production companies and others in the field of regular work who were not dependent on the ebb and flow of commercial or film feature work that was being done by the corporation. The committee was established because it was apparent that there was some reluctance by departments to make provision from within their lines. Some pretty alarming figures are revealed. In 1978-79 (the last year of the previous Government) the allocation was \$705 000; in 1979-80, \$732 000; in 1980-81, \$700 000, which was a cut-back in real terms, although it was a lesser reduction in money terms; in 1981-82, the allocation was decreased to \$350 000; and now we have before us a line that has been transferred from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet of \$232 000.

That must have a major impact on the level of employment and activity of all those who were dependent on the funding and programme that was envisaged under this line. This matter was raised in the House early this year, and at that time the Premier sought to deflect criticism by saying that he intended to set up a committee that would encourage Government departments to seek funding for film production. It would include representatives from the film makers. Such funding, when approved, would be placed under a protected line. In other words, there would be a stipulated amount so that it could be seen that there was not to be a major reduction and that, at least, the allocation last year of \$350 000 would be available for film production. Now we find that the allocation has been reduced to \$232 000, in other words, a further drastic run-down in this very vital

film programme. What is the Minister's explanation for Government policy in this area?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is true that there was a reduction for documentary films from the approximate \$700 000 to \$350 000 in 1981-82, when there was a general need for constraint right across the Budget. When that decision was made, we were mindful that at that stage there was a considerable backlog in work still to be done and that some money that had been accumulated in the years when those amounts of \$732 000 and \$705 000 were allocated was held in trust for that purpose. It must be appreciated that this activity is very long term. It takes a long lead time to develop ideas from within departments and statutory bodies to the time when initial scripting takes place, including discussions held with corporation officers, and so on, and ultimately production occurs. We could foresee that, with the reduction to \$350 000, there would not be any appreciable reduction in the view of the Government at that stage. Nevertheless, it is a pity (as it always is a pity in regard to lines under the Arts budget or under any other budget) when reductions occur.

The Leader referred to the remarks made by the Premier in the House in regard to the plans in this area and, in conformity with the stated policy, the committee under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has been disbanded and a new committee has been established in the Department for the Arts to generally supervise this work and to act as a go-between, so to speak, between departments and statutory bodies as customers and the Film Corporation as the producer. This year we hoped to introduce a system in which individual departments would state in their Budget lines specific documentary films that were planned, but we have not been able to achieve that target. As the Leader stated, \$232 000 has been transferred to the Department for the Arts lines, and that sum is committed to films that are in or beyond the scripting stage.

In the past month or two strenuous efforts have been made to interest departments and statutory bodies in new film planning and, on present indications (although I cannot say with certainty), we have about \$120 000 worth of new documentary films in the planning stage. I hope that we will obtain more orders this financial year. Only yesterday the Director of the South Australian Film Corporation was given the authority to deal directly with Ministers and departmental heads to discuss and weigh their needs in documentary film production. Therefore, I am hopeful that, although we have not reached our final target of separate departmental lines within the Budget stipulating money for film purposes, we may obtain more orders.

Incidentally, I might say that we have set that target, because we want to ensure that money that is allocated at the beginning of the financial year for documentary films will be used for that specific purpose. If money is lost in general appropriation, there is sometimes a tendency for some departments to use that money for other purposes as the year progresses and as priorities change. Hopefully, we will reach that final stage in our planning in the next financial year: we have not been able to do that this year. In lieu thereof, we are actively negotiating and liaising with departments, and the films of which we already have notice and about which we are already having discussions with departments may make up the leeway.

However, it means (and I go back to the time when the allocation was reduced from \$700 000 to \$350 000) that there has been a reduction in corporation staff. To the best of my knowledge, this has been achieved by attrition, and that is regrettable. However, the Government still intends, with all the force at its disposal, to encourage departments and statutory bodies to pursue programmes for documentary film making, and I hope that at the end of this financial

year we will be able to look back with an aggregate sum that is at least in excess of last years figure of \$350 000 having been spent by the industry under the supervision of the corporation this financial year.

Mr BANNON: It seems that the Government is trying to relearn lessons that were previously learned in this area, which is of great importance in terms of industrial as well as cultural activity in this State. I understand that the South Australian Film Corporation's documentary team has been reduced from six to two, both by direct retrenchment and by nonreplacement. For instance, Lesley Hammond has resigned to take another appointment.

Of course it is not just the impact on the Film Corporation itself and its staff; it is also the impact on all those in the field, in the private sector, who need this work in order to maintain their presence and activities here. I suggest that it is a matter of some urgency.

The CHAIRMAN: According to the time table agreed to previously, the Minister's time has expired. I thank the Minister and his officers for appearing.

Environment and Planning, \$16 708 000

Chairman:

Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:

Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr T. H. Hemmings
The Hon. D. J. Hopgood
Mr G. R. A. Langley
Mr J. K. G. Oswald
Mr R. J. Randall
Mr J. W. Slater

Witness:

The Hon. D. C. Wotton, Minister of Environment and Planning.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr E. J. Phipps, Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr M. D. Madigan, Deputy Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr B. J. Hill, Director, Management and Administrative Services Division, Department of Environment and Planning.

The CHAIRMAN: I welcome the Minister and the officers who are accompanying him. During the answers to questions the Minister might state that he will obtain information at a later date for the Committee. I ask that the information that the Minister does obtain is in a suitable form for insertion into *Hansard*. I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I welcome the Minister. I note that in the white paper there is the standard entry 'Minister of Environment and Planning (Special Acts)' and on page 9 of the yellow booklet, under the support services category, one finds under the overall heading of 'Average of full-time equivalents', the figures for Minister and Minister's office: 7.0 proposed for last year, outcome 6.8, and the proposal for this year 8.0. I am interested in probing the sort of support service that the Minister feels it is necessary that he has in a direct way as Minister: who are these people in his office, what do they do, and what are the additional responsibilities which the Minister is taking

on which necessitate this expansion in the size of the Ministerial office? Could the Minister also give us some idea of the way in which his staff operates *vis-a-vis* the department as a whole?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Are we talking about the Minister's office or the department generally?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The people to whom reference is made on page 9 of the yellow book in the support service category of the Minister and the Minister's office. Last year it was proposed to have seven people employed, in actual fact 6.8 full-time equivalents were employed, and this year the figure has increased marginally to eight. I assume that this is the Minister's personal staff and I am interested in who these people are, what they do, and the additional responsibilities which necessitate that modest increase.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: As indicated by the honourable member, there has been an increase. At the time of the reorganisation of the two departments into one department, I was anxious to test the new set-up to ascertain whether it was possible to retain the original number of staff. Recently, because of the large volume of correspondence received in my office, I have found it necessary to increase the number of staff to the following level: chief administrative officer AO2 level; steno-secretary; senior administrative officer, AO1; clerk, CO2; clerk, CO1 with typing duties; clerk, CO1, steno-secretary. I also have my own staff comprising a Ministerial executive officer and a press secretary.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I am interested in the philosophy of the operation of the Ministerial office. Does the Minister see that office in a sense as an alternative source of advice to him and to his departmental officers under the Public Service Act? Alternatively, is this support group merely to facilitate communication between, first, the Minister and the department, and, secondly, the Minister and the general public?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I do not recognise the staff as being there to provide advice or recommendations that should be provided by the department: it is there purely on administrative grounds. From time to time I seek advice from the Ministerial executive officer and the press secretary, but the other staff in the Minister's office are there for administrative purposes.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Regarding the professional support services in the department as a whole, I notice that the size of executive management has declined a little. Last year an executive management staff of seven was proposed, but the ultimate outcome was only 5.7. This year six administrative staff are proposed, so in some respects it is a modest increase on the actual figure for last year, although in terms of the Minister's intention at the time it represents a decline. Why was the figure proposed last year not achieved? What happened to the executive management responsibilities generally in the department if only 5.7 officers of the proposed seven were eventually required? Whereas 44 professional and technical services staff were proposed for last year, only 36.4 were eventually required, and 37.8 is the figure proposed for this financial year. What happened in relation to the responsibilities of the department which led to the staff expectation not being realised in respect of those services?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: As the new department was being formed, the Director-General considered that there might be a need for another administrative officer in the executive. That appointment was not made at the time and it is now considered that the position is not necessary. With the formation of the new department it has been a matter of looking at the resources required and making a determination.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: At page 72 of the Estimates of Payments (Recurrent and Capital), \$1 000 is shown as being voted last year for overseas visits of Minister, Minister's wife (where approved) and officer, and \$600 is shown as having been spent. This year \$2 000 is proposed for this purpose. As the latter amount will not get anyone very far on an overseas trip, will the Minister say whether this amount is merely notional? Further, on what was the \$600 spent last year? Does the Minister intend to go overseas this year? Does the Ministerial conference meet from time to time in Auckland, Rabaul or some other overseas location?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I am not sure how the \$600 was spent, but there was a Ministerial conference at Madang, in Papua New Guinea. I have no immediate plans to travel overseas this year.

Mr RANDALL: As the Government has been criticised because of the level of staffing in the National Parks and Wildlife Service, can the Minister say what is the present situation in that respect?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Some concern has been felt over an extended period about the level of staffing in this service. Having regard to the resources being employed (permanent public servants, weekly-paid staff, casual employees, and contract employees), there has been an increase in staffing. Indeed, the number of permanent positions in the service has increased from 174 in July 1980 to 225 in July 1982, albeit some increases have resulted from the transfer of additional nature conservation functions to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

There are two components in the staffing of the service: the recreational areas subprogramme and the flora, fauna and parks management programme. Total numbers are projected to increase from last year's average of 258 to 268 this year. The major reason for this increase is the employment of additional staff on park management plans. These plans have been given much higher priority, and much greater emphasis is being placed on their preparation.

Mr RANDALL: It is my understanding that, as a result of the bird smuggling controversy and activity, the Minister has employed an increased number of people in the law enforcement area. Can the Minister say whether that is so and, if that is so, what activities those people are presently involved in?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Yes, there certainly has been an increase in the numbers engaged for this purpose; it has gone from, I think, four to 10 in the last 12 months. I think members of the Committee would be aware of the controversy that has surrounded this activity for quite some time, and in recent times I have made a number of references to this matter in the House. The law enforcement section within the National Parks and Wildlife Service has a State-wide responsibility for the enforcement of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the associated regulations. The section also has an obligation to support and co-operate with interstate wildlife authorities and to control the illegal taking of and trafficking in native fauna.

As well as looking at the number of people involved in this activity, we have also looked at the responsibilities of the section, which include the supervision of permit holders, the supervision of the kangaroo harvesting industry, the monitoring of the movement of fauna in and out of South Australia, and assistance to field staff. The law enforcement section has conducted three basic law training courses for wardens, a more advanced course for district rangers, and a special course for its own personnel and some senior rangers and inspectors from other sections of the department. Two inspectors lecture regularly at the Police Academy and also the Salisbury C.A.E.

The Committee might be interested to know that, since 1 January this year, some 164 offenders have been reported

for 204 offences under the Act and regulations; 46 offenders have been dealt with in court and penalties amounting to \$12 248 have been imposed. We have looked carefully at our responsibility as far as the international airport is concerned. The fact that illegal operations are at present reasonably contained reflects the effectiveness of the section, which has won praise from various parts of Australia for the work it is doing. However, it can be expected that there might be a further increase in illegal trafficking in fauna when the international air terminal opens in December, and arrangements are already in hand to deal with this situation. We recognise this as being an important part of the responsibilities we have under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, and we have increased the staff in line with that responsibility.

Mr RANDALL: The Minister commented earlier on management plans, and I would like an explanation. It seems to me that the Government or the Minister's department has expanded the use of management plans, and perhaps the Minister should clarify for the Committee the role of the management plan. Have we actually extended the use of the plans? Also, what is the number of parks involved?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: As I mentioned earlier, the number of approved management plans for national parks was certainly a concern of mine when we came to Government. Certainly it was the situation until recently that the resources being applied to the preparation of management plans were completely inadequate. We were looking at how we should develop these areas without having the appropriate necessary information regarding the development of major parks and reserves. The lack of adequate resources caused its own set of problems, and in particular we did not have sufficient information available to guide us as to the best way of managing our parks, or in locating development works, such as roads, walking trails, visitor facilities, interpretation centres, and so on.

As a consequence, I felt that we should put substantially increased effort into this area, and this year in the Budget we have allocated work in the vicinity of \$490 000. That appears to be a large amount of money, but we see this as one of the highest priorities regarding national parks. In addition to our planning branch within the national parks, we have 11 people engaged in contract to assist in preparing the plans. As a consequence, work is now proceeding on plans for the majority of our most important works and I am told that, by the end of the year, we will have plans covering approximately 76 parks, or the majority of the important parks in this State.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Carrying this aspect further, I wonder whether the Minister can expand on the criteria used to determine which parks are treated first, in the sense of being appropriate for having a management plan. In other words, do we do the hard ones first or the easy ones? Also, what in this context is a hard or an easy park?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Obviously, one of the first things we look at is visitation. The parks that receive more visitors are those that we concentrate on first. It always seemed quite incredible to me that a park such as Belair, for example, attracting in the vicinity of 600 000 people each year, has not had a management plan prepared. And so we could go on. High visitation is certainly one of the criteria, as is also the fragility or sensitivity of the environment. Obviously, as members would realise, some parks are more fragile than others; some eco systems need particular protection, and those are the ones we need to look at. The third category, I guess, would be those parks of national significance, those that are recognised nationally as being the most important parks and reserves in South Australia.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I raise again a question that was raised last year about consultative committees and I

refer to page 25 of the yellow book, referring to the establishment of further consultative committees including Mount Lofty Ranges, Northern and Barossa Valley as a specific target for 1982-83. I wonder whether the Minister can say how many areas of the State have consultative committees; what areas await them, and what are the criteria for determining the boundaries of an area which will have a consultative committee? Obviously, we are not using the curved boundaries, or anything like that, so how is it determined that there will be a consultative committee for Fleurieu, for instance, and how does one define Fleurieu?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Generally, we are looking at working in with regional administration and the regional activities within the National Parks and Wildlife Service. We have not stuck strictly to that, but have varied them slightly. We have tended to look again at areas that may be particularly sensitive or that may have a larger number of parks, and those that have high visitation, and so on. However, we have worked mainly to look at boundaries that relate to regional administration.

We now have about 10 consultative committees around the State and, as has been pointed out, the last two to be formed will be the Mount Lofty Ranges Committee and the Barossa and Northern Committee. It may be that that number will be expanded, but with the programme that we have at present it is considered that the consultative committees that have been established, with the addition of the two that I have just mentioned, will provide adequate cover throughout the State.

I take this opportunity to point out how effective these consultative committees are: some have now been in operation for over 12 months and have had their first annual general meetings. The reports that we are receiving from those consultative committees are very valuable indeed. The people involved on those committees, working in a voluntary capacity, are to be commended. I am sure that the lessening of the concern being expressed through the media in relation to activities in national parks indicates that there is now a closer liaison between the community and the consultative committees which augers well for the smooth running of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Can we be more specific than that? I guess we can say that the consultative committees have at least two basic functions: the first enables the National Parks and Wildlife Service to get its message across to the general public, and the second enables the general public to get its message across to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I am particularly interested in the latter: in those areas where committees have been established, have the practices of the service been modified as a result of this consultation and, if so, how? I realise that the Minister is probably not in a position to mention specifics in that regard, but there may be some general policy areas that have been modified as a result of this consultation. I am sure that if that is the case the Committee would be interested to know of it.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I think it is fair to say that policies have been modified in regard to certain aspects of fire management, general access and fencing of some parks where, as a result of advice which was sought from the community, there have been changes to a specific policy that previously related to a park or a reserve.

It was only during the past weekend that I had the opportunity to meet the Chairman of the Lower South-East Consultative Committee, which was one of the first such committees set up. I was pleased to learn from the Chairman of that committee that it is now going out into the community and suggesting that comments from specific interest groups can be passed on to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and that they can take the opportunity of appearing before

the committee if they want to seek information in regard to specific policies that relate to a park. That system is working very well, too.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: On page 68 of the yellow book on the table, on the right-hand side concerning fixed asset information, there is a reference to 21 parcels of land awaiting declaration. Setting aside for the moment the question of Coffin Bay, to which we might refer in a moment, have any of those parcels of land been purchased with Commonwealth Government money? If so, where are they, and are there any specific problems in relation to a declaration of the area which is the reason why that area appears on the fifth line of the table instead of on the first, second, third or fourth lines of the table?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I would like to take this question on notice and seek further information. However, I point out that I am not aware that Commonwealth money has been provided for the areas, as has been suggested, other than for the land at Coffin Bay. I think most of those parcels of land involve areas that are required for boundary rationalisation. I would like to provide the honourable member with more information, and I shall bring down a further report to the Committee on that matter.

Mr EVANS: I refer to the question of control within parks, to the wildlife itself and to the management of wildlife areas. In explanation of my question, I want to point out some of my concerns in these matters. For example, I believe that recently at Quorn large numbers of white yellow-crested cockatoos were destroyed (which I think was being done lawfully) because the cockatoos were damaging not only exotic plants that may have been planted by residents of the area but also our unique eucalypts. Also, I know of other cases involving galahs and other species of native life being destroyed.

I am conscious of the fact that Federal Government regulations make it difficult to export native species but, for example, in New Zealand our possums are bred and destroyed in large numbers for their furs which now constitutes an export for that country. Many of our species of native life, in particular birds, are now being bred in other lands and sold at high prices. Can the Minister or his officers say whether the department has had discussions with the Federal authorities in an attempt to change the regulations so that our native species can be caught if they are found to be causing a problem and sold by the persons given the licences to catch them, or perhaps they could be caught by departmental officers, sold to the department and then exported? I believe that this would further benefit the State by lessening the number of species which are destroyed and for which high prices are obtained as illegal exports. It would decrease the problem of rackets involving the export of native species. What is the attitude of the department or the Minister in regard to this matter, and what representation has been made to the Federal authorities?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Soon after I became Minister responsible for this portfolio, I made some inquiries about the possibility of considering export. In fact, I raised the matter on a more or less informal basis at a meeting of Conservation Ministers. As the honourable member would appreciate, that meeting occurs annually, and I was soon made very much aware, after talking with my colleagues from other States and to the Commonwealth Minister, that there was a lack of support for such exporting as suggested by the member for Fisher.

There are a number of reasons for that: it is recognised that it is extremely difficult to monitor the number of species involved. Also, one must be very careful about the depletion of a particular species, and it has been made quite clear by those people with whom I have discussed the matter at Federal level that there is also a danger to our international

reputation. I have not taken the matter any further, although the matter has been on the notice paper of the meetings to which I referred, such as the Concom meeting, where opportunity has been given to discuss on a fairly frank basis the problems associated with the export of fauna.

Mr EVANS: I thank the Minister for that, and I ask the Minister whether he might care to obtain, if he does not have it now, the department's estimation of the number of native birds that are destroyed in the State, for example, in this last year. That could be of interest later if it is not known now, and I am talking about native birds, whether they be galahs or white cockatoos, etc., whether permits are issued, and whether the numbers savaged, destroyed or caught are known.

In relation to control, there was some comment on the A.B.C. recently by a person living in the hills that the fire-fighting facilities in our parks were not up to standard and that there was a lack of them. As there seems to be some community concern that that statement could be accurate, can the Minister satisfy the Committee as to the fire-fighting equipment, personnel and methods operating in our parks, whether they be used for recreational or conservation purposes, and assure the Committee that they are of a satisfactory standard?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: In answer to the first question about departmental records of the number of native birds killed in the last 12 months, I will examine the department's records and try to provide an answer. I suggest that it would be very difficult to provide accurate information, but I certainly will examine the records. I think the Committee would be aware of some of the concerns expressed by residents in the South-East of the State regarding damage caused by the long-billed corellas, and as far as that particular situation is concerned South Australia is combining with Victoria to carry out a study of the numbers of that species.

Concerning the staffing available for fire-fighting, I am aware of the recent allegations made in the media, and I have responded to those allegations. The first comment I have made is that the remarks were based on an incomplete understanding of the present situation. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is very conscious of the role that it has to play in fire protection, suppression and control. We are very proud of the parks and resources that we have in this State, and obviously we would see protecting those areas from fire as a major responsibility.

Over the last 18 months the service has established a protection management unit to provide it with the technical capacity to handle all aspects of park protection associated with fire, weeds, vermin, soil erosion, and so on. I have indicated through the media that the protection management unit provides technical advice to field staff in the very best ways to deal with a wide variety of park protection problems, including the critical problem of fire. The relationship between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Country Fire Service, I would suggest, is the best that it ever has been. There is close co-operation and co-ordination in the handling of fires, and there is also a mutual understanding of the respective approaches of each organisation in regard to fire management situations.

I think it is vitally important that that should be the case, and I suggest that both organisations have worked hard to negotiate and to come together in many of these areas. The N.P.W.S. has recently completed fire management plans at Deep Creek and Black Hill, with plans in preparation for the Morialta, Cleland, Belair and Kangaroo Island parks. These plans, based on an understanding of vegetation types, fuel types, high risk areas, previous fire patterns and available fire-fighting resources, will provide a very sound basis for the management of fire hazard.

The effort being applied to fire management training for staff in the Mount Lofty Ranges parks has been doubled over the last 12 months. Both the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Country Fire Service have a joint concern for fire protection, particularly in the Adelaide Hills. The fire-spotting tower at Mount Lofty, which is being constructed presently by the Government at a cost of \$150,000, is expected to be completed in late November, and the use of this tower over the coming summer will provide a very important means for early detection of bush fires and enable fire control authorities to act quickly.

The tower is expected to reduce, by 50 per cent, the time between fire outbreak and arrival at the scene by fire teams, and I am sure we all recognise that that is vitally important. It is critical in tackling fires before they are able to spread, and last fire season the National Parks and Wildlife Service recruited some 20 staff from the Public Buildings Department to serve in fast attack crews for fire suppression activities. These crews are trained by both the fire protection management unit in the National Parks and Wildlife Service and also the Country Fire Service. Further recruitment for these crews is now proceeding to fill vacancies and bring them up to strength for the coming fire season.

The Director of the Botanic Garden has advised me that his staff stationed at Mount Lofty will continue their involvement in fire control activities, contrary to the information supplied by Dr Coulter. With regard to the number of staff available to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for fire control in the Mount Lofty Ranges, there has been a temporary reduction outside the fire season. However, I am presently having discussions with the Minister of Public Works with a view to a further 15 or so Public Buildings Department personnel being made available for the fire season. So I can give an assurance to the Committee that we recognise the importance of having appropriate fire control in regard to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mr EVANS: In the area of staffing, are we more rapidly moving to making it a requirement that staff generally must have higher qualifications and academic ability and that, by that, we are tending to drift away from experience and knowledge? I refer more specifically to actual management inside the parks, and I have heard some concern expressed about this matter. I accept that we need people with higher qualifications in certain areas, and that, as regards many people who may have practical experience working on the land, for example, their knowledge or abilities in this area would be about as useful as a wheel on a walking stick, where as in the practical field of managing parks their ability would be excellent. Are we looking to maintain a reasonable balance of people who may have experience with farms or working on the land, with an understanding of how to maintain fences, eradicate noxious weeds and being able to work effectively in a physical or manual way (their ability in that area most probably would be much greater than that of people with academic qualifications who are not necessarily exercising their bodies very much), or are we drifting too far towards the academic qualifications in lieu of experience and knowledge in the management of land?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: No, we are not. We recognise that there is a need for an appropriate balance between excellence and knowledge and experience. Obviously, there is a need for the practical person, but there is also a need for people who have suitable training in regard to responsibility in management of our parks and reserves. We are very fortunate that a large number of our officers are now seeking special training through the Salisbury college courses.

Through a secondment scheme with the Commonwealth and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, we have also been able to introduce a training officer to carry out training programmes for field staff, particularly in regard

to our National Parks and Wildlife Service. Obviously, there is a need for a balance in the capabilities of those who are given responsibility. I believe that we have an appropriate balance and that the training provided is practical as well as theoretical.

Mr EVANS: Do all staff have the opportunity to undertake the course at the Salisbury college?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I am informed that each staff member is given the opportunity of doing a six-week stint at the Salisbury college every two years.

Mr SLATER: The yellow book (page 9) refers to contract staff and ex trust account employees (whatever that might mean) who have been distributed to specific programmes. A table for 1981-82 and a proposed table for 1982-83 are shown, and there is a variation between 1982 and 1983 in some instances. Will the Minister explain why contract staff have been employed? What role do they play in specific areas of the department.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I will ask the Director-General to answer that question.

Mr Phipps: These people are engaged on a contract basis, because it is obvious to us that their services will not be required permanently or for a long period. They are engaged to take the department through a peak or special situation where we believe that a task force effort is required to get to where we want to go as quickly as possible. One of the areas in this regard is heritage conservation. When the European heritage programme commenced, there was a rush of applications from people to have historic buildings placed on the register, and a significant list of buildings that had to be investigated established itself very quickly. To overcome that situation, we engaged heritage architects on a contract basis.

In regard to the management of fauna and flora and parks, as the vegetation retention programme that was part of the heritage agreement programme took off, there were a substantial number of requests, and we employed on contract biologists and ecologists to carry out assessments. It is obvious to us that these people will not be required permanently. In the management plans area, where the Government established a special task effort, we required additional contract people to enable us to carry out the investigation of the natural resources in the parks and to formulate plans. Our requirement for those resources has peaked, and as the draft plans are completed and as we reach the final planning stage, we will not require the services of those contract people. Generally, contract appointments are a means of taking on board people who have professional and scientific skills to help as the task demands, when we know that the demand will fall away and we will not have to continue to employ those people.

Mr SLATER: They are short-term contracts rather than long term.

Mr Phipps: People were employed on long-term works contracts at Cleland Park and Belair Park. Eventually, we absorbed those people into the permanent staffing of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mr SLATER: The yellow book (page 28) refers to pollution management, and states that there is a widespread community concern regarding backyard incinerators. I certainly support that comment, because from time to time people contact me as a member of Parliament (and no doubt people contact other members of Parliament) in regard to this problem. What action does the Minister or his department intend to take in regard to control over the use of backyard incinerators in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I do not intend to pre-empt discussion on the clean air Bill that is to be introduced in the very near future. In fact, I intended to introduce that Bill on the last day of sitting, but that was not possible;

however, the Bill will be introduced in the first week in which the House resumes, and more detail will be provided at that time. It might be appropriate for me to indicate that we are looking at the introduction in the very near future of a good neighbour campaign, which will be advertised on television and by other means, to encourage people to have respect for their neighbours in a number of matters, and backyard incinerators is one of those areas. If I could speak on behalf of the Minister of Local Government, I am sure that the Committee would be aware that in recent times Mr Hill has expressed his desire to encourage local government to move towards a full collection of wastes. There would then be less to be burnt in backyard incinerators. That particular area is the responsibility of the Minister of Local Government who will soon be launching the good neighbour campaign.

Mr SLATER: I suggest to the Minister that much of the problem associated with household refuse can be laid at the feet of the packaging industry. Much of the packaging of products that people buy is of a disposable nature. Goods, particularly foodstuffs, are placed in attractive packages to encourage sales. I refer particularly to cardboard and plastic containers which are difficult for the household to dispose of, particularly within the present limitations of council regulations which allow for the collection of only one garbage container from each household. Perhaps the campaign of which the Minister speaks might also be directed towards providing some information to the packaging industry to assist in this problem.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I certainly agree that there is a need for the packaging industry to be involved in this matter. I believe it is aware to a certain extent of the problems associated with the disposal of waste. The member for Gilles has referred particularly to plastics and to cardboard. He would be aware of the recent litter count that was released by Kesab in this State which suggests that one of the problems that we now have is associated with the move towards the use of plastic containers rather than cardboard containers. The Committee would be aware of the concern that is being expressed now that there is no longer a use for used newspapers. The department is currently looking at that situation because of the concern expressed by residents who now cannot pass on old newspapers. I have been told that that is a direct result of less cardboard being used and a move towards more plastics being used by the packaging industry.

Mr OSWALD: I refer to the Troubridge Island lighthouse. I seek information about the transfer of the Troubridge Island lighthouse from the Commonwealth to the State. I understand from the press that advertisements were placed in an attempt to get someone to lease the island. What progress has been made in that direction? Has a decision been taken to lease the island? The member for Goyder is interested in this particular subject and is fully aware that I am asking this question on his behalf as well as for my own information.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: A decision has been made but an announcement has not yet been made about the person who has been successful in leasing Troubridge Island. I recognise the interest the member for Goyder has shown in the future use of this particular island. The requirements of the lease are now known and the lease has been drawn up. The property to be leased on Troubridge Island consists of two residences, a workshop, a generator room and an area of land, which is still to be defined, for domestic use. The lease will be for a term of five years with a right of renewal for a further term of five years.

The lessee will be responsible for undertaking maintenance work according to prescriptions set down by the department. Those works will include the internal and external painting

of buildings, with the department supplying materials, routine maintenance of generators, maintenance of hot water service, stoves, domestic pumps, etc., repair of damage caused by lessees or their invitees, maintenance of the domestic garden area, and the lessee is also to provide at his or her cost fuel for the generators. The balance of the land that is not included in the lease is to be managed by and at the expense of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I have been approached by Flinders University (and I know that the member for Morphett would recognise the involvement of Flinders University in the early days of Troubridge Island), which has requested an on-going involvement in the use of Troubridge. It has been made clear to the successful lessee that Flinders University should be involved and should have access to the island in the future.

Mr OSWALD: Has the Edithburgh Progress Association been involved in the awarding of the lease, or does it have connections with the lessee? I realise that the person's name has not been released but, in the past, the Edithburgh Progress Association has shown much interest in wanting to be involved in the care of the island. I know it would want to have contact with the lessee and I wonder whether that lessee in his submission said that he is working with or is prepared to co-operate with the association.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I know that the Edithburgh Progress Association made representations through the member for Goyder earlier but I cannot say for sure what recent negotiations there have been with that organisation. I can give an assurance through the member for Morphett to the member for Goyder that I will, when I am in a position to do so, provide him with information about the person who has been successful in becoming involved with the lease of Troubridge Island so that he might be able to pass on any information which might be of interest to the association.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: As I indicated a short while ago I am interested in the position at Coffin Bay as one of the examples of an area awaiting dedication. I am aware that last Thursday the Minister's colleague in another place announced a select committee of that other place to make some sort of recommendation rather than a determination in relation to the Coffin Bay area. Can the Minister say what are the terms of reference of the select committee, and does he think that a select committee is the appropriate body to inquire into this matter?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Last Thursday, a motion to set up a select committee was moved in the Upper House. The vast majority of South Australians are anxious to see the Coffin Bay Peninsula dedicated as a park as soon as possible. It has taken far too long and there has been too little action in this matter, although I must admit there have been difficulties as far back as 1974 when the land was first purchased. In considering this matter, Cabinet thought it appropriate that a formal committee be established to enable appropriate evidence to be submitted, and one of the best ways of doing that, I believe, is to have a select committee set up in the Legislative Council. It was considered that the opportunity should be provided for people to submit evidence to the committee and for the committee to travel to Coffin Bay and to talk with representatives of the council and other interested bodies. I have received many representations on this matter.

From memory, I cannot outline the exact terms of reference, but they are listed in the *Hansard* report. The first question referred to the committee is the determination of any reason why Coffin Bay Peninsula should not be dedicated. Secondly, the committee is required to consider

whether further land should be provided for the expansion of Coffin Bay township itself. If I remember correctly, the select committee is to report on 2 November.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Page 26 of the support document refers to 20 conservation reserves, whereas Part III of the National Parks and Wildlife Act contains no reference to conservation reserves in the four categories of reserve listed. Of course, the reference may be to areas set aside under the Planning and Development Act, those areas that the Minister inherited from the former Minister of Planning. However, the total area involved is almost 4 400 000 hectares, which is an area greater than the total area of the 169 conservation parks. Can the Minister say what class or classes of land are referred to?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I am not sure, so I will bring down further information.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Page 8 of the support document sets out the expenditure and receipts in respect of flora, fauna and parks management. From the figures, it is apparent that proposed receipts will rise from \$599 000 to \$694 000 this year, which seems to be a reasonable estimate. However, can the Minister say why such a large sum (\$838 000) was actually received last financial year and why his department is not assuming that growth could be predicted from that base rather than from the base of what was proposed last year?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I can only suggest that the reason is the divestment of certain land, for example, the Belair golf course and other reserves. I will bring down more information for the honourable member.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: How does the service propose to make up the short-fall in funds resulting from the divestment of the golf course? Was that matter taken into account when the divestment was considered? Is it suggested that the savings on expenditure on the golf course will more than outweigh the loss of receipts?

Mr Hicks: When this matter was discussed with the Budget Review Committee in Treasury, regard was had to the fact that these facilities were running at a loss with outlays exceeding receipts and that it would be in the interests of the Government for these facilities to be divested by means of a long-term lease to eliminate the deficit. Although that may show as a reduction in receipts, it also means that, because the cost outlays going to these facilities have disappeared, the Government's net position improves.

Mr RANDALL: My question relates to the Government Community Information Service which is provided by the Minister's department as I understand it; this is a relatively new initiative that the Minister's department has taken, so far as providing information to the community. I know that some of the information that I have received from the Minister's office and that service, which I have put into my own electorate office, promotes or provokes much interest in the community, especially amongst school students looking to do projects on conservation or environmentally related matters. I well remember the large poster produced during the Year of the Tree as a significant promotion for tree planting. As there are some rumours or discussions in the community that the Government is winding down that service, can the Minister explain the role of the information service and its future?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Let me say at the outset that the Government has no intention whatsoever of winding down the responsibilities of the Community Information Service. The service was established in May last year as a result of what we saw as a very real need for more information to be provided through the department to the community generally. I remember indicating to the Committee last year that, when I became Minister, I was concerned at what

seemed to be a somewhat negative attitude about the department by the community generally. I felt that it was very necessary that information started coming from the department, and that it be seen to be the positive department that it is.

It was the one division of the department for which there was no pre-existing function and much time was put in to determine the main priorities when we recognised that so much needed to be done in that area. The C.I.S. provides a very effective means of explaining legal requirements, Government policies and programmes, desirable environmental, conservation and management practices and encourages public participation and collaboration in environmental management. The C.I.S. is responsible for developing, implementing, co-ordinating and evaluating (and this is very important) information and community education programmes concerned with environmental conservation and management.

The specific objectives of the C.I.S. are to enhance community awareness, and understanding and appreciation of the natural and man-made environment, to influence positively community use and interaction with the environment, to promote community understanding of the Government's environmental planning policies and programmes in terms of overall strategy (and not merely as isolated achievements), to explain the department's function and its long-term advisory and co-ordinating role. It is also to facilitate, where appropriate, public involvement in decision making and policy formulation on the basis, as I said earlier today during the proceedings of the Committee, that a two-way flow of information should assist in the proper assessing of decisions and the development of appropriate policies, and to improve the internal communication processes. In addition, we are aiming to maintain a very high level of awareness amongst departmental officers of the functions and activities of the department.

A number of achievements were carried out by the C.I.S. in its first year, 1981-82, and some of those are listed in the yellow book. A number are also listed for the following year but I might just say that the projects that were achieved during 1981-82 represent some \$95 000 against the total departmental expenditure on community awareness projects for 1982-83 which is estimated to be about \$450 000. They relate to various divisions of the department. All of the divisions are involved in this particular programme, and we believe it is a very high priority of the department. It is certainly a very high priority of myself as Minister and of the Government, to make people aware of the department's responsibilities. Also, it is an important part of the Government's philosophy that we should wherever possible educate rather than regulate, and I suggest that the C.I.S. is fulfilling a very important part of that particular aim.

Mr RANDALL: I would like (as I did yesterday when talking to the Minister of Mines and Energy about the Energy Information Office) to know whether there are any incentive programmes that we can use as part of this promotion of good environmental management. Are any incentives or awards offered to the community to encourage the community not only to be educated but also to put that knowledge into practice, participating in good environmental planning? I remember the Minister's department, through his office, putting out a roadside vegetation poster relating to land farming, etc. I am sure the Minister has some incentives in that area.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Obviously, the first one that comes to mind is that relating to the Heritage Agreement, where a very positive incentive is provided to encourage landholders to retain native vegetation on their own properties. That particular incentive scheme has been hailed throughout Australia. At a recent meeting of the Conservation

Ministers and the Australian Environmental Council (made up of Environment Ministers from throughout Australia) I presented a paper on that scheme and, as a result, much interest was shown by the other States. That was seen as a very positive approach regarding incentives provided to private landholders. It has been welcomed and the number of applications received and followed up is much wider than our original expectation. In addition, we have restoration grants that, in themselves, provide some incentive.

We have the greening of Adelaide, where trees are provided also as an incentive. There are many others I could refer to, but certainly we see it as important to provide incentives where necessary to encourage people to become more aware of their responsibilities in environmental management.

Mr RANDALL: The last part of my question relates to the Community Information Service and the availability of staff to visit schools, to give talks, for example, in my own area, on the role of the Coast Protection Board or other environmentally inclined information. I know the Minister's department has some good visual aid material in the way of films; I have seen some of those films, together with other members of this House. Has the Minister's department launched into that area of public promotion at this stage?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: One of the responsibilities of the C.I.S. is to educate and we have an educational officer under that service. It is that officer's responsibility to go out and train teachers so that they in turn have a better understanding of matters that should be brought to the notice of children at schools.

That person is also involved in curriculum development and other matters relating to education. I also point out (and this is outside the area of the Community Information Service) that the rangers have a very real responsibility, and do an excellent job, in educating people and answering inquiries from members of groups. I am quite amazed about the number of people and groups visiting places such as the Cleland National Park. In many cases they are groups from overseas and interstate, and members of these groups seek advice on native species in the park and other information relating to our National Parks and Wildlife Service. The role accepted by the rangers there is very much an educational one. Also, there is an education officer involved with the Botanic Garden and much education and advice is provided through that facility.

Mr Peterson: As one with a deep and abiding interest in sand replenishment and sand removal programmes, I have some questions which relate to page 22 of volume 2, book 8 of the Programme Estimates. I note that the section referring to specific targets for 1981-82 indicates that planning is well under way for an alternative sand replenishment programme and beach protection programme. However, the allocation of recurrent and capital expenditure for coastal management policy and research has increased to a reasonable extent. If the programme is going as well as is indicated in the notes on this section, can the Minister explain why a greater expenditure is required for this year?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I think the member for Semaphore, more than most other members of the Committee, would recognise the problems associated with some of the projects that the Government is undertaking at present in regard to sand replenishment, etc. Certainly, there is a need for more information to be gathered in that regard. A number of key studies are being undertaken by the Coastal Management Branch. I refer to the beach and offshore profiling study, which is a long-term study of changes in sand levels, particularly along the metropolitan coast, but which also includes some country locations, in particular, locations on Yorke Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula and the South-East. Also, a study of foreshore erosion in certain localities is being undertaken. One of the studies being carried out

relates specifically to the town beach at Robe, which study overviews the problems and makes recommendations for future action. Further, study is being undertaken concerning sediment creation at the Port Stanvac breakwater and the use of material from that area for sand replenishment on Adelaide beaches.

A study in regard to dune rehabilitation is being undertaken. It might be of interest for members of the Committee to know that the branch of the department involved with that matter is compiling information with a view to producing a publication detailing dune rehabilitation methods. Detailed guidelines will be made available concerning drift control along the coast-line, access control, planting, reticulation and maintenance methods. The publication is aimed at the general public and for specific use by management authorities involved with coastal dune control.

Also, at the secondary school coastal environmental workshops the department is looking at matters relating to access. A special investigation is being carried out in conjunction with the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Fisheries Department in regard to the Murray River mouth. Also, coastal resource mapping is being undertaken. The Coastal Management Branch is liaising with the Australian Environment Council in regard to the establishment of a working group of State and Territory representatives to examine the need for an atlas of Australian coastal resources.

Further, there is the association with the Planning Act, 1982, and with matters relating to development control, where, under the provisions of the development control regulations, all development applications within coastal areas as defined are to be referred to the South Australian Planning Commission for consultation. Also, there are the metropolitan sediment movement studies, the metropolitan coast protection strategy review, and so I could go on. However, I think those details would give the honourable member and indication of the type of activities involved. If the member for Semaphore is interested, I would be happy to provide more information for him about the work being undertaken.

Mr Peterson: I refer to community awareness about these matters. A previous question was asked about this matter, and I agree that community awareness promotion is a necessary part of the department's operations. I note that proposed recurrent expenditure for 1982-83 has risen to \$9 000, but that proposed capital expenditure is \$65 000 whereas capital expenditure for 1981-82 was only \$1 000. I am referring to page 22, volume 2, book 8 of the Programme Estimates.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I will ask the Director-General to reply to that question.

Mr Phipps: The figures the honourable member quoted refer only to funding made directly for projects initiated by the Community Information Service. The true funding position for community information projects is substantially different. The reason for this is that some of the projects appear in the lines for the respective division or the respective programme. The honourable member referred to a proposed capital expenditure of \$65 000. The funding for the Community Information Service programme comes from a number of sources. The situation is that last year projects worth \$95 000 were undertaken. That expenditure appears under other lines or programmes. It is not detailed, but it is included.

Therefore, the real comparison concerns the \$95 000 that was spent last year, exclusive of salaries and operating costs, compared with this year's projected expenditure of \$450 000 for community awareness projects, exclusive of operating costs and salaries. The increase in capital expenditure to which the honourable member referred is really just an

accounting situation as that capital increase is an increase that is directly attributable to the allocation to the Community Information Service. Shall I give the honourable member details of the proposed expenditure of \$65 000?

Mr Peterson: Why is that figure shown under capital expenditure?

Mr Phipps: It is for the acquisition of an asset, but mainly it is for expenditure from the Coast Protection Fund which, primarily, is a capital fund. An amount of \$47 000 has been allocated for a film on coastal wet lands, \$7 500 for a science programme, \$3 000 for a coastal seminar, and \$7 000 for publications. They are the sorts of project which are funded from the Coastal Protection Fund which, as I said, is a capital fund. I would emphasise that the true comparison concerns last year's expenditure of \$95 000 and this year's proposed expenditure of \$450 000.

Mr Peterson: Referring to page 21 of the yellow book under 'Specific targets/objectives', there is a note 'Prepared 1982-83 five-year programme with local government.' Is that with specific local governments or with the local government body?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I am informed that it is a five-year programme of grants to local government that relate to individual councils and the various sharing schemes within local government.

Mr Peterson: For provision of facilities at beaches, and this type of thing?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Yes.

Mr Peterson: Again, under the heading of 'programme management and administration'; there is a comment:

Progressed with the review of an alternative protection strategy for metropolitan beaches.

The Minister mentioned earlier that there was a review of sand replenishment sources and methods of sand replenishment. Is any detail available on those schemes yet?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: No. I am expecting the report to be brought to me within the next month or so, but I am not 100 per cent certain when it will be made available.

Mr Peterson: Getting away from coast protection, I shall just get on to the environment, if I may, relating to noise. I apologise that I may have missed some of this, because the two-committee system makes it impossible to be in two places. The problem with industrial noise, and at times recreational noise, is a growing one in all areas not the least being in my electorate, and I noticed in the capital Budget some expenses for equipment. Does this signal a new approach to the problem of noise pollution in the community, and, if so, can the Minister indicate what form that will take?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: It relates to an upgrading of equipment that has been obsolete and, with the increased number of requests for work to be carried out in that area, it was felt necessary that we should upgrade the equipment.

Mr Peterson: Does that refer to industrial pollutants as well, or is it just noise?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I will ask the Director-General to provide more information.

Mr Phipps: With regard to noise, we feel our equipment is sophisticated and in the main up to date with technology, although, of course, it is changing rapidly and there is a need to get in new equipment from time to time to improve productivity, but the major problem has been in the area of our air-monitoring equipment, where the method of data collection has been rather tedious and the process of analysis of that lengthy amount of data has also been tedious and very consuming of manpower. Our ability to respond quickly to situations by understanding, having precise and timely measurements of pollutants, has been lacking, so over the past two years, including this year, we have been involved

in a substantial upgrading of equipment to bring it up to date with the latest technology and to put the air-measuring or the air-monitoring equipment in the same class as the noise monitoring equipment. That is why we see substantial increases in the money allocated for pollution monitoring equipment. It is primarily in the air-monitoring equipment area. We may, towards the end of this current financial year, also begin to acquire necessary marine pollution monitoring equipment as well.

Mr SLATER: On page 30 of the Programme Estimates book, we see 'Litter and beverage container management', and a reference on page 30 to 'Litter and shelf surveys, and collection depot assessment.' I wish to ask the Minister a question in regard to beverage container depots basically. There is also, I note, proposed recurrent expenditure for litter and beverage container management for 1982-83 of \$192 000. Is there assessment from time to time of the beverage container depots? I refer to the availability of depots within the metropolitan area, referring particularly to the north-eastern suburbs, where there is a lack of depots. If there is an assessment from time to time of the location of depots, is it intended to establish more depots to provide the public with the opportunity to return the beverage containers? Is the mentioning of this matter in the Programme Estimates for that purpose?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Yes, there is a regular assessment carried out in regard to the provision of container depots. On a number of occasions I receive representations asking advice in regard to the availability of these depots. I cannot say exactly what the situation is in the north-eastern suburbs, but if the member for Gilles would like to take that matter up with me later I would be happy to have it looked into.

If the Beverage Container Act and the deposit system are to work successfully, obviously it is vitally important that we have adequate depots, and if an area of the State or of the metropolitan area is not adequately served or covered, I would be anxious to hear about it. Indeed, as I say, the member might wish to take that up with me on a future occasion.

Mr SLATER: Yes, I would be pleased to do that. From my experience (and I am relying on memory), in the areas from St Peters through to the north-eastern suburbs, I think there is a depot at St Peters, one at Holden Hill, and I think one at Wingfield, but I am not absolutely sure about that. I will accept the offer of the Minister and perhaps I could obtain a list of the depots available to make sure that the three that I have mentioned are the only ones available in those areas, which are areas of growing population, particularly in the outer suburbs of Redwood Park and the areas of the member for Todd and the member for Newland.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I believe that I had completed my explanation to the member for Gilles other than to say that I would be prepared to provide a list of depots for the honourable member. I look to the honourable member to take up the matter of representation in certain areas.

Mr SLATER: The yellow book (page 12) states that the department divested itself of the Belair Golf Course, Brownhill Creek, Kingston Park, and Belair and Fort Glanville caravan parks. Although I know that it is Government policy (and I am probably answering the question before I ask it) to divest itself of these parks and caravan parks, in particular the Belair Golf Course, I would like to know who is now running the Belair Golf Course. Is that course still available to the public? I also notice that there was a return to the department of \$60 000 in golf fees. How has that occurred when the department has divested itself of the golf course? The Auditor-General's Report under recurrent

receipts (page 96) states that \$60 000 has been returned in fees.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The member for Gilles has answered the first part to his question very well. It is Government policy to divest itself of the golf courses, as the honourable member indicated. It is believed that that should not be a high priority in the activities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In fact, soon after we came to Government we indicated that we would look to do something about the golf courses and the caravan parks, and that has now taken place. The Belair Golf Course is now being leased by the Murton family, for a term of 35 years commencing on 1 January this year. There is no right of renewal and rent is 8 per cent of the green fees collected, payable yearly in arrears on 1 June each year. The rent for the first calendar year is waived if the lessee constructs a club house, and I understand that that is to happen.

The lessee is responsible for the payment of rates and taxes and is to maintain at his expense all improvements on the leased land. He is to be responsible for maintenance and replacement of all equipment and is to develop the land in accordance with the lessee's development submissions, which include the upgrading of existing improvements and provision of a club house, professional shop, and so on. Improvements made by the lessee which the lessor does not require the lessee to remove, on expiration of the lease, will become the property of the lessor, at no cost. I suggest that that arrangement is quite satisfactory and is working very well.

In regard to the \$60 000, the Government has relieved itself of a deficit situation and future capital fund requirements. The public has access for specified tee-off times. When we first started talking about arrangements that would be made in regard to the golf course, we indicated that certain times should be made available for the public, and that is happening.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The yellow book (page 8) shows a table relating to recurrent receipts from the National Parks and Wildlife programme. The Minister would be aware that there was controversy recently about the grazing of sheep in Spring Gully conservation reserve. Incidentally, I would be interested to know whether that practice is still occurring or whether some resolution of that matter has been arrived at. I would be grateful for any advice from the Minister in that regard.

My main reason for raising this matter is that I am aware that from time to time the facilities of the parks are made available for productive use. For example, I understand that apiarists use the park, and the fears of conservationists in relation to sheep or cattle do not normally extend to bees. I wonder whether any charges are made for this sort of use, and in that case whether the charges are represented in the receipts that are set down in the programme documents, in particular the \$599 000 that was proposed in the 1981-82 financial year and the \$838 000 that was actually the outcome.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: In answer to the first part of the question, I believe that members would be aware of the situation in regard to the leasing of some of the land at Spring Gully for grazing purposes. I do not intend to go into a lot of detail other than to say that for a considerable number of years a lease has been provided and I understand that originally it was seen to be part of a fire management programme in regard to leasing of a section of that park. I made a decision last year that that should not continue; however, because of the drought conditions, when I was requested to continue the practice, to overcome problems associated with the drought, I agreed to allow continuation.

Since that time, I am advised that there has been some improvement, because some rain has fallen on adjacent

properties, and I have written to the person responsible for the sheep that were being grazed on part of the conservation park and requested that those sheep be removed within two weeks of receipt of the letter. We were requested to consider the possibility of allowing the person involved to bring in feed for the sheep, but I was not happy about that arrangement, and I indicated that. I have now written to the people involved, informing them that they should remove the sheep within two weeks of receipt of the letter.

The apiarists are now subject to a licence, and the charge for apiarists was decided following a submission to Cabinet. I am not sure what the charge is, but, if the honourable member is interested, I will give him precise details about the charges at a later stage.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Is the return reflected in this line?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Yes.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I turn now to the heritage conservation aspect of the department's activities, which is listed on page 72 of the white paper and at page 17 of the yellow book and, in particular, the European heritage. Under European heritage, in the table at the bottom of page 17, we note it was proposed last year to spend \$144 000. This year it is proposed to spend \$151 000, and the staffing, which was set at 4.5 average full-time equivalents in last year's Budget, which in fact turned out to be eight, will be further increased to nine. I am interested in any programmes which have been initiated and which have been responsible for both the over-run on last year's Budget and the continuing increase in this year's Budget. The Minister will understand that I am not criticising the build-up in staffing in this area but I am just interested to know what programmes or demands are on this part of his departmental activities which necessitate the build-up in the staffing component.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: There certainly have been more demands. There has been a backlog for some time in assessing the significance, particularly in regard to the built heritage and the European heritage. We were anxious to overcome that backlog to the best of our advantage, so that we would relate to some of the increases. We are also aware of the responsibility we have in continuing the work. As the honourable member will appreciate, the Government has a responsibility, once applications are received, to ensure that particulars are assessed. We are anxious that that work be carried out as quickly as possible.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Do these people directly service the Heritage Committee? I am aware that the committee is there to advise the Minister specifically in relation to all sections 11, 12, 13, 14 and, I guess, 15 of the South Australian Heritage Act. They, in turn, must get their information from somewhere, so do these people service the committee through perhaps an executive officer, or what is the chain of command and advice?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The work is mostly associated with investigations and making advice available in regard to the actual register in order to provide information, and it is not so much working directly in line with the committee. The committee itself does have a servicing officer.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The only other question I have relates to the current controversy in relation to the European heritage area. Again, I hope I am quoting the correct part of the Act, section 15, which relates to the interim list. Why was it not appropriate to list the Grange Hermitage on the interim list? The Minister would be as aware as I am that that is not the end of the story. In fact, if no action is taken after 12 months, the item automatically drops off the list, so that sort of interim listing does not end the argument. It does not take away the rights of the landowner, but it does open up the whole matter to the consultative process which is laid down in the Act. In view

of the Minister's answer to my question in the House about a week ago, in which he indicated that he had taken advice from the committee and was seriously considering an announcement shortly, can we anticipate that that might be the sort of announcement that could be forthcoming?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I would suggest that it is dangerous for the honourable member to anticipate anything, but I would like to take the opportunity to clarify a couple of matters in relation to the Penfold land, particularly following comments that were made by the honourable member in a grievance debate in this House, following the answer I provided to him during Question Time when I believe he indicated that I had misled the House. That was not the case. The question that was asked of me on that occasion was whether I had sought information or advice from the Heritage Committee in relation to the status or significance of the Penfold land. That is exactly what I did do in February. That resulted from a request put to me which sought to clarify the situation and to find out how the Heritage Committee felt about that particular area. I did seek that advice. The minute I received from the committee indicated that it was supplying information in reply to a request I had made for that information. The fact is that it is appropriate that action be taken, and it is my intention that action will be taken. I have already indicated that the matter would be considered by Cabinet and, when I am in a position to indicate the results of that, I will do so.

Mr EVANS: Would the Minister indicate whether he and his department are concerned at the annoying delay which has taken place in having three-phase power extended to Wilpena Pound and, at the same time, the s.w.e.r. line extended to Blinman, as I believe there has been a delay? It is of concern to those people, particularly at Wilpena Pound, which is a tourist attraction, and we are trying to encourage tourists to visit this State. It appears that there have been some negotiations and perhaps even conflict between the Department of Mines and Energy and the Minister's department. The delay seems to have served no good purpose. Is the Minister concerned about it, and would he like to give a report on it?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I am concerned about it. We have been considering this matter for some time. The diesel generators at Wilpena at present are not really suitable when we consider the environment. A feasibility study is currently being carried out, and discussions have taken place with the Department of Mines and Energy. I would suggest that it is really a matter of State energy policy and a matter of setting priorities in regard to the provision of power in that area. A feasibility study is being carried out. I would be happy to provide the member for Fisher with more information on that study.

Mr EVANS: I ask the Minister whether any of the servicing work in the maintenance of parks is carried out by private contractors. I give just one small example: in the Shepherds Hill Reserve I believe the area is mown once or twice a year. To have equipment made available by the department three or four times a year seems a massive expense, whether or not it is transported from another area. Seeing that Government philosophy appears to be the encouragement of private enterprise, does the department let contracts to private enterprise for the maintenance of parks or does it have machines which are used for only limited periods or which lie idle for long periods?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: We are investigating the possible letting of contracts, especially as regards the collection of rubbish and that type of thing. I cannot say what is the situation in respect of the grounds referred to, which I take it are the Women's Playing Fields.

Mr EVANS: In particular, the land adjacent to that area but tying in with it.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I cannot say whether in that area we are contemplating contracts, but we are investigating the general subject of more contract work being made available.

Mr EVANS: Has consideration been given to charging the drivers of motor vehicles for admission to parks, such as Belair Recreation Park, as such parks become more heavily used by members of the public? The more the people congregate in such restricted areas the greater is the demand on the park, and there is a resultant increase in the number of personnel required to police the park and maintain a reasonable standard of behaviour there. If such a charge was made in respect of motor vehicles only and not of the general public, it would tend to eliminate the ratbag element that gets into these places and causes concern not only to other users of the park but also to nearby residents if motor bikes are driven around the boundaries, thus using the park as a trail bike area. The cost of maintaining services generally in the parks is high and in every other State such a charge as I have referred to is made; in fact, in some States I believe members of the general public are charged for entry. I suggest that the charge be levied in respect of motor vehicles only on the basis that, even if there is not a great profit as a result of having to pay the personnel engaged, it would enable the park to be better policed and would also give employment to some people in a legitimate way.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The charging of people for entry to our parks has been considered over an extended period. I think that the honourable member is correct when he says that most, if not all, of the other States are charging now. We have considered such a charge, as indeed the previous Government considered it. Some time ago I visited New South Wales and saw what was being done there by way of charging an entrance fee on cars. Officers of my department have also looked at this matter, but we cannot say that such a charge should be imposed at this stage and I would want more investigation carried out. I am very much of the opinion that we should do everything we can to encourage people to understand and to use our parks and reserves, and I would not want to provide a disincentive in that respect, although I take the honourable member's point that some people would act more responsibly if they knew they had to pay to enter a park or reserve. The ticket box that stands at the entrance to Cleland Reserve has not been used since the day it was erected many years ago, but it is a memorial to the thoughts that have been expressed this evening and on other occasions regarding the possibility of charging an entrance fee. However, this matter needs more consideration before action is taken.

Mr SLATER: On behalf of the member for Albert Park, I ask a question concerning an interim report on industrial noise at the Royal Park works of Allied Engineering Pty Ltd. I understand that the Minister said recently that negotiations were continuing with the Minister of Industrial Affairs and himself. Has he further information on those negotiations?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: As pointed out recently to the member for Albert Park, I cannot say that this problem has been solved. I am aware of the period over which concern has been expressed about problems associated with that industry. Recently, I received a deputation from the member for Albert Park and some of his constituents on this matter and, following that deputation, I took up the matter with my colleague when attempts were made to look positively at the possible relocation of the Allied Engineering Works. Problems are associated with such relocation, and it is still being considered by officers of my colleague's department. I can add little more on the subject but, when I can or when the matter has been resolved, I will tell the member for Albert Park.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Reverting to my remarks on the adjournment motion last week, my information was taken from a certain document, a copy of which indicated, to me at any rate, that the committee had made its recommendation of its own volition rather than as a result of following a request from the Minister. However, I will check further and will be the first to apologise to the Minister if the course of events was as he outlined them. I have no doubt that it was as the Minister said.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I should be happy to show the honourable member another document to indicate that that was the case.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Page 14 of the support document mentions the Botanic Garden programme. Can the Minister elaborate on the specific target and objective for 1982-83 for the landscaping of the Torrens bank? Does that cover the area west of the city or from the weir downwards? If it does not, is the department considering landscaping that area? How much will be spent in upgrading the Torrens bank?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: An amount of \$12 000 will be spent; it is a fairly minor activity and I am not sure of the details but I will make them available to the member. I will certainly provide other information to the member if this is not correct, but I suggest that it might be the area adjacent to the Botanic Park behind the Botanic Garden and the river bank, or in that vicinity.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Does the department conduct, or has it conducted, a State-wide audit on heritage items? I know that registers are kept but, having looked at the programme and at the specific targets and objectives, I wonder whether such places as Milang are included. I recently visited Milang, where I observed that probably one of the first cheese factories constructed in this State was virtually falling to pieces. Milang was the original crewing port of the River Murray traders. It seems to me that the heritage list on the register is not complete. Has a State-wide audit been done on heritage items?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: No, but we are detailing certain areas. For example heritage surveys are currently being carried out in Glenelg, Meadows, Lobethal, and Birdwood in particular. As far as the specific situation at Milang is concerned, I would need to seek more information, and the honourable member may care to discuss that matter with me.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I ask a question relative to pages 19 and 20 of the support document and the conservation policy and programme development. Can the Minister tell me how much of the environment, as such, is lost to the public and thus, perhaps, the advantages that can be offered in some tourism areas on a regulated basis? These are part of the State's assets and are perhaps lost to general view and enjoyment. How many parts of the environment are either screened from or cannot be visited by the public?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: There are some areas, particularly national parks, where access is not possible and certainly not easy. I certainly appreciate the opportunity I have had since becoming Minister to visit some areas that are generally not accessible to the public for a number of reasons. I recognise the advantage I have had during this time. It would be virtually impossible to say how much is not open to the public. I think we all recognise the potential that we have in this State in regard to our parks and reserves. There are some areas that, for educational or scientific purposes, should not be made available for public access. Time will, I am sure, provide the opportunity, following the preparation of detailed management plans, to suggesting suitable access routes etc., reserves becoming available over a time when further access provisions have been made to some of these areas.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Referring to pages 21 and 22 of the yellow book, is the department regularly monitoring spillage of oil from Port Stanvac, for example, by making regular weekly tests from the Glenelg boat haven? Are records available to show the actual number of spills that have required positive action over the past 12 months?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I will ask the Director-General to answer that question.

Mr Phipps: We liaise on a regular basis with the Department of Marine and Harbors. There is an agreed operational procedure between the two departments governing how decisions are made to deal with particular spills, so that we are in a position to get information on how regularly spills occur. We cannot produce the information tonight obviously, but we do have that information.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: It may be of interest to the Committee to know that recently the department prepared an oil spill map showing the coastal region of the State and indicating the areas particularly sensitive to any positive oil spill. That map is now available to the public for further information on that matter.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I direct the Minister's attention to page 28 and the following pages of the yellow book (of course, it is all set out on page 72 of the white paper). On page 28, under the general heading 'Need being addressed' it states:

Numerous surveys of public opinion, both here in South Australia and elsewhere, have demonstrated that pollution is a major concern of the community and that the community is willing to incur costs to ensure adequate control.

It is not clear whether the Minister, or whoever wrote that statement, is referring to surveys of public opinion taken by independent agencies (whether it be A.N.O.P. or private people in South Australia) or whether the reference is to surveys undertaken by the department.

I am, of course, aware that such surveys of the latter category are undertaken, because there is one which the Minister did not really want to release (although everybody seemed to have it). The reason given at the time, and I am thinking back to early 1980, was that it was said that the survey was too limited in scope to be of much use in public debate. That also seemed to suggest that, in fact, there may have been some suggestion at the time that a more comprehensive survey was to be undertaken. Are such surveys undertaken by the department and, if they are, on how regular a basis? Are they more comprehensive than the rather limited survey to which I referred earlier? Is it possible to make the results of such surveys available, particularly to groups in the community interested in conservation, and to the community in general?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The department does not carry out surveys on a regular basis. The survey to which the honourable member referred was carried out by Flinders University. It was a quite significant survey and the results are now available to the public. The results have been published in several journals and it was not so very long ago that the department received considerable credit in one journal (I cannot remember which one) for having carried out the survey and for having made available the results. On several occasions I have seen material that was acquired during that survey having been made public. Also, some limited surveys have been carried out by organisations such as Kesab. A large body of literature on environmental impact is contained in a number of journals available through the departmental library. Further, much work is undertaken during the environmental assessment that is also carried out by the department.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Further, in relation to pollution management, I direct the Minister's attention to the table at the bottom of page 29. I refer to the sub-programme title 'Air Quality Management' for which recurrent and capital expenditure as well as employment levels and their average full-time equivalents are listed. It is that last matter that interests me. In last year's Budget it was proposed that there be 14.5 full-time equivalent people working on air quality management; the outcome was that 12.9 full-time equivalent positions were involved and the outcome proposed for 1982-83 is 13.5.

On the previous page, under the heading 'Significant Initiatives/Improvements/Results sought' the statement is made 'Air quality—Clean Air Bill to Cabinet'. In some of these matters one is never quite sure whether one is talking about the past, present or future, but nevertheless, the Minister has explained to my colleague his time table in relation to that matter.

I have yet to see significant legislation go through the House that did not do other than produce demand for further jobs in the Public Service. Therefore, I am interested whether the Minister really feels that, in view of the projected legislation, 13.5 bodies will be sufficient to do the job, or does the Minister see that new systems will be very largely decentralised so that, in fact, someone else will be policing it for his department, for example, local government?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: It is not my intention to show my hand in regard to the new legislation because the Committee and Parliament will have the opportunity to find out about that in the near future. The proposed employment level is indicated at 13.5. However, if it is felt as a result of the legislation that the level should be increased, the Government will take some action in that regard.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: My third and final question concerns this area, although it is a very significant area and I am sure that we could have spent half the day simply on the matter of pollution management. My question is again in relation to the programme description on page 28 of the Programme Estimates. I note that under the subheading 'Beverage Containers', on the bottom right-hand side of the page, a statement is made concerning the examination of the milk vending system and milk packaging. I must place on record my appreciation for what the Minister has done in regard to beverage containers generally. Not only has there been a holding of the line in an area that was regarded as being somewhat controversial in the early days when the Labor Government initiated this programme but there has also been an extension in regard to improving containerisation. The Opposition can do nothing but applaud that development and assist the general movement in that direction.

I guess that milk must be a candidate for examination in this regard, if only because there has been a progressive and unfortunate trend away from packaging milk in glass and packaging it in cardboard containers with the concomitant problem of litter that is caused. Therefore, I would be interested in any information that the Minister can give us concerning what his department has in mind, what it is looking at, when the results of those investigations might occur, and whether such investigations might eventually issue in legislation?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: To some extent the honourable member has fairly well answered his own question. At present I do not think that milk containers are a major problem, although there are increased numbers of cardboard cartons containing flavoured milk. I would suggest that the investigations referred to by the honourable member are simply

an on-going evaluation concerning possible problems associated with the litter stream. However, if the honourable member is interested, I would be happy to provide more information for him on that particular line.

Mr RANDALL: In regard to planning I am still hearing comments in the community, especially from local government, that the Minister did not really give local government much time to consider the planning changes made in recent legislation. I am still receiving such comments at my electorate office and, at functions that I have attended recently, I have heard the comment repeated, namely, that the Minister was a little unfair to local government in not giving it time to comment on the development plan which was before this House some weeks ago.

However, my concern is the trend in the community for people to return to the inner metropolitan area. In the district of Henley Beach I have found an increasing number of people starting to build on the small amount of vacant land that is left. I anticipate that within 10 years perhaps all the vacant land in the metropolitan area will be gone. I suggest that the Government should be planning at this stage for that future day when resources for accommodation for the city of Adelaide are limited. Perhaps my question is too futuristic, but can the Minister say what future planning policies the department has concerning that time in the future when there is no further land available to offer people?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The questions asked by the member for Henley Beach would probably take the rest of the evening to answer and it is not my intention that they should do so. However, I want to clarify a few things that relate particularly to the matter of consultation to which the honourable member has referred, because I am aware that comments had been made by people who have shown an interest in the future planning system and who have suggested that there has not been sufficient consultation.

I refer briefly to the situation when the Government first indicated to the House that it was considering introducing new legislation that would repeal the Planning and Development Act and bring in a new planning system. At that time I first set up a consultative committee of some 14 or 15 people representing various interests; some in conservation, others represented local government, and others represented the housing and the finance industries.

We sat down around a table roughly on a monthly basis to determine where we should be heading in regard to the new legislation, and, as each draft came out, the draft was considered by the committee. I believe that it was an excellent committee and the members of that committee are to be commended for the amount of time that they gave in regard to providing the consultation that was absolutely necessary.

When I first considered the possibility of bringing down new legislation, it was suggested to me that it was likely to take some 12 months and some 12 drafts before we would have a final draft. In fact, I think it was about 12 months and 13 drafts before we finally arrived at a draft that could be made into a Bill and introduced into the House. There certainly was consultation at that time with local government and, of course, the copies of the draft were made available for local government comment generally. With the consolidated plan, the same amount of time was not made available, although it was made quite clear to councils what our intention was, and comment was invited from councils on the part of the consolidated plan that related to individual council areas.

There was some concern also expressed at that time when it was felt that, because the plan was coming before the House, that somehow meant it would make the whole process final. I had great difficulty in convincing people that really

we were only looking at the form, and that was what was intended when the Act was amended by the Hon. Mr DeGaris in another place as a result of the conference, that we should look only at the form of the development plan, rather than looking at the policy contained within it.

In fact, it was not within the terms of reference of this House to consider the policy. I had indicated before the plan came in and following that, when I recognised that the Local Government Association, for example, was not willing to support the plan, but before the motion was debated in this House, that the consultation would continue. In fact, the day after the plan was approved by both Houses of Parliament I wrote to all of the councils providing an assurance that, even though the form of the development plan had been finally approved, I was certainly willing to consider amendments to it. As well as just considering amendments to the plan, I was also willing, after monitoring the Act, to amend it if necessary, and we would also be looking at the regulations as well.

I felt that if it could be just demonstrated in the light of experience with the new planning system that such changes would be beneficial, that I would consider making those changes. So that consultation is now progressing. Contact has been made through the Local Government Association with those that have been responsible for providing legal advice to the Local Government Association. I have requested that they should indicate with documentation the concerns that they had so that we could consider those matters in the light of advice that was provided me through the Crown Law Office, and that is still to happen. Consultation will continue.

In regard to the other matter that was asked of me by the member for Henley Beach, yes, there is a need to look at planning policies for metropolitan Adelaide in particular. The metropolitan branch of the department is currently undertaking the review of the residential development control policies in Adelaide and, in doing so, we are having regard to a number of things, including the Government's objective for less regulation, which is important, the perceived need for greater flexibility, the desire for a greater variety of residential living, and the need to maintain standards of residential amenity. I refer also to the existing patterns of residential development in Adelaide, the Government's objective to promote urban renewal and consolidation, the attitude of local councils, the views of the Local Government Association, the attitudes of the housing development industry, community expectations, and also the findings and recommendations of the Federal housing cost inquiry and the subsequent Ministerial Council of Housing costs.

Finally, the objective of the review is to provide detailed recommendations for policies and development control principles which are both generally acceptable and more relevant than those that exist at the present time. The output of the study will be draft residential development policies and principles for metropolitan Adelaide for inclusion in the development plan in accordance with the Planning Act 1982, and it is felt that it should provide an overall context for the formulation of more detailed policies which, in turn, reflect the local conditions for individual council areas. To assist with that work, the department also engaged the services of Hassell Planning Consultants as part of the 1981-82 consultancy programmes for the development management division. I can give an assurance to the honourable member that we are certainly looking at planning policies for the metropolitan area as they relate to the coming years.

Mr RANDALL: My district is very similar to that of the member for Unley, in that we both have older established homes. We both have an older population and inner metropolitan-type lifestyles. Younger people are moving in to

buy homes in both Unley and Henley Beach. It does concern me that, with the little land we have left in Henley Beach, there be some incentive for developers to buy up that land and develop it at a reasonable cost to the community: that is, at a relatively easy and cheap cost to young people to buy into a home situation.

I have been a strong promoter, since I entered this House, of cluster housing. The Minister has probably noted from my first opportunity to speak in this House my interest in cluster housing, because I represent an area in local government where the council is trying to grapple with the future. He suggested that one way of encouraging development is to use the land that we have, but to carve it up into smaller blocks and to jointly use facilities like reserves, playground equipment and things like that. Where is the department in regard to developing cluster housing in this State?

It seems to me that some people have got around it by carving up the blocks near to the minimum size and then strata titling it. I do not know whether that is a good way to go in South Australia or not, but that is the way that some people are achieving their aim. There are some issues to grapple with in regard to cluster housing. What is the department's position?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I will ask the Director-General to answer that.

Mr Phipps: Until the new Act is proclaimed, some constraints exist under the present Act on cluster housing. They hinge around minimum allotment sizes and minimum road widths. Under the present Act, if one wants to get away from the standards that prevent cluster housing and go into cluster housing development, one has really got to get into the business of having a corporation oversight of the development in which people in effect have to have shares.

That is the essence of the situation. Under the new legislation, that sort of policy constraint has been removed. In effect, the legislation is a framework in which any council would be free to determine that a certain area of land is suitable for cluster housing development. By making its own policy decisions rather than being bound by an Act, a council can determine, if houses in a particular development were attractively sited and related properly to each other in regard to outlook, noise and privacy, to allow the developer to have smaller allotment sizes, narrower access roads, and so on, within the development.

In summary, the new legislation removes the constraints of the old legislation. If a council wishes to be innovative and to allow a developer to implement such a proposal, there is really nothing stopping it. It is up to the council to adopt a policy.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: In regard to providing more flexibility, the honourable member would be aware of discussions that have been conducted with local government in regard to granny flat development or dual occupancy, which has been a rather sensitive issue with some local government authorities. Dual occupancy is currently being considered as part of an overall review of residential control policy development that is being undertaken by the Department of Environment and Planning in association with local government. As the Director-General has indicated, there has been a review to indicate the conditions for a wider choice of housing in all areas. I anticipate that the end result of the current work will be appropriate amendments to the development plan following a further period of public consultation.

Mrs Southcott: Because I was a little late in arriving, I apologise if any of the matters I raise have already been covered. I will refer to three issues that have been raised with me. First, in relation to heritage agreements, the retention of vegetation and bushland scrub has been encouraged,

and there is an apparent conflict with the taxation concessions that are available through the Federal Government in regard to clearing. Will the Minister comment in that regard?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Evans): I believe that the first part of the question has been answered.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I have indicated the success of the heritage agreement scheme. In regard to the second part of the question, the conflict between incentives that are provided by the State Government on the one hand and on the other hand those provided by the Federal Government in regard to land clearance, I have written to the Treasurer suggesting that he should consider the matter seriously. I also had the opportunity of appearing before the Senate standing committee and I made the point very strongly that the Treasurer should take up the matter with his Federal colleagues. Also, the State Commissioner of Land Tax is examining a report on land tax remissions. I am particularly anxious that the Federal Government should take action on this matter. On a number of occasions the Federal Government has commended the State Government for the work it is doing in providing incentives to retain bushland on private properties, and I believe it would be appropriate that the Federal Government should take some action to rectify what is a problem in its own house at present.

Mrs Southcott: What is the position in regard to staffing in fire protection in both parks and the Botanic Gardens?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: That matter has been covered.

Mrs Southcott: There is widespread concern in the community about the possibility of high-rise strip development along the coastlines of the State. Development seems to be happening in various areas. There appears to be a great deal of concern in regard to third party interest. Is the Minister able to do anything to provide some sort of protection in the overall planning of our coastline and in respect of the action of developers of high-rise buildings?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The Director-General may be able to add a little more, but I indicate that it is really a matter of planning controls and zoning changes that are necessary through supplementary development plans. The member for Mitcham would be aware of the procedures that are necessary to bring that about. I am aware of the concern that is being expressed in this regard, but it is really a matter for local councils to consider very carefully. I am aware that local residents are taking a very keen interest in this matter.

Mrs Southcott: It is not only the local residents but also the people who do not live in the area but who visit the beaches—the third parties.

Mr Phipps: With the proclamation of the new Planning Act the administrative aim is to integrate the planning control in coastal areas with general metropolitan planning control. If a much greater intensity of development is to be achieved in the coastal district, while that will probably require a zoning change and an amendment to the metropolitan component of the plan in a particular area, if a development falls within a coastal district, it would be subject to very close scrutiny by the Coast Protection Board as an agency commenting before it goes to the planning commission.

Mr RANDALL: I am familiar with this matter from years gone by and, as a member of Parliament whose area fronts the coastline, I have watched with interest the coastal management programmes that are carried out by the department. From time to time (twice a year, I believe) surveys are undertaken in regard to beach and sand levels. I understood

that that information was fed into computers for overall assessment of beach profiles. Some years ago when I was more actively involved in this area, I noted that there was a wait in having the information fed into the computers. From the information that is now made available, is there now access to a more sophisticated computer system?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: It is now easier to make profiles, and I referred to this matter when I talked about beach and offshore profiling, which the department considers is a long-term study of changes in sand levels.

As I indicated earlier, that relates particularly to the metropolitan coast, but I did make reference to some country locations as well. I know that the member for Henley Beach is aware of the essential information, the magnitude of sand movement from year to year which is relevant to the sand replenishment programme, and conditions which are likely to affect specific structures, so in general the information is used for determining the possible effects of storms on protective works and for design on coastal structures, and is seen to be a very important part of the work carried out by the department.

Mr RANDALL: Referring to page 22 of the yellow book, I note in the fixed assets information that the department holds 44 parcels of land in excess of 3 500 hectares. In the capital expenditure columns this year, are there any plans to acquire more land? As I understand it, the policy of the Coastal Protection Board, the Minister and the Government is not to compulsorily acquire land on the metropolitan coastline. Is there any proposal for further land acquisition along the foreshore?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Yes, but I would point out they are only minor purchases. I think they total four and they are in Goolwa, Moana, Burnham, and Vivonne Bay, which is near an area that has caused some concern over a period of time, but they are all fairly minor acquisitions.

Mr LANGLEY: There has been some concern expressed in the city area over a number of years in relation to problems associated with noisy air-conditioners. When complaints have been made, I have found that not enough officers have been available to speak to the people making the complaints, or else the officers just pass them off. Everybody knows that an air-conditioner situated alongside another person's bedroom can be very noisy. What has the Minister done about this?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The department does provide a service in this regard. I receive a large number of complaints through my office in regard to noise associated with air-conditioners. I think they probably relate more to the old type air-conditioner, because the industry has now recognised the problems associated with air-conditioners and in fact has taken fairly significant measures to reduce the noise emanating from them. I think that move has been welcomed generally. I think one can now buy particular air-conditioners that are quieter than others, but when a complaint is received by the department in regard to a noisy air-conditioner, the department is in a position to investigate that complaint.

Mr LANGLEY: How many cases have been received where people have complained to the department about noisy air-conditioners? One may say that air-conditioners are not as noisy as they were but, nevertheless, they still do make some noise. I do not know of an air-conditioner which is so quiet that it can be positioned alongside a person's bedroom in any residential area.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: It is not possible for me to say how many cases we are receiving, but I will certainly look at the statistics we have and indicate to the member just

how serious the problem is at the present time and, also, the approximate number of complaints received in relation to this matter.

Mr LANGLEY: I do not believe that is quite correct. There is not a great deal of difference between the areas where air-conditioners are located. I have not known an air-conditioner that does not produce some noise. If the Minister or his advisers can say that is not happening, I will be the first one to admit that the noise has decreased, but when they are positioned in homes, they can be an annoyance to neighbours.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I can only repeat that I am of the opinion that the industry has taken steps to improve the situation, as far as noise is concerned, in those appliances. It would be stupid of me to say that they have overcome the problem completely, but I think that in the majority of cases the situation has been improved. The member might be interested if I consulted the records and looked at the number of complaints received in recent times in comparison with those received previously.

Mr MATHWIN: I would like to ask the Minister a question in relation to the replenishment of the beaches on the coast. The Minister is well aware that a number of my residents are concerned about this problem.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Evans): Order! Can the member for Glenelg indicate what line he is talking to at the moment?

Mr MATHWIN: I was going to say I referred to the trip taken overseas by the Minister and his wife, but I will not. I refer to the transfer to the Coast Protection Fund of \$100 000 and coastal works outside proclaimed coastal areas, but mainly the \$100 000.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I think, in fairness, the member's question would be more appropriate in connection with Parliamentary Paper 9, page 124, relating to the Department of Environment and Planning, and the line dealing with coastal protection and improvements.

Mr MATHWIN: That being the case, I will ask the Minister what is entailed in the line providing for the transfer to the Coast Protection Fund of \$100 000? Is that transfer because of the problems occurring on metropolitan beaches in relation to sand? Is it the intention of the Minister that part of that \$100 000 be used not only to cart sand, but also to build groynes along the coastal area? A number of people who claim to be experts in this particular field are pressuring the Government, or are suggesting in the press that groynes are the final answer. The Minister and his department would well know that groynes are not the answer; in fact, they create more problems than they fix. Once a groyne is built, scouring occurs on one side and sand builds up on the other. The next request is for a groyne further down the coast again.

In countries such as Holland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America groynes have been constructed all along the coastline about 200 metres apart. Can the Minister say whether the Government has plans to solve the problem I have outlined?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The vote of \$100 000 is a recognition of the importance of capital works in this area, and the \$100 000 from the current expenditure concerns revenue. I referred earlier to a report to be brought down soon on metropolitan coastal protection strategy, and that report relates to various projects that could be investigated in connection with the protection of metropolitan beaches.

The CHAIRMAN: There being no further questions on the vote, I declare examination of the vote completed.

Works and Services—Department of Environment and Planning, \$5 670 000

Chairman:

Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:

Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr T. H. Hemmings
The Hon. D. J. Hopgood
Mr G. R. A. Langley
Mr J. K. G. Oswald
Mr R. J. Randall
Mr J. W. Slater

Witness:

The Hon. D. C. Wotton, Minister of Environment and Planning.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr E. J. Phipps, Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr M. D. Madigan, Deputy Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr B. J. Hill, Director, Management and Administrative Services, Department of Environment and Planning.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Last year, following the Estimates Committee, the Minister supplied details of the operations of the Planning and Development Fund, and I would appreciate a similar breakdown being provided on this occasion. This information relates to the transfer of money from revenue, as well as income from subdivisional activities and other such matters. On page 12 of the supporting document, under the heading '1982-83 Specific Targets/Objectives (Significant Initiatives/Improvements/Results Sought)' appears the following item: Divestment of selected reserves acquired under the Planning and Development Act'. This reference concerns me somewhat. What have the Minister and the Government in mind in this respect? When we are talking about such areas, we are concerned with a general category that includes other things, such as the Onkaparinga Estuary, the Cherry Gardens Reserve, a fairly large reserve at Angle Vale, and the major district open space at O'Halloran Hill.

I recall that four or five years ago there were displayed in the State Administration Centre ambitious designs for the development of those areas as both open-space and recreation areas. On the other hand, we hear no reference to divestment of selected reserves acquired under the Planning and Development Act. Will the Minister say which of these reserves is to be divested and in which direction?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I shall be happy to provide the honourable member with detailed information on that subject. It is not the intention to divest any reserves that are recognised to be of environmental significance. Last year, I said that some reserves referred to by the honourable member would stay as part of the responsibility of the department. There are others, as has been indicated previously, that could rightly go to local government because they are of no conservation significance but purely for recreation purposes. I am afraid that matters have not been able to be resolved as quickly as I would like in some of these negotiations, but we will continue to negotiate. Some areas will go to local government; some negotiations are still taking place with the Minister of Recreation and Sport; and other areas will be retained within the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: At a public meeting in my district the Minister indicated some time ago that a hydro-

graphic study of the Onkaparinga Estuary would proceed and would enable data to be compared with base-line data compiled in 1973 to indicate whether there had been any serious deterioration and/or silting of the estuary. The Minister said that he was setting aside \$200 000 of capital money to do whatever was necessary as revealed by that survey.

The survey was completed, and the Minister announced that work would proceed. It has never been quite clear to me exactly what that survey revealed, except for the public comment about the drift of sand from the high dune into the river in the vicinity of the old boatshed. In any event, we find on page 6 of the yellow book that \$244 000 has been set aside. From that I assume that rather more was revealed by the survey than had been anticipated when somebody did the calculation off the top of their head and arrived at that original \$200 000. What will the \$244 000 buy us? What has to be rectified, as demonstrated by the survey undertaken some few months ago?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Just to bring the member up to scratch with what is happening there now, he would be aware that the report was released for public comment, and that that comment has now come in and is currently being assessed by the department. I indicate that, on a preliminary basis, most of the comments support dredging, recognising the sensitivity of the dredging that should take place because of the sensitive environment. The assessment branch is also preparing a report for me which I hope to have before long.

The \$200 000 as indicated at that public meeting and as has been indicated publicly since that time, has been made available for the cleaning up of the river, the dredging, etc., if that is to go ahead. The \$44 000 is the consultant's costs and also the physical survey charges. There is a biological survey and also it is in relation to the project management, and that all adds up to something in the vicinity of \$44 000. So, the \$244 000 is to cover dredging, as indicated earlier, and the associated costs.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Finally, in this trinity of questions there remains, as the Minister is aware, the long-term problem of the development, if I can use that term in the very broadest sense, of the estuary along the lines of the report brought down to the Government in 1978. The Minister would know that this is the subject of some small controversy in the south, as opposed to the near-unanimous favourable reception of the concept of some dredging or cleaning up of the area.

It is conceded that there is a problem about meeting the costs of the overall development which would be envisaged by Hosking, Fargher and Oborn and possibly other reports and also, since so much is dependent upon the availability of fresh water in a saline estuary if one is to have golf courses and what have you, that also remains a stumbling block. Nonetheless, I believe there is a general expectation of and support for in the south a development generally along the lines of the Hosking, Fargher and Oborn Report. I would be interested in what the Minister has to say about progress in this matter.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The honourable member, and I am sure most members of the Committee, would realise that that report was prepared some time ago and envisaged a development that would cost in the vicinity of \$6 000 000 which, in today's terms would probably cost more than \$7 000 000. I did indicate quite some time ago, when I visited the estuary, that we would call for registrations of interest, and we did look at the possibility of engaging a consultant to prepare a prospectus to seek registration of interests. I remember making the point very clearly and giving an assurance that, before any project would be carried out, we would seek an environmental assessment.

When we did ask for that prospectus to be prepared that consultant indicated to us quite clearly that he thought it

would be a waste of time and effort in preparing a prospectus until we had determined the extent of the problems associated with the river itself, and that we should undertake a study to recognise just how significant the problem was. As a result of that, the report I have just referred to was brought down in our considering the possibility of dredging. I suggest that it is appropriate that, when the report has been prepared, I examine that report and, following that, I should work out the best way of achieving the public interest component. It is certainly not my intention to make any commitment at this time. It is recognised that our first responsibility must be to determine how best to clean up the river, and I am sure that is the major concern of the people in that area.

Mr EVANS: My question related to recreation open space improvements and the development of national parks and reserves. In particular, I refer to the areas near those to which the member for Baudin referred, such as Cherry Gardens, Scott Bottom, Dorset Vale, Mount Bold and Kuitpo Colony areas. Many thousands of hectares of those areas are owned either by the Minister's department, under conservation or as national parks, the State Planning Department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department, or the Woods and Forests Department. The areas are most vulnerable as far as fires are concerned, particularly the Minister's land on the windward side of the other departmental land and, if a fire did start in the land under the Minister's jurisdiction, it is possible that a fire of some fierceness could wipe out the whole of the Kuitpo Colony and Prospect Hill forest reserves. The forest people have attempted to create as big a fire break as possible and the Engineering and Water Supply Department have massive fire breaks around its scrubland in an attempt to be able to contain a fire when perhaps the need to preserve its scrubland is not as critical as that of the Minister's conservation parks, whether in the planning or other sections of his department.

I have noticed that in recent times the department has fenced at least one property, which was a wise move. However, the fact that there are not adequate fire breaks near those fences is unwise, because if there is a fire it could destroy an asset which could have been reasonably protected. When fire breaks are developed, such as the one adjacent to Belair Recreation Park which was appreciated by the community there, and in other parts of the hills, could not exotic trees (which are fire resistant and not prone to burning as are eucalypts) be planted on the fire breaks to make those areas more aesthetic in appearance? Such trees offer a variety of foliage and colour, particularly in autumn, and as they are fire resistant perhaps they could not only protect fences erected by the Government but also some of the neighbouring land, whether it be privately owned or Government owned land.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: First, I should identify exactly the areas to which the honourable member is referring: I suggest that he is probably referring to the Onkaparinga Gorge.

Mr EVANS: I am referring to the Onkaparinga section, but more particularly to the bottom of Scotts Creek, known as Scotts Bottom. I believe that the State Planning Authority administers a conservation park, which could be referred to as the Cherry Garden Reserve, and I refer to the area that extends from the Old Dorset Vale Post Office to the main Mount Bold road at the top of the ridge adjacent to the E. & W.S. depot, which area has recently been fenced by that department.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: With the proclamation of the new Planning Act, all those parks to which the honourable member has referred will come directly under the Minister's control and will not be under the Planning and Development Act, the Planning and Development Fund or the authority. In regard to the Onkaparinga Gorge, the honourable member

might be interested to know that a pumping station is being installed in that area, at a cost of some \$20 000, which to some extent will assist fire control.

I will seek a report from the department on the current situation of the total area, because I must admit that I am not aware of the current status of some of those sections. In regard to the overall situation of fire breaks, that has been a sensitive matter for some considerable time, and the member for Fisher would be aware that, whilst some people thought that the fire break built adjacent to the Belair National Park was an excellent idea, many others were very critical of the size of that fire break. I would also like to obtain a report from my department concerning the introduction and planting of certain varieties of trees which may not be as prone to damage by fire as are some of the eucalypts and natives. I shall obtain further information from the department and take up that matter with the honourable member at a later stage.

Mr SLATER: I refer to the item 'Development of National Parks and Reserves', and to page 97 of the Auditor-General's Report, where, under the heading 'Payment of a capital nature' the item 'Surrender of Lease—Wilpena Motel and Tourist Complex' is shown, for which \$110 000 was paid. On the same page it is stated:

During 1981-82 settlement was reached with Flinders Ranges Tourist Services Pty Ltd regarding surrender of the existing lease for the Wilpena Motel and Tourist Complex. As part of the settlement, arrears of rent amounting to \$87 000 were received.

It is further stated:

A new short-term lease was entered into and operated from 1 July 1982. Rental income for 1981-82 amounted to \$83 000.

Can the Minister say what arrangements were made with the Flinders Ranges Tourist Services Pty Ltd, and what are the terms and conditions of the new lease?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I ask that the Director-General answer that question.

Mr Phipps: Prior to the current lease the company had a long-term lease which I think had about 27 years to run. It was a very confusing situation with regard to ownership of assets on the ground, as to whether they were owned by the company or legally owned by the Government. There were substantial rental arrears—\$87 000—which had not been collected for many years, and the company also owed other debts to the Government. There was a loan provided to them by the South Australian Development Corporation, and also the Government was guarantor with regard to a loan that the company had, I think, from National Mutual Society. So it was a situation where the Government had a lot of investment at risk because of its arrangement with the company.

Also, the lease had been drawn up many years ago and probably in quite different circumstances, and the terms of that lease were not longer appropriate to the new situation, because a lot of additional development had occurred over time, development which had been funded by the company, and there had been substantial changes also in the camping ground arrangements there in terms of responsibilities. It was obviously timely to re-examine the lease and put it on a commercial basis, and also for the Government to seek to eliminate its position of risk with regard to the moneys that the company owed the Government. So, in effect, the Government purchased the long-term interest that the company had. The Government purchased, in effect, the 27-year lease, or the 27 years remaining. In effect, that meant that the company could earn profits for another 27 years, so the Government paid an amount of money which it estimated that was all worth.

Mr SLATER: Is that the \$110 000 we are talking about?

Mr Phipps: No, it was more than that. I think it was of the order of \$400 000 to \$500 000, but I am going on

memory. Having purchased this long-term lease, the Government and the company then entered into a short-term three-year lease, and that meant that the rental went up from about \$8 000 a year to over \$80 000 a year. As part of the agreement, the company paid out all its debts, including the rental arrears to the Government, so the Government finished up with a clean sheet in terms of what was owed to it by the company. The lease is on a commercial basis now, and this higher rental of \$80 000, as compared with about \$8 000, has to be paid three months in advance.

Mr SLATER: You say that the Government finished up with a clean sheet. It now owns the property, but it is leased back to the original lessees under these arrangements?

Mr Phipps: Yes, a three-year lease.

Mr SLATER: But it is back to the same persons or group that originally had the long-term lease?

Mr Phipps: That is right.

Mr SLATER: When that lease was surrendered, were there any other parties who may have been interested in the operation; were any other people interested in operating the Wilpena motel and tourist complex? Were any applications called for interest regarding the lease, besides the present persons?

Mr Phipps: No. The company held the interest in the land. It had the right to earn profits for the next 27 years from the operation. Such was the wording of the lease, and accordingly the Government was in a position where the deal had to be settled on the basis that that company had the right to the lease for the next three years. In other words, the company held some cards, because it had a 27-year lease.

Mr SLATER: I would like to take that a step further. Was it a three-year lease with a right of renewal?

Mr Phipps: Yes.

Mr SLATER: Could it be renewed by the present organisation, if it wished, in three years?

Mr Phipps: That is correct. There is an option for renewal, subject to satisfactory performance by the party.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I draw the attention of the Committee to page 124 of the Budget papers. Under the subheading 'Development of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves', it is shown that last year \$990 000 was appropriated, and \$1 193 000 has been proposed this year. I note that last year \$1 575 000 was spent. Is there any allocation in these funds for the acquisition of open space for conservation purposes? The Minister is aware that I have urged on him at least some sort of contingent fund that would enable him to respond in a more positive manner where a landowner says, 'A patch of scrub is available, and I would like to be able to sell it to the Government. A heritage agreement does not attract me, and the alternative is clearance.'

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: A sum of \$157 000 has been set aside for national parks, and \$150 000 has been allocated under the planning and development fund. We are awaiting a report (of which the honourable member will be aware) in relation to wet lands which will make recommendations in that regard.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Any expenditure would be a charge against this sub-line for purchase?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Yes.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Being relatively satisfied by that answer, I refer now to interpretative services and capital facilities for such services. I have a two-barrelled question. What is the present position at Cleland Reserve in relation to the interpretative facilities that have been developed in the past few years? How much more work is to be undertaken? Are there plans for similar sorts of interpretative facilities at other national parks and conservation reserves?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I thank the honourable member for his question, because this is a hobby horse of mine. I believe it is very important that appropriate interpretation services be made available, because, as I have said for some time, it is absolutely essential that people understand why we set aside areas for parks and reserves. I have been very envious of what New South Wales, for example, has done over a period of time in setting up interpretation services, and in taking a very sensible approach through the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Assistance has been offered through the community to enable that facility to be provided. The facility at Cleland is very well used, although we are looking at an additional expenditure of \$15 000 for interpretation at Cleland.

That is a plan or investigation into further interpretative work to be carried out at Cleland and, also, the management plan of \$11 000. In relation to Belair, \$10 000 has been set aside to bring down an investigatory report on the type of facility that could be provided at Belair, as far as interpretation is concerned. They are only preliminary steps. I am quite aware of that. As I said earlier, I would be much happier if we could indicate larger amounts of money that were available to be spent on interpretation work, but I am sure that the member for Baudin would realise that it would be wise to complete our management plans and that, recognising the need for the provision of such services and facilities, the plan should be determined first so that we can know the appropriate locations for such facilities.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I have before me a letter which was sent to my Leader. I will not quote from that letter, although what I am about to say is taken from the letter itself. It raises a specific problem and also a more general problem in relation to park management regarding access to parts of the park. This gentleman who is writing to my Leader, like me, has a great love for the Deep Creek Conservation Park, but unlike me he is an amateur fisherman and goes to Blow Hole Creek regularly to fish. He is writing because, on a recent visit there, he was horrified to find that, as he calls it, the current parks administration had seen fit to bulldoze a road where previously there had been an old track. He said this involved large cuttings in the side of the hills and what he calls blatant destruction of large yakka trees, which he suggests may have been 300 or 400 years old. I am not aware of the life cycle of the yakka to be able to comment on that.

He believes it is attracting a good deal of litter. There is an ugly scar caused by the bluestone gravel road, whereas the old track although usable was barely visible, hardly subject to erosion and so on. On the surface of it, this man would appear to have a very valid point. Although the Minister may not be able to comment on the specifics of this particular matter, I would ask that he take it up and, secondly, he may be able to give us some idea of the circumstances in which it is regarded as appropriate that this sort of thing should happen in a park.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: First, I would be very happy to take that up and perhaps either the honourable member or the Leader of the Opposition might wish to forward a copy of that letter, or relevant parts, to me so that I can seek a report from the department. As far as access is concerned and the way it should be conducted, I can only say again that one would hope this would be one of the reasons why it was so important to have management plans. Regarding Deep Creek, it is our intention to have a draft plan prepared for that area later next year. I do know something of that area, its beauty and its significance. I would hope that that draft plan would be available as soon as possible. I cannot suggest the circumstances in which that road was put there. An investigation can be carried out on that matter in line

with the comments that the honourable member has just referred to in the letter.

The overall matter of access is complex. It is recognised that some areas should be set aside for scientific or general educational purposes, whereas other areas are appropriate to be made available to the public. I will bring down a report for the honourable member.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Glazbrook): There being no further questions on this vote, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Works and Services—North Haven Trust, \$1 000 000—
examination declared completed.

Minister of Environment and Planning, Miscellaneous,
\$1 887 000

Chairman:
Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:
Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr T. H. Hemmings
Mr G. R. A. Langley
Mr J. K. G. Oswald
Mr R. J. Randall
Mr J. W. Slater

Witness:
The Hon. D. C. Wotton, Minister of Environment and Planning.

Departmental Advisers:
Mr E. J. Phipps, Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning.
Mr M. D. Madigan, Deputy Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning.
Mr B. J. Hill, Director, Management and Administrative Services, Department of Environment and Planning.

The Hon. D. J. Hopgood: Last year, \$71 000 was voted for various organisations, but only \$42 724 was spent. This year the proposed vote for these organisations is \$50 000. Page 46 of the support document shows that the Conservation Council had a vote of \$32 000 last year, but received only \$25 000. This year the proposed vote to the council is \$27 500. This would appear to signify a disturbing trend. Are other forms of finance or assistance in kind available to the council from the Government? Was the council short-changed last year because it received less than its vote? Is it conceded that the council will be less active than it might have been this year because its proposed vote is less than the amount voted 12 months ago?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The Government did not short-change the Conservation Council: \$7 000 was provided from that vote for another organisation. As I have not that detail with me, I shall make it available. I should have liked to be able to give the council more. In most of such cases we kept to the same figure.

For example, \$9 000 was provided for the Australian Conservation Foundation, as was provided the year before. I am certainly aware that in many cases that sum has been reduced in other States. As far as the Australian Institute of Urban Studies is concerned, we have given it \$14 000 for the second year in a row, at least. So, at least, the

Conservation Council has had a slight increase. It is recognised that the money made available along that line was as high as we could go this year. As far as what seemed to be a discrepancy between the outcome and the vote for 1981-82, I can find that information for the honourable member.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: As a result of the rearrangements of the Estimates this year, all of the debt servicing of the various statutory bodies occurs under the Minister's Miscellaneous line. I am interested in a statement on page 293 of the Auditor-General's Report in relation to the Black Hill Native Flora Park Trust. Under payments for nursery development in 1981 the payment was \$17 000 and the 1982 payment was only \$1 000. Does that represent a significant run-down in the nursery activities of the trust? It is not clear to me exactly what this money is for (and I imagine that there are other sources of funds available for this aspect), but in any event does this represent some run-down of the nursery activities in that, in 12 months, the grant was reduced by a factor of one-seventeenth?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: No, it certainly does not. It means that we have just completed development, it certainly does not mean that we are running down the nursery in any shape or form.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: There is also a rather curious sum of money listed on page 46 of the yellow book, 'Tea Tree Gully Golden Grove Development Committee'. Last year we voted \$2 000 to that committee and it spent \$1 000, this year we are again voting \$2 000. That possibly is a salary component, but it is a very small sum of money. What is the money used for?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: That is for operating costs rather than a salary.

Mr RANDALL: My question relates to the Miscellaneous line and the 'Keep South Australia Beautiful' campaign. I am having some difficulty tracking down financial information other than in the Budget papers on page 74. Does Kesab report back to the Minister as to the way it spends its funds? Has the Minister any control over its expenditure programmes?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: Yes, as far as any control is concerned, Kesab has to submit a budget for my approval. I might say that there has been a very good liaison, a very good working relationship, between Kesab and my department. I am very keen that that should continue because it is doing some very valuable work. As far as the increase is concerned, that is somewhat confusing, because we need to take into account the transfer of funding from my colleague, the Minister of Local Government, to our line. Previously, both the Minister of Local Government and I, as Minister of Environment and Planning, have been involved in part payment to Kesab. In recent times that responsibility has been transferred solely to this portfolio.

Mr RANDALL: I do not want to appear to be critical of Kesab, as I support its programme and its operation, but I am concerned about some aspects of its operation. Does the Minister have any control over the number of staff it employs, and does he know how many it employs full time?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: No. As I said earlier, I have to approve of Kesab's budget. Staffing would be the responsibility of the Kesab organisation, taking into account the budget allocation that is made available.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I referred earlier to the various references to debt servicing that were previously listed under 'Treasurer—Miscellaneous'. The figures have remained reasonably stable over a period of time. For example, although it is not obvious from the document that we have before us the Coast Protection Board (and I have checked this figure which is shown in the 'Treasury—Miscellaneous' line) was voted an amount of \$680 000 in 1981-82 and this year an amount of \$657 400 has been voted for

the Coast Protection Board. Further, the amount voted for the Heritage Trust has risen from \$240 000 for 1981-82 to \$208 700 for the current financial year.

The Minister might not be able to immediately answer my first question and might have to obtain information for us. I would like an indication of the total debt structure of those statutory bodies. Secondly, I would like some indication of the trend of expenditure: are the programmes administered by those bodies being generally extended, are they static, or does the Government see them as little more than a necessary evil and ones under which borrowing should be scaled down over a period of years because of the debt burden that accrues from them?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: In regard to the first question, I shall have to seek that information. In regard to the trust generally, the member for Baudin will understand that steps have been taken to wind down some of the trust's responsibilities. The Cleland Park and the General Reserves Trust, and now the Black Hill Trust are being wound down, and the Government has made no secret of that. Those areas are being brought back under the administration of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. For the purposes of assisting the Treasury it has been necessary to retain the trust virtually in name only. However, those areas are being wound down and are certainly not borrowing at this stage.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: There is an insertion which is exactly the same as last year's and which provides for assistance to councils' boating facilities on inland waterways. Is there any demarcation with the Minister of Marine in relation to this matter? Are we talking basically of the Upper Murray? What is the position in regard to the waterways immediately inland from the Murray mouth which I assumed were under the care and control of the Minister of Marine, although maybe there has been a reshuffling of the responsibility in this area?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: I would suggest that there is no demarcation problem with my colleague the Minister of Marine. There is a very close liaison; if there has been any doubt at all concerning these areas matters have been sorted out quite easily. I am sure that will continue to be the case.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: In that case, who has responsibility for safety devices and facilities generally along the lower Murray River? I refer to beacons along the lower Murray River channel and the Coorong, and such areas?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: My department is partly responsible: the Engineering and Water Supply Department has some responsibility, as does the Department of Recreation and Sport.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I accept what the Minister says, because I usually accept what he says about there not being any demarcation dispute.

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: We have major responsibilities in those areas.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I was going on to say that I think the dispute may well be in my mind, but that does seem to be a recipe for confusion. Specifically what, then, is the role of the Minister's department in this matter, and what subset of the department is responsible for the dispensing of whatever responsibilities the Minister has?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: It mainly involves grants to councils for recreational facilities, and the division within my department responsible is the Coast Protection board.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This is an important matter because, as the Minister is aware, there have been deaths at the Murray mouth in recent years. The Minister of Marine some time ago saw fit to issue or have posted warnings about dangerous currents near the mouth. That has not been a problem recently, of course, because of the virtual closure of the mouth of the Murray, but the potential continues to exist there because of the very heavy recreation use to which the Murray mouth and the waters immediately in from the mouth are put. The Minister has indicated that part of the responsibility involved making grants available to local government, but who really identifies where the problems are? Is that a function of local government? Is it a function of the Minister of Marine?

The Hon. D. C. Wotton: The Minister of Marine and the E. and W.S. Department in this case would be responsible for that. We, as I said earlier, purely administer the grants. It is a contribution only.

The CHAIRMAN: As there appear to be no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed. I thank the Minister and his officers who have sat through the whole proceedings for their attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.57 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Thursday 23 September at 11 a.m.