

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 5 October 1983

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Chairman:

Mr Max Brown

Members:

The Hon. B.C. Eastick
 Mr D.M. Ferguson
 Ms S.M. Lenehan
 Mr I.P. Lewis
 Mr K.H. Plunkett
 Mr W.A. Rodda
 Mr J.P. Trainer
 The Hon. D.C. Wotton

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Before declaring today's vote open for examination, I repeat, as I have on each previous sitting, that the Chair would appreciate from the Opposition some idea of the time schedule so that officers of the Minister can be made available when required. The Chair intends to proceed along the lines adopted previously: that is, the lead member of the Opposition will ask three questions of the Minister and then the Government will be given three questions, and we will alternate between questions from Government and Opposition members, if necessary.

Questions must be directed to the Minister and not to his officers: if the Minister wishes to direct any question to an officer he can do so, but the question must be directed initially to the Minister. The Chair has no intention of allowing a second reading debate or a grievance debate, because we are here to examine certain expenditure. Does the Opposition wish to make any general observation regarding the portfolio or the time schedule before I call for questions?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Opposition believes that two major areas of expenditure are involved today: housing and local government, together with libraries etc. We believe we should isolate housing from the rest of the lines.

The CHAIRMAN: Do I understand you to mean that the Opposition would appreciate the vote dealing with housing and miscellaneous being taken first?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: We would be quite happy to take whichever course of action is best suited to the Minister and his advisers. We believe that housing should be taken in isolation, because it is a major part of the portfolio. We suggest that information to be obtained in that area is a complete line of questioning and will probably require assistance other than that which is available to the Minister in relation to the other lines. Would the Committee agree to looking at housing after 4.30 this afternoon? That would isolate the questioning and make it so much easier. However, if the Minister so prefers we could easily deal first with housing.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I would be happy to complete the lines on local government generally by 4.30, and then to move into the lines for housing.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I would not like 4.30 p.m. to be a definitive time, but ample opportunity will be given to the Chair and to the Minister to identify a possible time with at least one hour's notice.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Some aspects of the local government line deal with the Office of Housing: I take it that the Opposition will not be asking questions on that line until I bring in my advisers from the Trust and from

the Office of Housing, or will we deal with that office in this line?

The CHAIRMAN: I understand from the member for Light that the major thrust of questioning on housing will be taken on that line.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Under the line 'Office of Housing': it is part of the first vote, but it is an identifiable area that would best be regarded as one subject, so we can do that separately, if the Committee agrees.

Ms LENEHAN: In previous Committees we have discussed a definite line but, as I understand it, we are now going to be breaking with that idea. At page 129 of the Estimates, I presume that we would be considering the first line of local government, \$8 333 000. Under that comes 'Office of Housing, Public Libraries Division', and those sort of things. I seek clarification on what the member for Light is asking.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: There will be no questioning about housing at any time until the Committee decides that the housing vote will be considered. I recognise that it is not a vote in its own right, but is an area completely divorced from the other activities. It would assist in questioning and the staffing support to the Minister if the two were separated.

Ms LENEHAN: I accept that. Would there not be some point of order as to how one puts the total vote, and then opens it up for discussion later?

The CHAIRMAN: That is not the position. It is simply to ease the situation that the Minister might have in regard to having his officers at his disposal. The honourable member for Light is saying to the Minister that he will advise the Committee when it will be cross-examining the Minister on housing, so that we can have those officers available. That is my understanding, and I think the general understanding of the situation.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: There will be no vote sought prior to housing being considered.

Ms LENEHAN: Therefore, we will discuss this morning all of the lines in the Estimates with the exception of 'Office of Housing', which appears at both pages 129 and 130?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Whilst I accept the member for Light's argument, is the Opposition concerned about the line 'Office of Housing', or will the questioning be in line with the Government's policy on housing generally in the State? If that is the line of questioning I accept that, I think that is a valid argument, because when I was in Opposition I had the same problem in the Estimates Committee. If we are referring to broad policy, I agree.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: That is the intent within the limitations the Opposition recognises. The Committee will be looking at policy areas associated with the Office of Housing vote.

Ms LENEHAN: When will we be considering the 'Miscellaneous' line?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: There are three votes: one for the Minister of Housing and the Department of Local Government, one for Miscellaneous and one for capital expenditure. The Opposition does not expect to conclude its examination of the Department of Local Government vote before the evening break. The other two votes would be considered this evening. I refer to pages 1 and 2 of the yellow book giving two schedules. Is page 2 a lateral extension of page 1? If not, where is the direct alignment of page 2 to page 1?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes. At the top of page 2 where it is stated 'Minister of Housing and Minister of Local Government—continued' that is an extension from page 1.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Opposition was seeking clarification.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: A department is not determined by the size of its yellow book. We apologise to the Committee that we did not write 'to be continued on page 2', but I would have thought that any rational person would have realised that page 2 follows page 1.

Local Government \$8 333 000

Witness:

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings, Minister of Local Government.

Departmental Advisers:

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

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

Mr E.M. Miller, State Librarian, Department of Local Government.

Mr R.H. Maddocks, Director, South Australian Waste Management Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: For the office of Minister, the voted amount is similar to that of last year. An increase is available to it from the lump sum value for increases in wages and salaries as well as from services. Can the Minister outline whether there has been any change in directional thrust of the conduct of the Minister's office since he took up the position, compared to the knowledge he had of the office prior to taking over? We are interested to know whether greater emphasis is placed on any activities.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The balance of the membership of my Ministerial office is exactly the same as under the previous Minister. I still have four public servants and two Ministerial appointments. For the benefit of the Committee, those members are: Mr Griffin, Mrs Brooks, Mr Jalast, and Mrs McKee. They are Public Service people. My Ministerial appointments are Mr Luckens and Mr Rains. However, the balance remains exactly the same as under the previous Ministry.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: We have established that there are a number of subdepartments under the Minister of Local Government and Housing. Is the Minister able to indicate to the Committee the approximate percentage of time that he and his senior officer (his Director) apply to the various departments which are identified on pages 1 and 2 of the supportive document?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: My Director is responsible for all matters other than housing. If the honourable member requires a complete breakdown of the time that staff members under my Ministerial authority spend on housing or local government, I cannot give him that now. However, I can attempt to give the honourable member that at some future date. The Director might like to elaborate on that.

Dr McPhail: As the Minister has said, matters relating to the Office of Housing and the South Australian Housing Trust, which, of course, is directly responsible to the Minister as a statutory body, do not come under my direct policy interest, even though the honourable member will notice that on page 3 the Office of Housing is responsible to me administratively. That is part of the Department, and I am responsible for providing bread and rations for the Office of Housing. Outside of that, all the other activities come

within the general purview of the Minister or myself. Of course, those statutory bodies which are listed at some length are directly responsible to the Minister, and I become involved only in terms of policy advice and budgetary matters. As far as my direct work load is concerned, it is split up roughly 50 per cent in relation to libraries and 50 per cent in relation to general local government matters.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Supplementary to that, is the Building Advisory Committee part of the Office of Housing, or is that looked upon as part of the Minister's and the Director's general area of activity?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That is under local government.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Following the answer just given in relation to the general percentage of activity, is the Minister able to indicate any other senior officer in his Department who has a major role to play in any of those areas to the extent that the Director's time is purely administrative? In other words, are there deputy directors or senior officers who report directly to the Director and who have a particular role to play in total administration? Following on from that and the information just given to the Committee in relation to statutory bodies answering directly to the Minister, is the Minister able to identify specific directives that he has issued to the various departments and statutory bodies in his role as Minister since he assumed office?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No specific directives have been given to any statutory bodies, apart from directives in line with Labor Party policy and the policy under which we were elected to Government in November last year. No specific written directives have been given. In most areas of the Public Service those involved are well aware of the intentions of the Government of the day. Perhaps the Director can provide further details of the operation of the Department, especially in the area of Deputy Director.

Dr McPhail: I will address myself to the matter of senior officers of the Department. The Department operates basically on a divisional structure. The libraries area has two divisions, namely, the Public Libraries Division and the State Library Division. Although we do not have officers in positions at the moment, because of recent staff changes, the two libraries divisions are headed by officers with various titles. They are divisional heads and they report to the State Librarian, who in turn reports to me. In regard to local government, I have a Deputy Director who is responsible for the Finance and Administration Division and the Local Government Division. The majority of that officer's time is devoted to local government matters; however, he also deputises for me as required across the entire Department's activities. That is the basic organisation of the Department in its operations.

Ms LENEHAN: I refer to the line 'Purchase of office machines and equipment', relating to the State Library Division, for which an expenditure of \$102 000 is proposed. The amount voted for this purpose in 1982-83 was \$11 000 and the amount actually spent was \$11 000. This year's vote represents quite an enormous increase. Will the Minister explain what the sum of \$102 000 will be spent on during the coming year?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The Libraries Board was required to prepare a schedule pertaining to replacement of obsolete equipment, some of which is up to 20 years old. I shall read out details of the items to be replaced. First, a 25 year old condemned guillotine is to be replaced. That machine was being used by workers in the bindery section where possible damage to health or loss of fingers could have occurred. The new guillotine will cost \$36 000. Two micro film readers for the South Australia collection have been acquired at a cost of \$6 000. A wire stitcher has been purchased to replace a 20 year old machine that was causing

real problems. Representations were made to the Libraries Board about that machine. The new machine, which will cost \$6 000, will be placed in the bindery section. An enlarger has been purchased at a total cost of \$5 500. A faulty machine had been credited to the Department; that will cost \$3 000. A paper processor has been purchased at a cost of \$10 000. That has been designed to increase the output of the archive materials.

A folder has been purchased, again for the bindery section, to replace a 20-year old machine. The Libraries Board found that machines in the bindery section were not only old and out-dated, but were a danger to the workers. The folder will cost \$4 000. A film processor to assist in the microfilming of newspapers, which is important in the work of the South Australian Library, will cost \$14 000. Word processors, which will be used by the administration, will cost \$8 000. Flexi-time equipment (keys are available for only half the staff) will cost \$1 000. A photocopier to go to the South Australian Library Lending Service will cost \$6 000 and five typewriters and a projector will be purchased, at a total cost is \$102 000.

Ms LENEHAN: In the specific objectives for 1982-83 described on page 16 of the yellow book reference is made to the establishment of a Ministerial committee on library services. I am aware that this committee has been established, but I am not completely aware of its role and function. Could the Minister outline the role and the function of the committee and say who are its members?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The members of the South Australian Library Advisory Committee appointed by me are Joan Brewer, A.J. Brown, J.G. Dwyer, Professor Foskett, Councillor Miles, E.M. Miller (State Librarian), R.K. Olding, N. Stockdale and E.J. Wainwright.

Dr McPhail: The South Australian Library Advisory Committee was set up following a recommendation made in the report titled 'Library services planning committee', which is generally known as the Crawford Report. This report argued that there should be a broadly based committee available to advise the Minister of the day responsible for library services on the development, rationalisation and co-ordination of library services in South Australia. The membership which the Minister has just read out is drawn from each of the major library services providers in the State, many of whom are not under any form of Government direction or control but all of whom are providing expensive library services. The membership of the committee comprises representatives from the South Australian College of Advanced Education, Department of Technical and Further Education, Education Department, SAIT, Local Government Association, the Libraries Board, Flinders University, and the University of Adelaide.

The entire objective of the committee is to see how these various library services can co-operate in order to provide more economically the very expensive library services which each of these institutions is forced to provide. One of the interesting initiatives on which they are working at the moment is to provide a joint medical library service on North Terrace so that the university, SAIT and the Health Commission need not supply separate and expensive medical libraries. That is the type of approach it is taking. The body is purely advisory but it has been set up at the highest possible level so that the best opportunities for rationalisation can occur between the various library services.

Ms LENEHAN: My next question is related to administrative and clerical staff under the office of the Minister. On page 35 of the yellow book under the specific targets and objectives for 1983-84 reference is made to continuing to provide assistance to councils on disaster relief. Can the Minister outline what support, advice and assistance has been provided and what he sees as the role of this continuing advice and support to councils?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The criteria under which the assistance was provided are shown on page 37 of the Auditor-General's Report for 1983. Under this line in relation to local government the following payments have been made under the Natural Disaster Relief Agreement relating to bushfires: Beachport, \$167 818; Blyth, \$842; Burnside, \$15 413; Clare, \$23 233; Gumeracha, \$15 914; Lacedpede, \$402; Lucindale, \$15 078; Meadows, \$38 202; Mount Barker, \$3 226; Mount Pleasant, \$1 108; Noarlunga, \$1 088; Onkaparinga, \$7 113; Penola, \$12 633; Robe, \$2 373; Tea Tree Gully, \$1 046; and Willunga, \$4 797. We intend to carry on with the ongoing relief programme in 1983-84. If members of the Committee want further information on that, I will be pleased to supply it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I take it from the Minister's remarks that he intends to provide some additional information for next year. If that is so, it must come back to the Committee in a form that can be inserted in *Hansard*.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I understand from previous Estimates Committees that Ministers have said they would provide further information to members of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: That is correct. The Chair is not arguing about that. All I am saying is that when the information is supplied to the Committee it must be in a form suitable for inclusion in *Hansard*.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes. Dealing with the flooding which occurred early in March, the payments made to various councils as at 27 July 1983 were as follows: Angaston, \$117 329; Balaklava, \$5 681; Barossa, \$4 705; Blyth, \$35 948; Burnside, \$58 650; Burra, \$27 296; Clare, \$27 822; Eudunda, \$236 584; Gawler, \$152 785; Kapunda, \$94 590; Light, \$20 215; Munno Para, \$25 643; Mount Pleasant, \$8 792; Owen, \$34 050; Robertstown, \$77 463; Saddleworth and Auburn, \$94 800; Salisbury, \$26 135; Tanunda, \$8 871; and Truro, \$129 831, giving a total of \$1 188 190. I will ask Mr Herrmann to elaborate on the details of the programme.

Mr Herrmann: In addition to the normal subsidies of payment provided under the Commonwealth-State agreement for natural disasters, the Government was able to provide assistance in two further directions. First, in relation to flooding, it was a severe impost on some of the smaller councils to meet the criteria laid down by the Commonwealth that they contribute a maximum of 25 per cent of the total cost of the disaster or \$25 000. An example was the Eudunda council with rate revenue of about \$133 000. It suffered damage of more than \$250 000, so the burden on the rate revenue was quite high and could have seriously crippled the council's cash flow. The Government decided that, in cases of hardship involving councils with very low rate revenue, it would subsidise them even further so that any one council should not contribute more than 5 per cent of its rate revenue in any one year. This was of benefit to small council areas that suffered extensive damage, and was particularly relevant to the flooding problem.

Secondly, in relation to bushfires. About 66 per cent of the area in the District Council of Beachport was destroyed by fire. The heat was so intense that it destroyed the limestone base of many gravel roads for which the council is responsible. The council approached the Government to see whether it could assist in any way with the short-fall in upgrading the roads in the council area. Total damage to the roads was in the vicinity of \$300 000 and under the normal terms and conditions of Commonwealth-State assistance about \$150 000 could have been provided from State sources. The Government agreed to the District Council's borrowing the balance of the money and subsidised the interest rate, so that the council could borrow funds at a net rate of 4 per cent. This action was very much appreciated by the council in what could have been a very difficult financial situation.

Ms LENEHAN: Referring to the other part of my original question, it was directed not just at financial support, but I used the word 'advice'. I am concerned whether in councils where there have been major disasters, such as flooding and fire, the advice being given is in terms of future planning and development of council areas. For example, where there has been flash flooding in areas, councils may need advice about rezoning the area or putting in drainage. In areas where there has been massive destruction of houses through fire, it may mean that that has to be looked at in terms of rezoning so that those sort of dwellings cannot be built there. They are merely a couple of examples I have plucked out of the air. I am concerned to see whether this assistance encompasses advice as well as financial commitment.

The CHAIRMAN: That was a rather long supplementary question. I hope that the answer is not as long.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No, the answer will not be long. Advice has been given. I have had numerous letters from councils affected by the floods and fires congratulating this Government and my Department, in particular, Mr Herrmann, for our speedy response to requests for financial assistance. We are contemplating giving advice on practical aspects if such a tragedy occurs again. I ask the Director to comment.

Dr McPhail: The Department has taken an active role in providing direct advice to councils on their full financial planning. It has also taken an active role in the various committees set up to examine flood and fire relief as well as the outcome of the old fire and flood issues. Members will be aware that a number of departments, in particular, the Department of Environment and Planning, have been looking at zoning and fire safety in the hills. The Highways Department is giving considerable advice to councils in regard to road and bridge construction and drainage in areas subject to flooding.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister has indicated on page 2 of the yellow book the Acts which are administered by him as Minister of Local Government. Will he indicate what action he has taken on each of those Acts since he assumed office? What is in contemplation in regard to change, and what specific directive has he given relative to each Act? Will he give an overview of his involvement in his portfolio? The Committee would appreciate the Director, who is responsible for the conduct of these areas of operation, commenting. What changes have been effected and what changes are in line to be effected?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The Committee will be aware of a major revision of the Local Government Act. I have produced a submission which will go before Cabinet in the next two weeks. It will also be going out to all local councils for a 28-day consideration period. We will be debating the matter in the House, hopefully, before Christmas. I have set up a committee on the Dog Control Act. After I repealed the Alsatian Dogs Act, I received a deputation from the United Farmers and Stockowners Association. They stated that there could be problems with large dogs moving into the pastoral area, and I have set up a committee to look at that problem. We are presently reviewing the Building Act. The Enfield General Cemetery Act is also under review, as is the Libraries Act. I ask the Director to indicate what the working party is looking at.

Dr McPhail: The Minister and the Department have been closely involved in a number of these pieces of legislation. The Building Act is under substantial review, and that review is drawing near to its completion. We were attempting to bring as many of the building controls, found in a variety of Acts, under the Building Act itself. In parallel, we are reviewing the operations of the building fire safety requirements, particularly in metropolitan Adelaide, where the building fire safety committees, operating in relation to the

existing buildings, as opposed to the building regulations which operate for new buildings, have a complex administrative structure. We are trying to rationalise and improve their function.

We hope to have a series of major changes implemented to the Building Act to make it a more useful document to the building industry. Members are probably aware that the regulations under the Building Act have been rewritten and are presently being tested to see whether they are more cost effective for the construction industry, that being the object of rewriting the regulations. There are a number of major moves in relation to the Building Act.

The Coober Pedy (Local Government Extension) Act is not under review as it is only a new Act. The Minister has been closely involved with the Coober Pedy Progress Association on a number of its initiatives, including plans to upgrade water supplies to that town. The Dog Control Act is under review as a result of the repeal of the Alsatian Dogs Act. The Electricity (Country Areas) Subsidy Act is not under review. The member for Eyre has strong views on certain aspects of that legislation. The Minister has mentioned that the Enfield General Cemetery Act is subject to some changes in relation to its ability to handle money.

The Impounding Act has been subject to review for some time, although it has not had a high priority because of other tasks that have to be undertaken. That Act includes a number of legislative concepts which come down to us from English law. It requires substantial change. The Libraries Act is a brand new Act; it has been in operation for only a short time and is proving to be a useful document. There will be a split away from the Libraries Act by those matters relating to archival material. A separate Archives Bill is being prepared and is subject to consultation with the Public Service Board at the moment. The Local Government Act is under review and the Minister has provided a time table.

The next three Acts mentioned on page 2 of the yellow book are minor Acts established to make it possible for the three councils concerned to carry out borrowing activities at the time. In due course we hope to repeal those Acts and simply incorporate any residual requirements into the Local Government Act. The Outback Areas Community Development Trust Act is not subject to review and has proven to be a successful operation. It provides a form of local government for outback areas and has proved to be extremely useful and important to small communities in the outback. The Parks Community Centre Act is also relatively new, although the Board membership of that body is currently under scrutiny.

There is likely to be an amendment in relation to that Act. The Proof of Sunrise and Sunset Act (we always used to say that, without local government, the sun rose and did not set) has been transferred to the portfolio which actually does the surveying work and which looks after the preparation of the tables. The Public Parks Act was recently amended. There is nothing at present in terms of the two Recreation Grounds Acts. The Rundle Street Mall Act is under review, and the Minister is considering several matters to place before Cabinet. The Swimming Pools (Safety) Act is under review, principally to ensure that it meets various modern developments in terms of pool design. The next two Acts are minor Acts.

Mr RODDA: Tatiara is not a minor Act.

Dr McPhail: The honourable member is correct: the Act lay dormant for a long time until it was suddenly revived by a land owner who did not want a drain put across his property, so it came to prominence for a short time. The South Australian Waste Management Commission Act is also subject to further discussion and review, particularly

in the light of the large metropolitan waste management study that has been done.

The South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act is not under review by the Government but, as members are aware, the Federal Government has given notice that it intends to review the income tax sharing arrangements that may, in due course, lead to consequential changes in the Grants Commission Act. The West Beach Recreation Reserve Act is not subject to review.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister has already indicated that some of these Acts have advisory committees, others with boards or groupings that have memberships he has identified. Can the Minister make available to the Committee in due course the names of the people who provide all the advisory and board support for the Acts that he administers, whether there have been any changes in the membership of those groupings in the past two years and, if so, who were the original members and who are the present members?

The Minister also indicated that some Committees have been set up to provide, outside of the direct Act requirements, advice on ways and means whereby the various Acts might be changed. For example, he referred to a Dog Control Committee, which was considering matters placed before him by the United Farmers and Stockowners Association. That would be a working party activity beyond the legislative requirements of the various Acts. The Minister might also be able to indicate, if not immediately but in conjunction with the information we seek from him, whether any parts of any of the Acts under his control or administration are not proclaimed and, if so, why those sections or portions are not proclaimed. Also, will the Minister say whether any attempt has been made, or any actual removal of the application of any of those parts has been effected recently?

I indicated to the Minister that I would appreciate any information in respect of the answer that referred to actual directions given by the Minister since he has been responsible for the handling of the portfolio in relation to any of those Acts under his control. He has not provided that information in the first answer given. It may be that he can give some or all of them now, or would prefer to include also that information when he provides other material for the Committee. It refers to particular directions given by the Minister as a result of his authority in respect of the various bodies associated with the Acts listed on page 2.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That was about 10 questions in one. However, the first part is that there has been no Act introduced in my time as Minister that has not been proclaimed.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: That was not the question.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The second part is that, in relation to all the advisory bodies I have, any decisions they make are by discussion and not by instruction. I am able to provide the Committee with the membership of some of the bodies I have set up and, if the Committee would like, I am pleased to give those names now. For the Dog Control Act Review Committee, I give credit to the U.F. & S., members of which came to me and said, 'Okay, you have repealed the Alsatian Dog Act, but there is still a real problem with large dogs going into park areas.' They agreed with me that the Alsatian Dog Act should be repealed, but said that there was a real problem.

I then set up the Dog Control Act Review Committee comprising: Mr G.D. Johnson (Chairman), from the Dog Advisory Committee; Mr K. McCann, from the Local Government Association; Mr R.J. Downward, the Minister of Agriculture's nominee; Mr H. J. Spiers, from the United Farmers and Stockowners Association; and Mr R.J. Kitto, an executive officer from my Department. The Enfield General Cemetery Trust was set up to establish and manage

a public cemetery at Enfield. The membership is: Mr D.C. Noblett (Chairman); Mr J.J. McVeity; Councillor R.W. Robinson; Alderman R. Bonner; Mr G. Templar; Mr J.M. Harley; and the Reverend P. Porter.

The Building Advisory Committee was set up within my Department and the membership comprises: Mr S.B. Hart (Chairman); Mr L.T. McEntee, a representative from the Master Builders Association; Mr M.F. McPeake, from the Housing Industry Association; Mr J.R. Dyer from the Local Government Association; Mr J. T. Water from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects; Dr D.S. Brooks from the Adelaide University; Mr C.J. Buttrose, a building surveyor with the Unley City Council; Mr P.C. Ogden, a quantity surveyor with the South Australian Housing Trust; Mr R.G. Lewis who is my Deputy Director; and Mr D.A. Grubb from the Metropolitan Fire Services.

The Dog Advisory Committee was set up by the previous Government, and I have no intention of changing the membership, which comprises: Mr G.D. Johnson (Chairman) who was nominated by the Local Government Association; Mr J.F. Strachan, nominated by the R.S.P.C.A.; Dr K.B. Little; and Mr R. A. Stewart. The terms of office of those members expire on 8 October 1983.

Members of the Libraries Board are J.A. Crawford, Chairman; J.J. Bray; A.D. McClure; J. Brewer; A.W. Jones; G.P.H. Dutton; E. Witton; E.M. Crome; Hon. D.W. Simmons; D.E.J. McCulloch; and A.C. Foskett.

With regard to the West Beach Trust, the Chairman is Mr J.A. Wright, whose term expires on 29 February 1984. Members are Mr K. Collett, Alderman; D.G. Mason; Mr S.J. Hamra; Mr H. Boyce; Mr M.J. Baker; and Mrs M. Fenwick. The Chairman of the Waste Management Commission is Dr W.D. Symes, and members are Mr G. Simpson; Mr I.W. Cambridge; Mr K.J. Coventry; and Mr J. Dangerfield. Two previous members of the board were Mr G.F. McMahon and Mrs A.E. Reeves, whose terms have expired. As a result of reviewing the Waste Management Commission legislation, I have not recommended that any further members be placed on the board. Members of the Parks Community Centre Board, appointed under section 5 of the Parks Community Centre Act, 1981, are B. Redpath, Chairman; R. Amer; J. Bampton; L. Bond; K. Davey; J. Dyer; B. Elleway; M. Herrmann; G. McCabe; E. O'Loughlin; Y. Repin; and P. Tierney.

Members of the Public Parks Advisory Committee are Mr R.G. Lewis, from the Department of Local Government; Mr B. Bridges, Surveyor-General; and J. Hodgson from the Department of Environment and Planning. The Chief Officer of the Building Fire Safety Committee is Graham Brown. I can obtain the names of the members of that committee. I apologise if I have not referred to all the members of the various committees. If required I will provide further details later.

The CHAIRMAN: I am wondering whether the type of information that is being supplied can simply be made available and inserted in *Hansard*.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am quite happy to agree with that, Sir, if you will protect me when I am advised that I have asked too many questions by someone who is obviously embarrassed by the number of questions I have and my preparedness.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair does not intend to enter into that sort of debate. I am simply suggesting that when the Minister has the type of information that has just been given and which is required by the Committee, it might be more appropriate for such information to be inserted in *Hansard*.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I have attempted to bring to the Committee as much information as possible. When I was member of the Opposition and attempted to obtain

information from the relevant Minister on the Committee, I was told many times that that information would be forthcoming. That information never came to me. Therefore, I directed my staff to provide me with as much information as they could. The member for Light asked a question, and the appropriate information was supplied. I think that it is irrelevant that it took 25 minutes to do so. If the member for Light asks for information I have available, I will give it to him.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair is not seeking any long and detailed explanation. In fact, the Chair is endeavouring to avoid that.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am sure that the Minister will have the opportunity to provide all the detail that he has before the day is out. I refer to the Government's attitude and the representations that it may have made in respect to local government's share of personal income tax allocations, and to how that share will be handled in the future. Information was made public as recently as last Friday at a seminar conducted in the western region, where it would seem that a view is held that, based on the Commonwealth approach to this matter local government will get tied grants rather than a sum it may apply to its own activities. I believe that I would be right in saying that members of both sides of the House have always held a view that local government must be given a degree of self-determination, and that one of the best ways of doing that is by giving local government the opportunity to be master of its own destiny.

I am somewhat concerned about the view that might be taken from advice that was given last Friday that local government will not be master of its own destiny in respect to the 2 per cent of the income tax allocation that is to be distributed to it through the Grants Commission (and I know full well the set-up there). Has the Minister and the advisory groups made direct representation to Cabinet and/or to the appropriate Federal Government Minister, or, indeed, to the Prime Minister, indicating South Australia's rejection of any attempt to tie local government grants?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I understand that the remarks made at the seminar on Friday in no way reflect the view of the Government. The view expressed was that of one individual who spoke at that seminar. I fully support the member for Light's view that local councils should be the masters of their own destiny in the allocation of the funding they receive. In regard to the proportion of funds that local government receives in respect to a share of the personal income tax allocations, I have already communicated with the Federal Minister pointing out that this State's proportion is far too low. The Government is proceeding along those lines. The Government does not support any form of tied grants to local councils when Grants Commission money is used.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is the Minister prepared to make available, even if it is on a personal basis, a copy of his submission to the Federal Minister so that the Opposition can support that view federally?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I will consider the matter, but I would have thought that, after I had made a public statement that I have made representations to the Federal Minister, the Opposition would not really need to see it in black and white and it would take it as read and would give support anyway. I am sure the Opposition has made statements in the past referring to the share of personal income tax that goes to local government. Without going into Party politics I can recall that the Fraser Government, on achieving Government in 1975, said that the share of personal income tax going to local government would be increased to 3 per cent, but that never came about. I believe that all political Parties whether in Government or in Opposition should

support the argument that local government should receive more money. I will consider sending a copy of the correspondence to the shadow spokesman.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: By way of personal explanation, I suggest that the Minister has misunderstood the question and has been supersensitive to a statement I made in support of the interests of local government.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No, I was not being supersensitive: I understood what the honourable member meant.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it that the member for Light is asking the Minister to consider giving him a copy of a submission. If that submission is made available, I take it that it will be made available personally and will have nothing to do with the Committee.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: One can draw the direct inference from the answer given by the Minister that I doubt the Minister's word that a letter had gone. If the Minister reads the transcript he will see that I was seeking to support in the interests of local government any action taken with the Commonwealth Government.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair will not allow a debate on the issue. Normally, if some information is to be made available to the Committee it is done so in a form suitable for inclusion in *Hansard*. What I am interpreting from the question of the member for Light is that it is something of a personal nature between him and the Minister and the Minister has not made up his mind.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: To show that I am not supersensitive I will make that correspondence available to the member for Light on a personal basis.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The question is getting into a personal situation.

Mr PLUNKETT: Reference is made on page 27 of the yellow book to a review of superannuation schemes for council employees. A superannuation scheme for council employees is part of the A.L.P. platform. Has the review been completed and, if so, what was its outcome?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I know that, because the member for Peake is an ex-A.W.U. organiser, he has always been concerned about superannuation for outside workers in local government. I am pleased to say that the superannuation task force consists of representatives from the Local Government Association, the M.O.A., the Australian Workers Union, the Public Actuary's Office, and my Department. One of the things that came out of that meeting was the unanimous desire to get a common superannuation scheme for all workers.

Until now superannuation schemes in councils have discriminated against the outside work force and women. This task force has come forward with a proposal that will end all forms of discrimination. It is not as good as I would have expected it to be and it is not as good as the State Superannuation Scheme, but it is acceptable to the A.W.U., the councils, and the Local Government Association. The scheme was agreed to at a special meeting on 8 August.

The Actuary's Office is now working with my Department, and it is expected that legislation will be ready for presentation during the present Parliamentary session. One of the good things about this is that it not only provides a better superannuation scheme for people working for councils but it also provides a forum whereby the A.W.U., the M.O.A., and the L.G.A. can get together and look at common goals, and with the good offices of my department I am sure they will achieve those goals. I am pleased that they came up with the recommendation that they did.

Mr PLUNKETT: My interest mainly stems from the difference between superannuation schemes available for outside workers and for inside workers. As an organiser I found that 1 per cent was the superannuation that applied to the outside staff and the inside staff was on a much

superior basis. For many years we could not change that. I am pleased to hear what the Minister has just said. My next question relates to the line 'Deputy Director, Administrative, Accounting, Advisory and Clerical Staff'. Have any changes been made to the Building Advisory Committee, and what does that committee do to assist workers in their working environment?

The CHAIRMAN: We are here to examine a vote of expenditure and that is what we will do. Will the Minister reply?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No major changes have been made under my administration. All major changes were made under my predecessor.

Mr PLUNKETT: Does the Community Development Department come under this section, and what are its functions?

Dr McPhail: Is the honourable member referring to community development boards?

Mr PLUNKETT: Yes.

Dr McPhail: The Community Development Department ceased in 1979. The responsibility for the Government's interest in community development boards comes under the Department of Local Government. These are community organisations which relate to their local councils with the objective of trying to provide councils with an alternative range of views in relation to community issues. In 1979, the Department absorbed two staff, originally employed to provide support to the community development boards. Those two staff do that, but not on a full-time basis, because currently the operation of the community development boards seems to be more closely linked to their local councils than to the Department.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: If I can add to that, some time earlier this year I attended a meeting where I addressed members of all community development boards. The feeling I received from that was that they had been in the wilderness for the past three years. The fact that this Government, by using local councils, was attempting to revive that was received quite enthusiastically. We have asked the boards to carry out a survey and, when the results are received, we will make some positive moves from within the Department or through Cabinet.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I can assure the Minister that the seat of Murray will be very well represented, as it has been in the past, until the next State election, without the assistance of the Minister.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Referring to page 27 under the heading '1983-84 specific targets', I understand that there is a review to take place regarding the payment of rates on Crown properties following the change of Government. How does the Minister intend to achieve that review, and what does he hope to achieve as a result of that review? More importantly, does the Government have a policy on whether it should pay rates on all Crown land; if so, what is it?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The member for Murray is quite aware of our policy statements. I understand that every member of the Opposition carries our policy booklet. In our policy speech we said that there would be a review of this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There will be no argument in the Committee about the policies of either the Opposition or the Government. As I have pointed out on numerous occasions, we are here to deal with votes of expenditure.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I apologise to the Committee for saying that members of the Opposition carry copies of our policy statements in their brief cases. However, we did make a statement in the policy speech that we would review this rather complex question. The second stage of the review

of the Local Government Act will concentrate almost entirely on sources of funds to councils, and the major component will be the raising of rates. This will deal with the rating on Crown lands. Some preliminary work has begun and it will commence in earnest when the final work on the first stage of the local government review is completed and has gone through Parliament. The review will include methods of rating, aspects of minimum and differential rating, rating on non monopoly Government trading undertakings and Government grants and concessions in lieu of rates. That covers the area to which the member for Murray is referring.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I will come back to that later. I understand that the Government is looking to facilitate portability of the conditions of employment between State and local government. As this is a staffing matter, I would like the Minister to explain exactly what that means and how he intends to do it.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: What we have done on this deals with the discussions presently taking place between the L.G.A., the A.W.U., the M.O.A., and the Local Government Department. Differences in conditions of employment have been identified, and the Department is waiting for a response from the Local Government Association on equalising long service leave entitlements between State and local government. Draft long service leave regulations have been prepared to simplify portability between councils, which in turn will simplify portability between services. There is no question of portability from local government to State Government. The problem is the reverse, and that is why these discussions are taking place. It is the policy of this Government that there shall be portability between different services in the community, and I say again that the Local Government Association and the appropriate unions are working towards this.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I want to ask the Minister about the corporate plan. Under '1982-83 Specific targets/objectives', we note that the draft corporate plan is being prepared. Under '1983-84', the target is to complete and implement the corporate plan for the Department. I recognise the importance of such a plan in assisting with forward planning. Has the Minister any ideas on how often that corporate plan should be updated, and by whom?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I am quite proud of my Department, because I think it was one of the first Government departments to submit a corporate plan under our administration. That has been prepared.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: You are running a bit behind the Department of Environment and Planning.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: We are talking about good corporate plans. This has been prepared and noted by Cabinet. The plan sets out the policy of the Government with regard to local government. The writing of the corporate plan was done entirely by my officers without any direction from me, as Minister, in respect of Government policy.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: And quite rightly so.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I agree. Once it has been approved—there are a few changes that will take place—the updating will, I hope, be done on an annual basis and under the auspices of the Director and the Deputy Director.

Mr FERGUSON: I refer to page 129 of the Estimates of Payments and the line relating to the State Library Division and to page 16 of the yellow book with the notation stating there has been a substantial increase in productivity in binding services. There is also reference to a study on the possibility of shifting the bindery section from the State Library to the Government Printing Office. Some of the finest craftsmanship in Australia comes out of the State Library, and a crying need exists for more conservation in this area because of the deterioration of some precious books in our State Library. I include, above all else, the

South Australian collection. We have a priceless heritage, and the deterioration in that area is quite dramatic.

I urge the Minister to give deep consideration to moving more bookbinders and craftsmen into that area of conservation so that we can save, before it is too late, some of our precious material. I notice in the yellow book that the amount of money involved for conservation is designed to keep pace with inflation. No extra money has been allocated in that area. Will the Minister inform the Committee whether he has in mind an increase in this area? What is the state of play in the transfer of bindery services from the State Library to the Government Printing Office? I support the idea of these people being elevated to the status of public servants under the Government Printing Office agreement, although it is an industrial matter. However, I would prefer to see them shifted to conservation rather than out of the Library altogether.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I appreciate the question, because one of the first things I did on becoming Minister was take a tour of the State Library. I was never more impressed than I was with the dedication and work of the people in the bindery section. Earlier, I gave details on how we are trying to upgrade their equipment. As Minister, I will resist any attempt to move the bindery section from its existing location. I have also advocated to my Cabinet colleagues that we institute an apprenticeship scheme in that section. As the member for Henley Beach said, once those craftsmen have gone, much will be lost to that section. I do not say that it is under utilised. When the bindery section had open house, its exhibits attracted great attention, and we need to do as much as we can to preserve the art. We are labouring under financial constraints, and I would ask the Director to give a more detailed explanation.

Dr McPhail: Developments in the bindery have been remarkable over the past 18 months or so because, as part of the general reappraisal and reorganisation of the State Library, the bindery was taken as a major area for examination. It was an area with outdated and obsolete machinery, organised in such a way that it had not changed for many years. Consequently, productivity was down and there were problems with morale. Over the past 18 months there has been an enormous change. Productivity has gone up from 2.7 million to a little over 3 million items. Work sites have been reorganised by the staff who have been the motivating force in upgrading the whole operation.

We have also had an in-house committee in the State Library looking at restoration and conservation needs. We have carried out the review systematically, and now have a committee planning a systematic flow of material through the bindery. There have been negotiations in relation to the location of the bindery as to whether it should be absorbed by the Government Printer at Netley. The Public Service Board and the Government Printer have both agreed that, with the specialist nature of the work and problems involved in transporting delicate or fragile material, as well as the different levels of commitment of work groups (because the bindery people see themselves as having a commitment to the Library and its collection), the bindery will remain in the State Library. As a result, we could go ahead with our real programme to make the working environment more satisfactory to staff. It is an interesting exercise and, although we cannot get extra staff, we are getting improved productivity through improved machinery and commitment to work as a result of an important review of the whole area carried out by the previous Acting Deputy State Librarian.

Mr FERGUSON: I refer to page 21, which refers to a feasibility study on the use of a section of the Government Printing Division building at Netley for the establishment of a public records store. I assume that that is connected to the other paragraphs on page 21 referring to the development

of records management programmes in each Government agency. Is the Minister able to disclose whether a decision has been made to go ahead with that proposition and what sort of money would be involved in so doing? Will it involve a new micrographics area for the document unit? What provisions have been made in that area?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I am pleased to note that the member for Henley Beach is retaining his interest in the printing and allied industries. The problem of moving to Netley has been going on for many years, as he well knows. Many Governments have considered the issue of records management within the State. One has only to go to the State Library, on North Terrace, or even to Norwood to see the problems of storage that exist. Therefore, there needs to be a positive move to get a storage area in one particular space. Action is in hand to relocate Government records to space no longer required by the Government Printing Division at Netley, and recently Cabinet approved a submission from me on the establishment of a joint Commonwealth/State working party to examine the development and operation of public record and management programmes.

In that programme there could be a possibility that we would get Federal funding to establish a joint storage establishment at Netley. We have not set up the advisory committee yet, but members will be appointed from the State Library, the South Australian Archives, the Public Service Board, the Government Computing Centre, and the Commonwealth Archives.

Mr FERGUSON: Will this new Department come under the jurisdiction of the Government Printer?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No.

Mr FERGUSON: I refer to page 16 of the yellow book, which relates to issues and trends and which refers to the unfavourable inflation differential between Australia and other countries from which library materials are purchased causing price increases at a rate higher than the Australian rate of inflation. Do library materials include books, and does this mean that overseas printing in Asia, for example, is now catching the Australian equivalent in prices? What is the reason for it?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: In 1982-83 there was a special grant to meet the increased cost of books of \$30 000. This year the increase will be \$50 000. However, as to the general comments, I will call on the State Librarian.

Mr Miller: The situation in Asia does not really affect the pricing structure of books in Australia. I imagine that it certainly does keep prices down if they are printed over there. However, in terms of other costs that go into the price of a book it is not a significant component. The reason that books are so expensive in Australia is that most of them come from either America or Britain. Only about 16 per cent of the books we purchase are printed and published in Australia. While that may seem to be a certain percentage in terms of the amount of knowledge, particularly written knowledge, in the English speaking world, quite a significant percentage of books is published in Australia or printed in Asia but still published by Australian publishing houses. The main point has been the inflation differential in terms of book price increases overseas compared to what has been happening in Australia. Good news is coming, though: the inflation rate in Europe and America has dropped and is now quite a long way below what is happening in Australia. We have noticed in the past six to nine months that book prices have stopped going up at the rate that they had been going up over the previous year.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Following a question from my colleague the member for Murray in relation to industrial matters, portability and other things, is the Minister able to indicate whether he has yet addressed the position of the moneys to be exchanged between local government bodies

for transfer of benefits in the event that the person does not get to a long service leave entitlement and, therefore, the funds raised by the second council against the first are not legitimately paid out? It is a matter which was discussed when legislation was before the Parliament and an indication was given that the council which put forward the money in good faith should be safeguarded against that money's going to another council's benefit if the entitlement to long service did not subsequently eventuate. Again in the general industrial area, referring to the clerks and the persons associated with local government, will the Minister outline to the Committee the basis on which he was able to publicly state at a number of regional meetings that, if local government did not get its act together and provide for superannuation of staff, a Government superannuation system would be introduced and that that Government superannuation situation in respect of local government staff would be more costly than any proposal that they prepared for themselves? I ask the question in relation to the statement that it would be more costly against the background of whether the Minister, as the person responsible for making recommendations to Cabinet, would willingly or knowingly want to see the State responsible for a cost greater than that alternatively available.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Again, we had three or four questions. Dealing with the portability problem, it would be highly improper for me, as Minister, to make any representation before I received a response from the Local Government Association on this matter. As I said earlier in reply to the member for Peake, I am awaiting a response from the Local Government Association, which has had discussions with the appropriate unions. As for the statements that the member for Light says I have been making at regional conventions of local government, I have been stating Government policy, and at last year's election Government policy was that there would be a common superannuation scheme.

I think the Local Government Association and the appropriate unions recognise that the cost of the State's superannuation scheme will be far too costly for councils. Through negotiation and discussion, they have come up with a scheme which all councils can afford. I take it that the member for Light might be suggesting that I should have said to the Local Government Association, 'You will have the State superannuation scheme.' However, it did need someone from the State Government to say to local government people that there is a need for a common superannuation scheme within local government, and the statements that I made were supported by the senior L.T.A. executive.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am in the position of perhaps having to use three letter words to get the message across to the Minister. He seems to take offence at whatever question is put to him, and puts a wrong interpretation to it.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms Lenehan): Perhaps the honourable member should restrict the questioning to one question. The last question contained three or more parts.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is that a direction from the Chair?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON: No, it is a request from the Chair.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Chairman previously indicated that he would look at what members were doing. The position I put to the Minister was to the effect that by indicating that the Government was prepared to introduce a method of superannuation which was more costly than an alternative one was surely against the best interests of the Government. I put to the Minister whether in all conscience he could seriously consider putting a proposal to

Cabinet concerning the introduction of a scheme that would be to the disadvantage of people in South Australia, because a greater percentage of taxation would have to be raised to meet the additional cost involved.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It is a hypothetical question, because I did not need to go to Cabinet with a submission to introduce legislation for a scheme for local government equivalent to that offered by the State Government: that decision was made by local government at a special meeting which was held on 8 August. It was a decision taken by almost an overwhelming majority. I think only two councils voted against the concept. When one talks about whether it is in the best interests of local government to impose on local government a State superannuation scheme, I point out that the Government was trying to achieve something for the benefit of all workers in local government, whether they be inside workers or outside workers, male or female. Through the good offices of my department and the Local Government Association, the Australian Workers Union and the Municipal Officers Association, we have achieved a scheme at a greatly reduced cost.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I draw to the Minister's attention the fact that I referred to taxpayers, who are different from ratepayers, so, quite clearly by inference I was referring to the State Government. I refer to the Minister's answer suggesting that his public statement on this issue was hypothetical. Are we to understand that, when the Minister makes public statements to local governing authorities (and, indeed, generally) which relate to propositions yet to be announced, he is always talking hypothetically? I suggest that that is the direct inference that the Minister would have us draw from the statements that were made to and accepted in good faith by local government in regard to an alternative that was available to it. His remarks were taken not as hypothetical statements but as outlining a clear alternative. I suggest that if these matters are in future to be looked upon as hypothetical, unless they relate to a particular issue already specifically defined, such bully-boy tactics will not go over too well.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The member for Light has a reputation for choosing his words very carefully, and perhaps I have a reputation for not doing so. I said that the question put by the honourable member was hypothetical, because I did not have to put any submission to Cabinet. The reason for that is that it was clear Government policy that unless local government produced a uniform superannuation scheme the State Government itself would have to introduce something. They were sincere and true statements: they were not bully-boy statements. I made a statement of Government policy, and the member for Light knows that quite well.

Mr PLUNKETT: I refer to the local government administration lines (page 129 of the Estimates). Will the Minister tell the Committee what consideration has been given to incorporating long service leave provisions in the new Local Government Act?

Dr McPhail: The Minister has mentioned that long service leave portability has been already brought into the Local Government Act. That has been further refined, so that if an officer leaves one council and moves to another the council from which he has moved must then pay up the funds held for long service leave entitlements. This provision was introduced because a situation existed whereby an officer might retire at the end of 40 years and the council employing such an officer then had to go through an enormously difficult exercise in extracting money from half a dozen or so other councils that had employed that officer over the years. The fundamentals of long service leave portability have been introduced in the existing Local Government Act and will continue in the new Act. We still have to sort out

the matter of portability between State and local government authorities.

The Minister mentioned that we are looking at whether we can make the guidelines for both State and local government somewhat similar. The reason for the long service leave provision changes and for the changes to superannuation provisions, apart from equity provisions in relation to workers, is to ensure that local government can become a career service and that officers can readily change from one to another over the years without the problems of having to leave behind superannuation and sick leave benefits. We have overcome the long service leave and sick leave issues. The remaining issue is superannuation, which has been subject to questions in this place.

A previous question from the member for Light related to the problem of an officer who had transferred from one council to another before that officer's seven-year entitlement to long service leave had been completed. Money is paid out from council A to council B. The individual then leaves local government altogether without any long service leave pay-out. The question then arises whether council A has a right to get the money back. That is an issue of contention. We have had extensive discussions about this matter with metropolitan town clerks. Metropolitan councils comprise the main group involved, because it is mainly in the metropolitan area where this matter becomes an issue. Council employees in the country tend to have a history of long employment with councils. We are attempting to work out a system whereby a council that has paid out money is protected, at the same time ensuring that we do not end up with something of a bureaucratic nightmare with money being passed from one council to another. We are consulting with metropolitan town clerks in particular on that issue.

[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2 p.m.]

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair has been advised that Mr Mathwin will replace Mr Lewis during the afternoon session.

Mr PLUNKETT: In relation to the line for Local Government Department administration, what staff does the Department have for advisory work, do these people work with outside blue collar workers, and do they require training in changes that are made to the Local Government Act?

Dr McPhail: The Local Government Department has six officers who are directly involved in providing advisory services to local government. However, the honourable member has asked a question about the training of blue collar workers in the Department. In the Department we have three additional staff members who are not employees of the South Australian Government but are employees of an organisation known as the Local Government Industry Training Committee, and that committee is set up under the auspices of the National Training Council which Ministerially is related to the Federal Minister for Employment. The Industry Training Committee has the basic task of providing in-service courses for council employees, both white collar and blue collar.

One of the areas in which that committee has been particularly successful is its work with blue collar workers in providing opportunities for grader drivers, outside supervisors, and the like, to gain further experience in their activities. In relation to changes to local government legislation and other legislation, the Industry Training Committee has over the past few years run a successful series of seminars for new councillors so that incoming councillors can get an opportunity to understand some aspects of local government operations. In the Department we have a particular group of people whose task is to provide advice to local government, and six officers are involved in that task. In addition, we have the three staff members related to the Industry Training Committee whose particular responsibility is to

provide courses for all workers within the local government industry.

Mr PLUNKETT: Following the dispute between the proprietor of a small food outlet in the Rundle Mall (Peter Tam) and the Adelaide City Council, is any review under way concerning the Rundle Street Mall Act and, if so, what proposals are likely to be made?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: As members are well aware, I was involved in the dispute between Peter Tam and the Adelaide City Council. As an individual person, I believed that Peter Tam had been dealt with unfairly by the Adelaide City Council, and I undertook to initiate a review of the operations of the Rundle Street Mall Act. An investigation into the provisions of that Act has been undertaken to see whether the Act should be repealed or whether the existing Act should be amended in line with present-day demands. My Department expects that review to be completed during the early part of October 1983.

The CHAIRMAN: I apologise to the Committee for omitting to mention that Mr Groom replaces Mr John Trainer for this afternoon's session.

Mr MATHWIN: I rise on a point of order, Mr Chairman. The same thing happened to me when I arrived here in the nick of time at the opening of this session and was not even allowed to enter the front bench. I was sent off in a state of shock. I was not able to come in here, and I have had to sweat it out until 2 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair simply points out to the member for Glenelg that when he wanted to change places with Mr Lewis this morning the Committee was part way through examining a particular line. All the Chair is saying at this time is that this particular replacement was available but overlooked by the Chair. There is no point of order.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Following the question asked by the member for Peake the Minister stated that he had been personally involved in the Peter Tam dispute to the point of presenting a petition bearing 2 253 signatures to this House. Could the Minister say whether he sought to direct the Rundle Street Mall Committee in relation to any action that it should or should not take in the dispute over Mr Tam's licence? Will the Minister advise whether he has had any other thoughts about the Rundle Street Mall Committee? He has identified within the lines involving local government and housing generous funds to pay the Rundle Mall maintenance costs, which are currently paid by the Local Government Department.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: First, I have no powers to direct the Rundle Street Mall Committee to make any decision. That was one matter that concerned me. Secondly, even though there were so many signatures on the petition I presented to Parliament, Parliament did not sit until after Mr Tam had had his licence revoked. At the moment this Government pays nothing towards the maintenance of the Mall; the previous Government, during its term of office, cut out the grant of \$17 000 a year.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The number of signatures on the petition was 2 256: that will put the record straight. The Minister said that he did not have the authority: did he seek to exercise any authority in telling the Rundle Street Mall Committee how it should respond in this particular dispute? Is he able to state to what degree Mr Tam was fulfilling his responsibilities under the terms of his licence? In the view of many people, including the people charged with the responsibility of maintaining and exercising responsibility for the Mall, a continuing lack of performance by Mr Tam brought about the ultimate revocation of his licence.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It is a matter of opinion whether Mr Tam was carrying out functions which were to the benefit of those people using Rundle Mall, or whether

it involved the attitude of the Rundle Street Mall Committee and the Adelaide City Council. It is rather strange that the Opposition is now bringing up this subject when it was silent when the dispute was going on. I did seek the co-operation of the Adelaide City Council to try to defer a decision on Mr Tam's premises, but the City Council decided to take the matter into its own hands and ignore me as Minister.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Would the Minister be presuming to advise the Opposition that when he opens his mouth the Opposition should follow suit? The clearer indication is that, because the Opposition failed to respond to the Minister's public reaction in respect of issues involving Rundle Mall and was not prepared to chase after a wild goose, the Opposition is to be damned for it.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Which line is the member for Light pursuing?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The line which relates to the Minister's responsibility as the Minister in charge of the Rundle Street Mall Act, the Minister's own acknowledgment that he involved himself in advice to the local governing body responsible for the Act (the Adelaide City Council), and his answer to the Opposition clearly indicating that, because the Minister had reacted to a particular issue, he expected the Opposition to follow suit. I point out that the Opposition will always look at issues and, where they merit involvement, it will respond.

The CHAIRMAN: I indicate to the Committee that, as the member for Light has pointed out, the reason why the Chair allowed the question to the Minister is that he is responsible for the Rundle Street Mall Act. However, whether or not the Minister replies is simply at his own discretion.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Supplementary to that, the Chair would appreciate that, if the Minister did reply imputing wrong motives to members of any Party, they have the right to respond.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I respect the member for Light's comments. I do not expect him, as the shadow spokesman, to respond to all the statements I make, but where they are worth while I would expect some response.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: That then becomes a matter of opinion.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That is right.

Mr FERGUSON: Page 31 of the yellow book, which in turn relates to the salaries line on page 129, refers to the proposed establishment of a staff interchange scheme. How is it proposed that that scheme will work? Will like classifications be exchanged with like classifications, and will there be any cost to the Department?

Dr McPhail: We have at present a very successful staff interchange between the Department and a local council. I say 'at present' because it has been complicated, as the local government officer concerned is now the District Clerk of the newly amalgamated District Council of Wakefield Plains. We exchanged an officer, who was employed by the Grants Commission, with the District Clerk of the then District Council of Owen, who came into the Department to do other work. Then we brought in another officer from another Department in the Public Service temporarily to fill in on the Grants Commission job.

The exchange between the District Council of Owen and the officer of the Department was not an exact match in relation to salary. So, in fact, it cost the Department a small extra sum to bring about the exchange. However, the exchange has been extremely worth while and we hope to maintain a situation where we have at least one exchange officer in the Department all the time, because it has the very clear and opposite benefit: it gets departmental officers out into local government where they can get some experience on the ground.

Mr FERGUSON: What happens in reverse? What happens when an officer who is on a higher classification than the officer transferred in to the Department goes to a local council?

Dr McPhail: We negotiate and pick up the extra costs. There is also one departmental officer on exchange to the Northern Territory equivalent of the Department of Local Government, but that was a swap between two State-like Public Services. That was also a successful arrangement.

Mr FERGUSON: Page 27 of the yellow book refers to the establishment of a Local Government Finance Authority. What is the situation there at the moment?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: A working party consisting of representatives of the South Australian Local Government Association, the Department of Local Government, Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet formalised a proposal for the establishment of a Local Government Finance Authority. The findings of that working party were submitted to Cabinet, and the preparation of a draft Bill was approved. Parliamentary Counsel is presently drafting a Bill for introduction in this session of Parliament. I will ask my Director to elaborate on the details of how that measure will affect local government generally in the coming years.

Dr McPhail: The Local Government Finance Authority is being set up at the request of local government itself. It has been an excellent opportunity for various departments of Government to co-operate with the Local Government Association in this objective. The purpose of the Finance Authority is to make it possible for local councils to invest their surplus cash funds at competitive rates and hopefully get a better return than those occurring with some of the present patterns of investment by local councils. It is also intended to use the muscle of a Finance Authority in order to be able to borrow on long term at fixed interest and at better rates than available at present. The working party involved is now moving towards appointing a Manager/Treasurer for the organisation. As the Minister said, the legislation is presently being drafted. We see it as a positive step forward for local government. The final point is that the participation of any council in the finance authority is voluntary. It is not a question of any council being forced to participate in the new organisation, but it is hoped that financial benefits will be sufficient to make it attractive.

Mr FERGUSON: On the same page, under the heading 'Specific targets', it has been suggested that for next year there will be a review of the system for rate payment. Will the Minister explain how far down the track that review is and what are its likely results?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I answered that question this morning. The second stage of the review of the Local Government Revision Act will deal solely with the sources of funds available to councils—a major component being the raising of rates. Some work has already been started. We are dealing with the L.G.A., which is happy with the way things are going. I am sure that, when the Bill eventually comes before Parliament, it will receive full support from both sides of the House.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I refer to page 19 of the yellow book showing recurrent expenditure. In 1982-83, \$2.964 million was spent. Of that amount for the establishment and operation of libraries, what figure could be determined for establishment and what figure is for operational costs of libraries already established?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I ask the State Librarian to answer.

Mr Miller: I do not have the exact figures, but the amount set aside for the operation of libraries was \$2.589 million. The difference between that and the amount of \$2.964 million would be for the establishment of new libraries.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: For 1983-84, \$499 000 has been set aside for State Archives. Does the Minister believe that that is sufficient, in view of the expected increased activity for the 1986 celebrations?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I agree with the member for Murray that there should be increased activity. The Libraries Board has approached me on the subject, but I ask the Director to give further details.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: With respect, my question was whether the Minister believes that there are enough resources in that area, taking into account the extra activity?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Any Minister would appreciate (as would the member for Murray, a previous Minister) that it would be better to have more funds available for one's department, but one must work within the fiscal programmes for that department. I agree with the honourable member, but I wish to ask the Director to give further details.

Dr McPhail: We are concerned about the capacity of the Archives to cope with expanding demands for 1986, as all individuals interested in writing local history have already begun their task. Apart from the State resource side, we are trying to tackle the whole records area in several ways. We will divide the existing Archives. Private records will become part of the South Australiana Library being established—a special library focusing on South Australian material and featuring both published and private records.

The public or Government records will be separated. It is hoped to locate that part of the activity at Netley and co-locate it with the Commonwealth Archives so that we have the few experts available in professional archives working in the same general region, even though their respective responsibilities will be quite distinct. There has been an increase of about two in staff in the Archives over the past few years.

We have the major task of trying to distribute available resources amongst all competing demands within the State Library system. We are trying to make the area more viable and more suitable through organisational changes and resource activities. We have been successful in obtaining significant funds from the job creation programme, which will be going into the Archives area to overcome problems of backlog and storage. Extra resources will be going in from the job creation scheme.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Will the Minister or the Director indicate how much money will be going in from that source?

Dr McPhail: I cannot recall exactly, but we can supply that information.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: The year 1984 is the centenary of the State Library: what special arrangements are being made to celebrate that occasion? I am aware of some activities being arranged, but wish to know the full programme for 1984 and also whether those arrangements previously announced are on stream.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: In 1984 we intend to complete the South Australian Library. I am sure that the public of South Australia will support that project. I ask the Director to comment.

Dr McPhail: We describe it as the South Australiana Library but, in fact, the estate of the family involved along with the Libraries Board have agreed that the new library will be called the Mortlock Library to commemorate the substantial benefaction that the library has received from the Mortlock family. The Mortlock Library is the principal objective of the State Library for the celebrations next year. A history of the State Library is being prepared, and it is hoped that December 1984 will see major functions involving the launching of the history, the opening of the Mortlock Library within the existing State Library, as well as suitable

celebrations to recognise the fact that it all started off as a combined art gallery and museum.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I am aware of recent problems that have been experienced by local government generally in regard to matters pertaining to backyard burning and clean air. With the suggestion being made by the Government that it is about to introduce new legislation in that regard, can the Minister say how much consultation there has been between the Department of Environment and Planning and the Local Government Department on this legislation?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: This matter concerns all members of Parliament, because many constituents ring or write about the problems of backyard burning. There has been full consultation with my Department and the Department of Environment and Planning. However, perhaps the Director can comment further.

Dr McPhail: The Minister's summary has completed the situation. The Department of Environment and Planning approached us with a series of proposals in relation to principles of clean air regulations, the sort of regulations that would be applied, and the role of local government in regulating clean air provisions. The matter has gone through Cabinet, and I believe that the Minister for Environment and Planning will make an announcement in due course. Referring to the previous question, so far we have obtained \$72 000 from job creation programmes for archives, and we still have several others before the Job Creation Committee.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister would be aware that on 21 June 1983 there was a day-time and subsequently a night seminar in relation to the waste management report, that was attended by many people from the community. Addresses were given by several key-note speakers, especially Dr Kirov, and questions were asked about possible changes in direction and legislation to ensure that the waste management plan was able to achieve what was originally intended. For example, I refer to one person's question: should we be reducing production of waste, using the example of the marketing of a shirt where pins, plastic, and cardboard were costs associated with the presentation of the shirt but they were all items that subsequently had to be disposed of.

It was indicated that the real purpose of a waste management programme was to identify the waste at its source and perhaps redirect it to the attention of persons who could make use of it. Dr Kirov said that wastes are raw materials: that is, a resource in the wrong place. He also introduced to the seminar the laws of resource recovery: 'ye shall own thy waste; ye shall not take unwanted things and make more unwanted things; ye cannot sell garbage: there is no gold in garbage; ye shall have different approaches for different markets; ye shall always have a residue; waste is always cleaner when from a manufacturing source.' That last section identifies the waste at its manufactured source. The suggestion was made that a register be created in order to put the manufacturer in touch with someone who could make use of that waste material.

It is along the lines of that information coming from the community and persons directly associated with waste management that I ask the Minister and/or his officers to indicate what changed emphasis there is, if any, in their approach to this matter. I draw to his attention that at that seminar it was indicated that it was hoped that necessary changes would be identified by October or November. Are we still on schedule for alterations associated with that time scale?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I am pleased that the member for Light attended that seminar, which I addressed. It was held on 21 June and 140 people attended, including two members of Parliament. Representation came from the private sector, trade unions, councils, Government departments,

and conservation groups. Today, the Waste Management Commission has received 40 written submissions on that seminar. Working parties have been established to determine key issues and to prepare a follow-up consultative programme. The Commission met on 28 July and 25 August to consider the working party's report. The Commission resolved to meet with the Waste Disposal Association, the Adelaide Rubbish Drum and Bag Association, the Metropolitan Regional Organisation, conservation groups, unions, and other organisations, and eleven meetings were arranged. Further meetings will be arranged as necessary (and this is in line with perhaps what the member for Light is saying), and what took place at that seminar is being acted upon now.

The Commission resolved to prepare a paper summarising the key issues raised in the written submissions and the Commission's response to them. The first consultation meeting was held on 7 September with the Western Region Waste Management Authority. A meeting was held with the Local Government Association on 20 September, with the Waste Disposal Association on 20 September, and with the East Torrens Municipal Destruction Trust on 27 September. At each of these meetings, considerations of issues raised in the organisations' written submissions and from the seminar were discussed. The first round of consultations is to be completed in October. Following this, preparation of the following 10-year waste management plan for Adelaide will be prepared. I now ask the Director of Waste Management to comment.

Mr Maddocks: I noted a couple of comments that the honourable member made in addition to the comments made by the Minister. I think that he referred to amendments that may be necessary to strengthen the powers of the Commission. With the assistance of officers from the Crown Solicitor's office we have made a report to the Minister that is now being considered with regard to amendments necessary to achieve the objectives of the Act.

With regard to the reduction of the production of waste, the Commission, with its limited resources, has concentrated on the disposal end of the waste stream. However, the Commission considers that one of its functions is to encourage, and wherever possible assist in, the reduction of waste. At this stage the Commission has not been active in that aspect of waste management. In regard to waste exchange (particularly concerning waste produced by manufacturers), the Commission recently appointed a chemical engineer who is now actively surveying the industry.

He will make contact with industry soon to establish details of the types of waste being produced, its quantities, who is carrying those wastes, and to where they are being taken. During that survey waste that can be used by someone else as a resource will be noted. Our officer will attempt to put producers into contact with users of useful waste, and so achieve an informal waste exchange. It is believed that the quantity of waste being disposed of at Bolivar, or at the two privately owned liquid disposal waste sites, can be reduced. Work in this regard is actively under way.

I understand that reference was made at the seminar that we are attempting to identify areas requiring change. I was not too sure about what the honourable member was referring to. In regard to the matter of identifying issues, the statement made by the Minister indicates that from the feedback from the seminar and from submissions that have been made, we have already identified matters that are of obvious concern to various sectors of the industry. In response to those matters where the Commission has a relatively simple answer, we have indicated a response and we have indicated where further consultation with the industry may be necessary. The Commission has begun a consultation process,

and will be continuing that through October in conjunction with various sectors of the industry.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The point has been made that there has been some identification of where powers of the board need to be strengthened. I do not want it thought that *carte blanche* approval is given to do that. Is the Minister aware of the difficulties experienced by some applicants seeking consideration, and can he say what is being done to guarantee that in all circumstances applications will be given equal opportunity for consideration in respect of their registration or their ability to undertake a course of waste disposal? I believe that the Minister would be aware of the position in regard to an application by Mr Chernabaeff, of Re-Use-It Pty Ltd. He has had great difficulty with his application in regard to a site at Wingfield. In fact, two court cases have found in his favour.

The time taken to obtain decisions in those court cases has taken him outside the period of time for approval provided by the Enfield Council. Therefore, even though he has now won his two appeals, he must now go back and start again and obtain permission from the Enfield Council. Mr Chernabaeff also made an application for registration of a site at Virginia almost three years ago, but that application has not yet been considered. He has suggested that he has been given the run around.

Consideration should be given to strengthening the Act in regard to deficiencies that have been identified, and it must be perceived that totally fair consideration is given to applicants. It might be thought that I am suggesting in this case the person concerned has not been given a fair opportunity to perform. Certainly, on the surface that would seem to be the case, especially in view of the decisions handed down by Judge Ward on two occasions. On that basis I would like the activities of the Waste Management Commission identified and discussed.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I am well aware of the case of the applicant to which the member for Light referred. His licence was purportedly revoked under the Waste Management Act, but later was reinstated by Judge Ward. I ask Mr Maddocks to give further details. The member for Light referred to there being no gold in garbage, although I can assure him that there is gold in garbage, and that is why there are so many people involved in the industry. In regard to problems experienced by people in waste management and cartage of garbage, I ask Mr Maddocks to provide further details.

Mr Maddocks: The proprietor of Re-Use-It Pty Ltd submitted plans to the Waste Management Commission, which then considered those plans, sought further information, and ultimately issued a licence to the company. However, the company chose to begin operations on the site without providing facilities that were shown on the plans the Commission had approved. It was licensed as a recycling depot, or in terms of the Commission, as a transfer station. However, the proprietor chose to dig a trench into which he began to deposit waste, and this had no relationship to his original proposals.

On that basis the Enfield Council obtained an order restricting his activities, because his operation did not comply with planning approvals and conditions of consent. To this day he has been prevented from operating at that site because of the conditions of the Planning Act. In the judgment of the Commission he continued to operate contrary to the provisions of the South Australian Waste Management Commission Act, and he was served orders and notices under the Act. The Commission eventually took the action of revoking his licence, an action that was later reversed by Judge Ward.

It was not really taken away from him by Judge Ward, so he had his licence current at that time, but his ability to

exercise his rights under that licence had been restrained under the conditions of the Planning Act. As far as the Commission is concerned, when he complies with the plans which he has submitted and which were approved, he would be at liberty to undertake the operation that he is licensed to operate.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: There has been no direct reference to the application by Chernabaeff in respect of Virginia. Perhaps that could be clarified. Referring to the Chernabaeff request for registration at Virginia, I believe members would be aware of public unrest that has been highlighted in the northern metropolitan press about activities at Waterloo Corner. Representations have been made by the Minister of Education and to the Minister at the table, mainly because of the movement of plastic bags and paper and the possible deleterious aspects of favourable enjoyment of the amenity of the area by nearby residents with the deposit of liquid wastes, some being fairly close to the surface aquifers. On occasions one type of liquid waste reacts against another to the point that the local C.F.S. and other such organisations are called in to overcome fires that have self-generated in lagoons accepting these liquid wastes. On the basis of those problems that exist in the area, I would like an overview by the Waste Management Committee of all such activities of the Waterloo Corner and Virginia area.

Mr Maddocks: The case of Messrs Chernabaeff and their Virginia operation has been a matter of long standing. Mr Chernabaeff submitted an application for licence just over two years ago. He was asked for additional information, and there has been some difficulty between Mr Chernabaeff and the Commission in that he has stated that the information we are asking for has been supplied to the Commission. The two officers who would have received and sighted that information have no recollection of seeing it come to the office. We have therefore asked him to supply a copy. It has taken nearly two years for us to receive that copy, and early in September we received the information that he states he had submitted to the Commission. I have seen that information, and certainly I have no recollection of having seen it previously. However, it was placed before the Commission last week. The Commission has considered it and made a decision on the application and the information supplied, and that has been advised to the applicant in a letter signed by me today.

With regard to the Waterloo Corner operations, there are two existing solid waste depots operating at present, one operated jointly by the Corporation of the City of Salisbury and the District of Munno Para councils and the other a private operation operated by Waste Management Services, which took over in May from Active Waste Disposals. The private operation has caused some concern to local residents, and the Commission staff has spent considerable time with operators and residents discussing the problems and attempting to have solutions implemented. As late as Monday of this week and with another Commission officer, I met on site with one of the proprietors of Waste Management Services, Mr G.F. McMahon. We were pleasantly surprised to see that a considerable amount of work had been done over the weekend following the making of an appointment by me on the previous Friday. When I saw the operation, it was of a satisfactory standard, certainly not up to the standard that we would like to see at all the depots operating in Adelaide, but certainly not of considerable concern to the Commission in the condition as we saw it. On that day the amount of litter around the area was very light, perhaps one or two items only; certainly on other occasions I have seen more litter that could have been of concern to residents. However, the operator has undertaken (previously and for the future) to do a regular collection of litter which is almost

impossible to stop and retain on the property, particularly with thermal activity, winds, and so on. All solid waste disposal depots would suffer from some litter escaping from them.

A reducing quantity of liquid is being disposed of at the liquids disposals site operated by Bosisto Consolidated Industries. The Commission is undertaking tests of liquids already dumped there. The operator has told the Commission officers that he is taking only grease trap and septic tank type wastes into that site. He was previously licensed and approved by other authorities to accept acid solutions as well. We have not yet proved what he is taking, and this will be tidied up through the procedures survey, the transporters survey and the final disposal of what are termed 'prescribed wastes'.

The Waterloo Corner area has attracted two other companies to make submissions to the Munno Para council for commercial solid waste disposal in the area, and this certainly has attracted considerable objection from local residents. The proposals have been referred by the Munno Para council to the Minister for Environment and Planning, and he has ruled that a full e.i.s. is to be prepared by the proponents. This will be submitted to the public objection and comment process.

So, at this stage the only licensed operations are those of the council, the private enterprise solid waste and the liquid operation. The Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Department of Mines and Energy, Amdel, and the Waste Commission will be meeting shortly to determine a joint approach to the testing of water in that area and for monitoring water quality close to the waste disposal depots. This work will be undertaken during this year.

Ms LENEHAN: Referring to page 29 under 'Specific targets objectives' for 1983-84, there is a statement:

Review of percentage funds allocated to community information services.

That is one of the objectives. Is that review taking place? If it is not, when will it take place, and when is it proposed that the results of that review will be ready?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Cabinet has already approved the establishment of the Information Service Advisory Committee, which was recommended in the report of the working party on information services in May 1980 and which, I might add, was set up by the previous Government. Its terms of reference were to provide advice to the Minister of Local Government on the co-ordination of provision of information services and the development of a State-wide information network; to provide policy guidelines for the provision of funding and support for community information services, and appropriate State level support services for community information provision and development; and to liaise with all levels of government and the voluntary sector with regard to information provision.

They were the guidelines that came out of that working party's report which has been adopted by this Government. As the result of the submission to Cabinet, we now have a membership of that committee which consists of the Association of Advisory Centres of South Australia, Community Information Support Services of South Australia, Citizens Advice Bureau, Local Government Association, Department of Local Government, State Information Centre, Department for Community Welfare, Health Commission, Ethnic Affairs Commission, Women's Information Switchboard, and Department of Social Security, which will have only observer status. I will be receiving nominations from those organisations so that they can form a committee, of which I will nominate the Chairman.

Ms LENEHAN: I take it that one of the chief concerns of the Information Advisory Service Committee will be to review the percentage of funds allocated to community

information services. Referring to the line on page 29 of the yellow book another specific target for 1983-84 is as follows:

Achieve equitable funding with local councils for recurring grants.

It seems that we have a situation, which is not desirable from a community or employment point of view, of staffing information centres where, from year to year, there is considerable concern as to whether these centres will continue because of the cost-sharing arrangements between councils and the State Government.

The Noarlunga Community Information Centre not only provides an invaluable service to the community, but I would go so far as to say that it is the heart of our whole southern community. I am very concerned because each year there seems to be this unrest and insecurity that the staff of the information centre experience. What proposals are afoot to achieve this equitable funding with local councils? Does the word 'equitable' imply equal funding, or does it imply, as I take it to mean, a just contribution which is mutually agreed to by councils? Also, will there be a standard formula established, or will it be negotiated between individual councils, depending on the level of service provided from the information centre?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I appreciate the member's concern. When we eventually get on to the line, 'Local Government, Miscellaneous', I can give more information on the number of services that we have set up, but we are trying to achieve a just contribution from councils. Unfortunately, despite the exhortations from the Local Government Association executive, some councils will not contribute to information services. We are trying to get those councils to provide some income to information services, because the Government cannot carry the cost all the time. We are working on it, and I can assure the honourable member that we will continue to do so.

Dr McPhail: One of the functions of this advisory committee that is being set up is to try and overcome the annual uncertainty which information services have to endure when it comes to getting grants. We acknowledge that that uncertainty has existed, and one of the purposes of this committee is to come up with a more rational base for the on-going provision of funds. One of the problems is that the Minister pointed out: we only have a certain amount of resources available. There are many claims from either council or community organisations for the establishment of information services, and it is a matter of concern to us that some local authorities have decided not to provide any significant contribution to their information services. That means, of course, that the State is picking up the majority of the cost. Obviously, it is to everyone's advantage if those authorities can be persuaded to make some contribution on some agreed basis to their information services.

That is to be weighed against the fact that those information services provide an absolutely vital service. It is somewhat ironic that the Walkerville council puts in about \$4 to every \$1 of Government money towards the provision of the information service and yet, looking across to another area where one could say the need for an information service is paramount, the local council is reluctant to put in anything at all. We have to weigh up against the need for the information services to be provided the need to get some local funding into it, so that we may share the available money around all the other claimants for information centres. We now have 20 information centres. It has proved to be an enormously successful community service and one of the reasons for establishing an advisory committee is to try and expand the information services activity as widely as we can within available resources. I hope that that is of some reassurance. One of the objectives is to overcome this

annual concern. I might add, as a rider, that the Noarlunga Community Information Centre is very good at establishing its claims with us.

Ms LENEHAN: Yes, but that takes up much time on the part of the co-ordinator. My next question is also a suggestion. I am hoping that the Information Services Advisory Committee will look at the way in which the salary of the co-ordinator could be funded. If such salary was able to be paid by the Government as its contribution, and if other recurrent funding necessary to operate the information centre was a contribution by the council, at least that would take away the annual uncertainty which the co-ordinators of these information services suffer. It seems to be one of the few positions that continually come up for review every 12 months. I am quite opposed to that. I know a person in my area who is incredibly competent and has a great deal of respect in the local community. It is unfair that she should be put in this position year after year.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That matter will be looked into with some degree of support.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Does the Minister support quarterly payments? In the Labor Party's policy the Minister, when in Opposition, stated that local government should seriously address itself to the quarterly payment of rates. What has he done about that aspect of his policy?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That aspect is again under the second revision Bill. The honourable member may recall that, in the local government magazine, my predecessor, the Democrats and I answered a series of questions and I stated that local government should address itself seriously to the quarterly billing of rates.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: What is the Minister doing about it?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I would assume that local government would then come back to me. At the moment local government has not said anything to me.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: In the paper to which the Minister has referred, he indicated that the increased provision of training and development facilities for people in local government would be a priority for the Labor Party and that it would provide staff and resources within the Department of Local Government for these activities. What staff and resources specifically have been provided for that purpose?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The member for Murray will recall what I earlier said about Liberal Party members carrying Labor Party policy in their briefcases.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Maybe it is just as well we do.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Ferguson): Order! Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: We still support that concept. Currently the Industry Training Committee is looking at that concept. The western region still supports it. If something comes from that I hope that the Opposition will support it.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: What has the Government done about the promise made by this Government, when in Opposition, about upgrading the Central Board of Health? The paper states:

Labor will offer a comprehensive new deal in public and community health. We will upgrade the role of the Central Board of Health.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: As the member for Murray knows, for some time debate has taken place on the role of local boards in public and community health. To a large extent, the issue to be resolved is the relationship between local boards and a new body to replace the Central Board of Health. The proposed new authority will more closely integrate public health functions within the structure of the Health Commission. The catalyst in discussions at this point

is the need for uniform food legislation to be introduced (and that will be through shortly). As the State Government's special agency on local government affairs, the Department has and will continue to be involved in discussions between the Health Commission and local government through the Local Government Association.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: That can hardly be referred to as an upgrading at this stage.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: This Government is concerned about upgrading the role of the Central Board of Health. One of the first functions of the new Minister of Health (Hon. John Cornwall) was to give the Central Board of Health some teeth and some uniformity with local government. Discussions are taking place between my Department, local government and the Health Commission on this matter. The end result will be an upgrading.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: The paper also stated that the Labor Party's policy for the next election was still in the course of preparation when that paper went to print. Where is the ultimate policy?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The document from which the member for Murray is quoting appeared some six months before the election. A further document deals with the policies of this Party which are now being administered. I suggest that the member for Murray quote from the current document instead of that one.

Mr MATHWIN: I refer to page 27 of the yellow book, which states that 'Local government operates under complex legislation'. No-one would doubt that. In fact, local government has been up for reorganisation for as many years as I care to remember. We have been given very thick books over the years, either as members of Parliament or as members of local government, stating what was to happen. It further states:

The Minister and the Department receive, develop and process requests from Government, councils and the community for interpretation of the Local Government Act and other Acts committed to the Minister. To meet this overall demand, it is necessary to employ qualified staff...

It goes on to state three main areas in that respect. What are the attitudes of the Department, its officers and the Minister in regard to giving advice and assistance to the six councils concerned in the southern area? About 12 mayors in metropolitan and outer metropolitan councils approached the Government. About six mayors from the southern area came to meet the Premier and the Minister of Transport in regard to the axing of the north-south freeway—

Ms LENEHAN: Which line is that?

Mr MATHWIN: I refer to the line 'Local Government administration', which relates to all matters to which I referred in the yellow book on page 27 and to the expenditure of \$1.351 million. It may not have anything to do with the member for Henley Beach, but he has not been here long enough to know.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Glenelg has certainly been here long enough to know that the Chair will decide.

Mr MATHWIN: Thank you for your protection, Mr Chairman. I also refer to the line 'Local Government—Administration, \$712 000'. Has the Minister taken up the defence of the councils, including mayors under his jurisdiction (they long for his advice and assistance) who may have appealed to him? This matter has been referred to in the local paper under the heading 'Mayors join forces over freeway axing', and I am sure that the Minister is aware of it because it has been stated publicly. I am certain that he would have had some contact with his mayors about this matter.

Have the Minister and his officers given any advice or assistance to council officers and mayors particularly in

relation to how they can help or put their case to the Government? I understand the Minister's situation in relation to Cabinet confidentiality, but knowing the Minister personally I would be more than surprised if he had not done something to try to solve the problem, concerning the southern areas particularly, in relation to the effect of the axing of that freeway. I think that even the member for Mawson would bow to that.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will allow the question simply because, in a very broad way, the member for Glenelg has connected it with the local government vote.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I should not smile, because the point that the member for Glenelg raises is quite pertinent indeed. However, it is the first time that I have ever heard that a Minister of Local Government has mayors working for him. In metropolitan Adelaide and outside, mayors would be most indignant if they felt they were working for me rather than for their councils. However, that is perhaps a slip of the tongue by the honourable member. He said quite correctly that local government operates under complex legislation. I have very good officers in my Department. I am always pleased to tell people in other departments that I have one of the best teams working not only for me but for any department. I think that that is fairly relevant by the answers that we have been able to give today to this Committee. They are there to assist any council which has a problem.

In relation to the north-south transport corridor, to my knowledge (and perhaps the Director can enlarge upon this later), I received one letter from the southern region disagreeing with the proposal. However, that was disagreeing with a decision made by the Government of the day. I made my points at the Cabinet meeting, and I think that the member for Glenelg will realise that those points have to be confidential: it is at Cabinet level. However, I made those points on behalf of the mayors concerned. Cabinet ruled that we would proceed with the abolition of the north-south corridor.

I can assure the member for Glenelg that my officers and I, as Minister, will still continue to work and give advice to people in local government, not only mayors but also individual councillors. I do not know whether the member for Light has ever used this system (perhaps I should not advise him of it), but when I was in Opposition I could telephone the Department of Local Government and receive factual advice on what the Government of the day was doing, and that is why this Department works so well. They would not give details of policy decisions but factual advice about what the Government of the day was doing. I advise the member for Light to pick up that point. The officers are there to give advice to individual councils, councillors and mayors, etc.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Every time I put my head up you jump in.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair is becoming a little confused. I understood that the question originated from the member for Glenelg, not the member for Light.

Mr MATHWIN: The policy which was released some time ago in the local press (and I assume that that was quite correct) stated in part that the Minister would be considering making fixed terms of three years for all members of councils. The Minister would be well aware, having been a member of a council as I have, that at present the mayor is there for one year, councillors for two years and aldermen for three years. It has been pointed out to me by members of three councils with which I am connected that this could cause a problem for them, particularly in the area of mayoralty, where a mayor would find it difficult to commit himself for three years. People will find it difficult to settle

for a three-year term: it is a long time and anything can happen in that period. Has the Minister taken all these matters into consideration in bringing in a completely new council? In some cases it could be replacing more than two-thirds of the members and, if the mayor is to be replaced as well, it would cause considerable problems for the councils concerned.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes, those matters have been taken into consideration.

Mr MATHWIN: I do not want some members jumping up and down and saying that the matter to which I will now refer concerns the transport area, because that would be incorrect. Will the Minister support a move to bring about a lowering of the speed limit applicable to users of the Esplanade roadways? This matter has been brought to the attention of former Ministers of Government; in fact it was brought to the attention of Mr Virgo—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair cannot allow that question. It is certainly straying far away from the lines before the Committee at present. Does the member for Glenelg have another question?

Mr MATHWIN: This matter does pertain to the administration of council areas. My help on this matter has been sought by members of councils. If support were given by the Minister of Local Government the situation would indeed be enhanced.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair cannot allow the question. The honourable member was straying from the lines previously, but he is now straying much further. I suggest that the honourable member should have taken up the matter with the Minister of Transport.

Mr RODDA: I refer to the local government administration lines for which a total sum of \$1.351 million is allocated. Concern has been expressed about a contract awarded to the Kadina District Council. The matter was reported in the *News* of 4 September (page 21), wherein Mr Chamberlain expressed some concern about the precedent set by awarding such a contract to a council. The work involves upgrading 6.3 kilometres of roadway between Moonta and Wallaroo. This has been described as being a severe blow to private contractors, and the article expressed quite forceful concern. The matter was also referred to in the *Northern Argus* of 21 September. What is the Government's policy on awarding tenders to local government?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The Government has a set policy on the public tendering system and private contractors. I thought the honourable member would be well aware of that. I ask Dr McPhail to provide further details.

Dr McPhail: The issue of local councils carrying out what are described as private works has always had controversy associated with it. Under the Local Government Act a local council is permitted to carry out private works, that is, work on non-council roads for a payment or work for any other Crown authority. The contract that has been made available to the Kadina council is within the provisions of the Local Government Act. We have always stated as a matter of policy that if councils are to tender for any private works as against other tenderers, their tenders should at least cover all costs, including overheads, so that it is seen to be a fair tender. The Department had a look at the tender referred to by the honourable member. We sought information from the Kadina District Council, and from the evidence that we received we believed that the council had put in a complete figure and, of course, the Highways Department had every right to accept the tender.

Mr RODDA: Private contractors are out in the cold hard world paying full tote odds, and some measure of benefit must be given to local government authorities in terms of buying and selling, etc. What is the Minister's view on this matter? I am sure that in this regard the Minister must

come under some very heavy questioning by captains of industry.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Despite what the honourable member says, this matter has not provoked the most vocal concerns of my Ministries. I can assure the honourable member that I will have prepared for him a full report, and perhaps I could further discuss this matter with him.

Mr RODDA: Will the situation regarding this tender be a regular thing as opposed to a one-off incident? The Minister's comments would indicate that we might see more of this occurring, which will go against contractors dependent on this type of work for their living. Will we see more of it?

Dr McPhail: The council's action was completely within the provisions of the Local Government Act. In fact, this relates to a matter of policy on the part of the Highways Department as to whether it seeks and accepts tenders from local government as well as from private contractors. It would seem that in this case the Highways Department has been prepared to accept tenders from other authorities. Certainly, it is quite uncommon. In fact, I believe that it will probably remain uncommon, because most local authorities do not have the type of equipment and resources to do the very large road contract jobs, as opposed to this job which is a relatively small one.

Mr RODDA: In the information that the Minister will provide to me, will details of comparative tender prices be given regarding the job to which I have referred?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Light indicated that, on the Opposition's behalf, he might be able to give us some idea of the programme for the rest of the day.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: On the present rate of progress, the Committee should be in a position to commence consideration of the housing lines between 5 and 5.30 p.m.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I appreciate that the member for Light has in effect pushed it back one hour but we do need to go through the miscellaneous lines. If we are going to, in effect, hold up the total vote to include Office of Housing, that will mean that my staff who have been here since 11 o'clock will have to stay here for a longer time.

The CHAIRMAN: No, that is not the position at all. As the Chair understands it, through its good graces the Opposition has really taken the housing line out of the first vote, which is 'Minister of Housing and Minister of Local Government'. As a result, and because of the Minister's need to have different officers in attendance, we are actually dealing with 'Minister of Housing and Minister of Local Government', excluding housing until such time as the Opposition indicates that that will be the position. The member for Light has made an intimation, and I take it that between 5 and 5.30 p.m. we will be beginning not a new line but the housing section of the vote with which we are now dealing.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: With all due respect, can the member for Light give some indication of when we will be dealing with 'Local Government, Miscellaneous' and capital items?

The CHAIRMAN: That will be much later.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Before we adjourn at 10 o'clock.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: With all due respect, my officers have been here since 11 o'clock: it does not matter about politicians or Ministers—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair cannot accept that. The Chair is in the hands of the Committee. What I have tried to explain is that the housing line is not being dealt with under 'Miscellaneous'. We have to deal first with 'Minister of Housing and Minister of Local Government', excluding the housing line for the benefit of the officers who will have to be available at the discretion of the Oppo-

sition. The member for Light is simply advising the Committee that the Opposition will be ready to question the Minister of Housing between 5 and 5.30 p.m.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Can I suggest that as a compromise (and I know I am in the hands of the Committee, as is the member for Light) we deal with the miscellaneous line before the dinner adjournment and deal with the housing line after the dinner adjournment?

The CHAIRMAN: I thought the Chair had explained the position. The Committee split the lines. We cannot get half-way through a line, go on to another line and then go back to the first line. It is an unfortunate situation, and the only reason we reached the conclusion we reached is that housing will be dealt with by different officers of the Minister. That is the position, and it cannot be altered.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I now have the information that the member for Murray was seeking on job creation programmes in State libraries. The scheme will allow the employment of 61 persons at a total cost of \$497 610. The South Australia Library, including the Archives, will employ 43 persons at a cost of \$359 212; the public libraries project will employ 14 persons at a cost of \$116 090; and the special collators project will employ four persons at a cost of \$22 308. I am pleased to say that all the staff employed will be female.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: If the Minister is so paranoid that contact or supposed contact with any part of his realm causes him considerable upset, I refer him to a letter he sent to me when he suspected that I was going to the Housing Trust for a luncheon for the purposes of a briefing (a luncheon which I was not even attending and for which no arrangements had been made). I know that if I need a briefing or information from any of the Minister's officers I can obtain permission through his Secretary.

What advice and information is given to local government bodies considering amalgamation? Could the Minister outline to the Committee (apart from the two amalgamation proposals currently being considered by another place which permit no right of response or action in this place at this time) the programme in relation to additional amalgamations, will he or the Director advise the number of councils which have been counselled in respect of amalgamation? Also, can the Minister indicate to the Committee what provision may be made in the future to guarantee that in any amalgamation arrangement the opportunity for the local governing bodies to perform adequately financially will be taken into positive consideration?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No firm proposals are before me as Minister at this stage for any further amalgamations, apart from those involving the Select Committees which are presently in progress. Is the member for Light referring to the problems resulting from the cost of the amalgamation of Mount Barker and Strathalbyn?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Standing Orders do not permit that matter to be addressed, because it is the subject of a motion currently before the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: That is the position.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am interested in future amalgamations and in a considered and guaranteed arrangement.

The CHAIRMAN: To clarify the position for the Minister, I understand the question is dealing with the broad concept of amalgamation of certain councils.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Apart from any future amalgamations, where I as the Minister through the Local Government Finance Fund could provide money to councils, as occurred in the Wakefield Plains situation (involving \$5 000), I think that the honourable member is asking whether the Grants Commission will take into account any further funding or a greater amount of funding to those councils amalgamating. I have no input into the Grants

Commission allocation which has taken place over the past 12 months.

Dr McPhail: In relation to councils that might be considering amalgamation, the Department has been involved on and off in discussions with Gladstone, Red Hill, Crystal Brook and Georgetown. We have not had any discussion with Blyth but we know that Red Hill has had discussions with Blyth. That group of councils has been considering the question of amalgamation not in its entirety but how they might rearrange themselves in respect of cutting a couple of councils out of that entire area.

However, I hasten to add that Georgetown has been involved, and there has been no pressure placed upon it to go any further. In other words, the position placed before those councils is that if they want to go any further, they will have to bring a definite proposal before the Minister before any further action will be contemplated. As all members of Parliament are aware, there have been some discussions between Eudunda and Robertstown that led to considerable misunderstanding between those councils. Again, they have been told clearly that if they wish to pursue it any further, they have to talk it through, and after they have talked it through, if they want to go any further, they can place it before the Minister. So, in terms of the programme, there is no such programme. It is utterly reliant upon councils coming forward with propositions if they are interested.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The Opposition and the Government have fairly common policies on amalgamations, and that is that we will only proceed if both councils, or a majority of councils involved in the amalgamation, agree to the concept. I pay a tribute to my predecessor, the Hon. Murray Hill, who set up the Select Committee procedures to enable Parliament to decide whether councils should amalgamate. We will be dealing with that concept when we come to the Local Government Advisory Committee with the reduction in that line.

The system that my predecessor started and I have continued is the best possible way. It gives all members of Parliament a chance to consider all aspects of amalgamations and I think that time will tell that as a result of the Select Committee procedures those councils that do amalgamate will have successful amalgamations and I think that is a tribute to my predecessor.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I respond in relation to the proximity of the two policies, with an explanation of the noticeable exceptions that divide the Opposition and the Government: that is, to bring in councils that have not expressed a desire, to wit, Port Wakefield. I am not unduly perturbed by the final decision of the Select Committee in respect to Port Wakefield, but it leads me to the next question. With hindsight, is the Minister able to identify areas of support, or areas of consideration, that have to be given to any future amalgamation process that does not cause much concern to people within the amalgamation process, more especially the loss of jobs to people who are forced into an amalgamation process?

I speak specifically of the position of the former Clerk of the Port Wakefield council who is no longer employed, and who would, from public utterances and from comment available, suggest that he had not been gainfully employed since the amalgamation. If that is a personality problem it is unfortunate, but there is sufficient problem there and also in relation to Meadows or the new City of Happy Valley where some people, who were members of the then Meadows now Happy Valley Council, are being propositioned to retire early because they are being unloaded by the new council.

I believe, expressing a point of view in relation to amalgamation, that is an important part of the total local gov-

ernment advisory process, that due regard must be given to the results that are able to be identified by amalgamations so that staff are not placed in jeopardy by any direction that this House or Parliament provides.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I fully endorse the sentiments of the member for Light, because on the Select Committees that we have had the privilege of sitting, we have always made the point that there should be no loss of jobs. I think it was a resolution of the member for Light, if I recall, by which we insisted that the Australian Workers Union and the Municipal Officers Association were asked to provide evidence to ensure that no-one lost jobs. We all know that once the Select Committee's recommendations have been approved by this Parliament and the second proclamation is then declared to fix the assets and provide for job transfers, it would not be the intention of this Government or any Government to oversee an amalgamation that could result in job losses.

If I, as Minister, were to bring a recommendation into this Parliament to have a Select Committee study the amalgamation of councils, I would ensure (and I am sure that the Opposition would agree with me) that as a result of an amalgamation there should be no job losses. The point that the member has taken up of the former Clerk of the old council of Port Wakefield, and possible problems with the new city of Happy Valley, will be taken into consideration, and I will follow them through.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Thank you. I accept the assurances given by the Minister, and I point out—it is not in relation to this—that the committee giving guarantees is one thing, and then ensuring that they are carried through is another, and it is one matter we must be especially sensitive to. It is one that regrettably, only fairly recently in our history, needed to be addressed before any other action was taken to amalgamate. Is it the Minister's intention to bring forward any further Select Committees in the House of Assembly in regard to amalgamation? If he were to use his previous experience, would the Select Committees so created be, by special dispensation of Standing Orders, even-numbered Select Committees, so that decisions could be made on facts presented to the committees and not on a weighted decision? I genuinely believe that the Government has created problems by using numbers in a Select Committee as opposed to arriving at a result based on facts and information provided by evidence. That may be an abrasive statement, but it needs to be made on this issue.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I will be honest. Any Government that sets up Select Committees when it has the numbers faces the criticism that the decisions that the committee makes will be determined by the numbers the Government has. I came under severe criticism by the honourable member and his colleagues in another place when I put the two Select Committees (one on Gawler and the other on Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo) in the Upper House. The honourable member will know that in the Upper House there are equal numbers, and the committee will decide what is the best for the community without the Government having a majority of members on it.

If, as a result of those two Select Committee findings, I have the next group of Select Committees in the House of Assembly, I will consider seriously the points raised by the honourable member on what is good for local government without the possible stigma of having a majority of Government members. I will then bring down a reply.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister is to be commended on accepting that view and giving it the consideration it deserves.

Mr RODDA: I refer to vermin control. Is the Minister happy with the control across the State, as many noxious weeds are still prevalent? I will not ask the Minister to take

a stand on salvation jane. However, the rabbit problem also occurs in pockets and some people supply the rest of the neighbourhood with rabbits in some areas. The matter is much a part of local government. Will the Minister comment on how he sees the success or otherwise of the Vertebrate Pests Control Authority?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The matter is not really under my control, but is under the control of the Minister of Agriculture. However, there have been discussions between officers of my Department and officers of the Department of Agriculture on this problem. Hopefully, we will be able to come to some conclusion that will benefit the community. The member for Glenelg referred to salvation jane and how pretty it looks. Many of us who live in the city are not aware of the problem of salvation jane, as are people living in the inner rural areas and the highlands.

Mr RODDA: Will the Minister advise the Committee whether he is concerned about any specific areas? I refer to the problem in the north, particularly with rabbits infected with myxomatosis. However, the biggest pest is the two-legged one. Everybody needs to co-operate in order to get the rabbit problem in hand.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I will ask the Director to comment.

Dr McPhail: The Department of Local Government does not get involved in the technical issues of pest plants or vertebrate pests. It is under the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture. Through two of its commissions, it operates the Vertebrate Pests Control Authority and the Pest Plants Commission. Obviously, as we travel around the country we become aware of some of the debates and some of the concerns of councillors who are also farmers. As soon as one mentions salvation jane, one realises the differences of opinion expressed in the South-East and the north as to the value of that plant.

I am surprised that farmers in the South-East do not call it Paterson's curse—its other common name. In South Australia we have a split between calling it Paterson's curse and salvation jane. The Department's main concern and inter-reaction with the Department of Agriculture has really been in the formation and structure of the Boards, as well as the planned amalgamation of pest plant and vertebrate pest activity. We are not able to provide much comment.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I refer to noise control legislation, which is a matter on which local government has expressed concern over a period. When I was Minister the position adopted by the Local Government Association was that any local government employee working as a noise control inspector would be working in an agency role for the Department of Environment and Planning and that, as such, that Department should provide funds to local government for the time spent by that person with that responsibility.

What is the Minister's attitude in that regard? Again, it gets down to the amount of consultation taking place between his department and the Department of Environment and Planning. I am aware in my councils (and I was aware as Minister) of the significant increase in complaints being received about noise. There always seems to be a bit of ball-throwing between the Department of Environment and Planning, local government authorities, and the police.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I may make history today as being the only Minister who lost his voice and also provided instant answers to all questions from members of the Opposition. I could be accused of providing the questions for the members of the Opposition.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: The Minister may have done that for Government members but not for Opposition members.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: There have been intense discussions between the Department of Environment and Planning, the Local Government Association, and officers of my Department on the problems of noise control. Because of complaints, not only from individuals but also from members of Parliament, we are concerned about swimming-pool pumps.

Some people operate their swimming-pool pumps through the night thus causing a real problem. I am pleased to report that the initial investigation when completed indicated that new pumps being produced were now much less noisier than those produced earlier, as a result of consultation with manufacturers. They were satisfactory in terms of the provisions of the Noise Control Act.

The real problem was in relation to existing pumps that lasted for five to 10 years. Those pumps were installed some years ago with useful life still retained. Recent complaints brought to the Department's attention indicated that some new pumps were not as effective as first thought and, therefore, the total investigation has been reopened to consider new pumps and what action should be taken in regard to pumps already installed that do not comply with the noise control provisions.

In relation to new investigations, we are now dealing with the manufacturers and the Department of Environment and Planning. That is one aspect of noise control in which the Department is getting itself involved. In relation to the question, there are discussions between the Local Government Association, the Department of Environment and Planning, and my Department.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Page 21 refers to a public record store (and we had some discussion about that this morning). Who will accept responsibility, and what section will that come under?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It remains in the Department.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: It does not come under a specific direction: it will be generally within the Department?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes, it remains within the Department.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I ask that question because there has been some confusion about the way it is spelt out on page 21. It seemed as if it were to be a new section under a different administration.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Before the Director answers, I thought that I made that clear to the member for Henley Beach this morning.

Dr McPhail: The intention is that, when the separation is made, there will be a new branch or division within the Department called the Public Records Division. Therefore, it will be a separate branch within the Department. It has not been decided whether it will stay under the control of the State Librarian who, in effect, is the Deputy Director of the Department or whether it will be related to me directly as head of the Department. It will be a separate administrative arrangement, and be physically separate from the State Library.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: How much emphasis is placed on need? When assistance is provided to communities to establish libraries, how much activity is there in ensuring that there is not a duplication of those resources in a community? I ask this question because with limited resources available (we all understand that being the case), in some areas of which I am aware we had a situation where there was an excellent school library and, at the time of opening the facility, it was indicated that that school library would be available to the community. Later, we found that assistance was being provided (in many cases it is quite justified) to establish another library for the community. It seems that sometimes there may be a duplication, and I hope that

the Department is aware of that. What action is taken to ensure that that does not happen?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I am not aware of any duplication that exists around the State. Within the Library system, as a result of the Crawford Report, the previous Labor Administration set in train a programme of providing library facilities that resulted in the closing down of library institutes and the joint-use system of school libraries. To its credit, the previous Liberal Government carried on that programme, so, in effect, there have been three administrations: two Labor and one Liberal, and the programme has still been going well indeed.

Dr McPhail: It is not a political thing.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That is the point I want to make. It is to the benefit of all South Australians that all Governments have undertaken that programme. However, if there is any duplication, I have not been aware of it. I ask Mr Miller to answer in more detail, and to say whether there is any duplication anywhere.

Mr Miller: The Department is concerned about the duplication of library facilities, and the eight-year development programme that we are undertaking to provide public library services to South Australia tries to avoid any duplication. In country areas specifically, we have established school community libraries that are public libraries in schools (usually in high schools). However, at Two Wells there is one in a primary school. There are 28 school community libraries already existing in South Australia, and we expect that, by the end of the programme in 1986, we will have about 40 joint-use facilities in schools.

In addition to that, we also work closely with TAFE. We have five such facilities existing in conjunction with TAFE in which there is a sharing of resources. TAFE and the Department of Local Government have reached an agreement with the local council to share facilities. Therefore, wherever possible in terms of new libraries we are trying to do that. In relation to the programme for 1983-84, for example, we are opening eight libraries.

In all cases there is some shared facility. At Kadina, Renmark, and Peterborough there are joint facilities proposed with the Department of Technical and Further Education. At Aberfoyle Park, there will be a joint-use library between the high school and the council. In relation to the libraries at Kingston, in the South-East, Port Broughton, Keith, and Riverton, they are all joint-use libraries in the school community area. The whole programme will be joint facilities.

As the Minister mentioned, the other area of concern in relation to duplication of services is in institutes. At present, the policy is that we do not establish a public library unless the institute is prepared to dissolve, because the Government is concerned that otherwise it will be providing a double subsidy: one to the institute and one to the local governing authority. The institutes are required to dissolve before a public library is established. I think that, in almost all cases now, there will be share facilities with the new libraries that are being established.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It was identified earlier in the Estimates Committee (more specifically associated with the Parliamentary Library) that some publishers of books failed to respond, as they are required to do, by lodging a copy of their production with the Parliamentary Library. I take it that the situation is similar to that of the State Library. Is the Minister able to indicate through the State Librarian whether any active programme is contemplated that might bring to the attention of publishing organisations and indeed the public generally the need to respond in a positive way in regard to such publication?

I trace it back to the fact that the State Library and the Parliamentary Library should receive all those documents which are eventually going to play an important part in our

heritage and in our historical review. I would be interested to know whether there is a possibility of an integrated service between the two, or whether there is some active programme which the State Library is undertaking to maximise the obtaining of such materials.

Dr McPhail: The Ministerial Advisory Committee on library services which was referred to this morning, the committee which represents all facets of the library system, has taken up the whole question of the legal depositing of material because, under the Libraries and Institutes Act there is a requirement that all material published in South Australia be deposited in the State Library and the Parliamentary Library. The Ministerial Advisory Committee has just completed putting together some material which will place before the Minister so that we can begin a campaign to remind publishers of their responsibilities. However, most of the problems are not really with the large publishers, most tend to be in relation to pamphlets and broadsheets and the like which have to be deposited in the State Library, and amongst the broadsheets are political documents, so there is an obligation on political Parties and candidates for election to see that their material ends up in due course in the State Library.

There is also some concern over the distribution of Government publications, because although they are being deposited in the State Library and the Parliamentary Library they are not automatically being deposited in the other institutional libraries. The whole question of reminding publishers of material that they have an obligation is being addressed. I think we will always have to maintain that promotion simply because there will always be new publishers and new people preparing material who will not have any knowledge of their obligations. It has been worrying the State Library, and I understand it has been worrying the Parliamentary Library that this material is not being deposited.

Mr Miller: With the support of the South Australia section of the State Library we are running a seminar for public librarians next month to look at this question of collecting this material because, as the Director mentioned, most of the material we are missing out on is the small ephemeral material: pamphlets and small publications produced in local areas for local consumption. We believe that if public librarians are aware of the need to collect this material, in terms of making information available to their local communities, they are conscious of this sort of material being produced. They can arrange to remind the publishers that they have a legal requirement to deposit one copy in the Parliamentary Library and one in the State Library. This would be another way of collecting the material, but only by constant vigilance can we ever attain a complete record.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Information is given on pages 7 and 9 of the yellow book that the total staffing for the Department is to be 354.5, of which, if we take the State Library and the assistance towards the establishment and operation of public libraries, which collectively is 283.5, only 71 staff are available for all the other Ministerial activities. In other words, 71 per cent is within .5 of being 20 per cent of the total and 80 per cent of the total staff is in those two areas of libraries. Has the Minister available (or will he make available), a break-down of the deployment of the people within specific categories in these areas, and when it comes to public and institute libraries will he identify the individual appointments in respect of all the libraries?

I am interested also to know, in relation to the 165 persons deployed into public and institute libraries, whether that is the total employment in those institutions or whether it is only what might be called Public Service or departmental employment and whether there are other employees (I am

thinking of local government in that it often supports libraries). What is the relevant staffing applicable to all institutions and the general relationship?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I will obviously have to make available the full break-down but I advise the honourable member that, in relation to the institutes, it is a Public Service matter on North Terrace and at Norwood. I will arrange for the honourable member, and any other member of the Committee who wishes it, to receive that information.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The total of 165 is employed in the headquarters, either at Norwood or North Terrace?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes.

Dr McPhail: The member will note that on page 7 the subprogramme explanation for that particular programme was the provision of a centralised library service. Our organisation on the public library side includes Norwood, which is the centralised service operation for the local council libraries, but includes the Adult Lending Service, the Children's Lending Service, and the Youth Lending Service, on North Terrace, under the divisional organisation. That was done so that we could work towards the development of common policies in lending services in local government and from the State Library, so a significant proportion of that 165 is in fact staff employed in North Terrace for the provision of the centralised library service.

About 40 would be at Norwood and the remainder are at North Terrace. The centralised service operation for local council library uses about 40 persons (we will provide the exact numbers), and the remainder is the provision of the service on North Terrace which has a high labour content in librarians, ancillary staff, attendants and the like providing the lending service. The staff employed in local council public libraries, those that Mr Miller has spoken about in terms of a development programme, are employed by local authorities, and we have no control or direction over them. That staff belongs to the local authorities but I do not think it would be particularly difficult to get the number of staff employed by local councils in the provision of library services, because they provide us with that information as part of claiming their subsidies.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to this service, and recognising that tapes and the like are now part and parcel of the normal library stock, are any officers directly involved with the provision of a service for the physically handicapped, for the blind for the deaf, or any other specialist category which might be identified by the library and which is particularly serviced?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The broad answer to the question is 'Yes, there are people who are employed in that area'. The State Librarian will provide exact details of how many and where they are.

Mr Miller: These people are employed in two areas. We have a community service library at Norwood which provides an advisory service to councils in the provision of services to the partially blind, the elderly, Aborigines, and members of the multi-cultural community. As part of that service we provide large-print books and hearer books to the blind and to the partially sighted. At the lending service on North Terrace we have a community service section with about five or six staff working in it which provides a direct lending service to people in the city of Adelaide mainly, but it also provides a service to Government institutions throughout the State. The North Terrace service also has a large collection of hearer books and large-print materials. Most of the people who use the service are elderly people who are living in nursing homes as well as people living in their own homes, for whom a house-bound service is provided. We also provide services to some of the special schools in South Australia that have handicapped children who require this sort of service.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Under the line 'Library services for the disadvantaged' (page 130 of the Estimates of Payments) an amount of \$30 000 was voted for 1982-83, and that amount was actually spent. A further \$30 000 is proposed for 1983-84. The expenditure of \$30 000 for the year 1982-83 was to provide special assistance towards the purchase of foreign books, large-print books, and hearer books for the disadvantaged. The Libraries Board supplements expenditure with funds available to the Board. In effect, the amount of \$30 000 is only one small portion of funds provided. Other funds come from the Libraries Board. An amount of \$17 000 was spent on foreign books, \$8 000 on hearer books, \$4 000 on large-print material, and \$1 000 on other types of literature, making a total of \$30 000. The Libraries Board through its own sources of income and the State Government provide this type of literature for disadvantaged people.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Opposition has no further questions about the library area. In regard to local government, the Minister indicated that he had created a special working party to look at various aspects of dog control. He related that more difficulties that the U.F. and G. sees in respect to outback areas. The Minister would be aware of documentation available in Victoria in relation to the Melbourne near metropolitan area. Further, he would be aware of the large number of press statements directed to the matter of local government giving its attention to the problems of mauling of stock, the general attack situation, which applies to schoolyards, and other aspects of dog control in regard to both humans and other animals. Can the Minister outline any new initiatives being pursued in this regard?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I mentioned earlier today that the Dog Control Act is being reviewed as a result of the repealing of the Alsatian Dogs Act. The problems referred to by the member for Light are very relevant, and form one of the key issues of the review committee. It is not simply a matter of policing; it also involves education. Too many people living in the outer urban areas are not able to control their dogs. The committee associated with this matter held its first meeting in July and is due to report to me by 30 November 1983. Not only is the Dog Control Act Review Committee looking at this matter, but the Dog Advisory Committee is also considering it. Recently the Dog Advisory Committee issued a booklet to all councils free of charge. It was prepared from licence fee contributions, and will be available to all dog owners. The booklet aims to inform people of the problems of owning large dogs in outer metropolitan fringe areas. It is produced in Victoria and the advisory committee and the Department expect it to be very successful. If the honourable member wants one of those booklets, I will send him one or he can obtain one from his local council. My advice to all dog owners is that they should take advantage of this offer from local councils and obtain a copy of that booklet.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Can the Minister say what positive action has now been taken to implement the urban flood management arrangement, a matter that was discussed by the Local Government Association, the Department of Local Government and the E. & W.S. Department? As a result of consultation a plan of action was produced which differed in detail from the legislation that was before the House on a previous occasion. Has the Minister been able to resolve to the satisfaction of the Local Government Association the position of local government in respect to flood management? If so, when is it expected that the House will have the opportunity to consider that matter, and does the Minister accept that the relevant legislation that sought to be exclusive of local government was due to a premature and unfortunate action?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: In reply to the latter part of the question, I point out that surely the member for Light does not really expect me to answer that.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: A simple 'Yes' will do.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The matter has been resolved in agreement with the Local Government Association. The plan will not be exclusive of local government. Again, the result was a typical example of consultation between this Government and the Local Government Association, resulting in a change to legislation initially put forward by a previous Minister. As to the time table apropos when the new Act will be introduced into the House, that depends on the legislative programme, which as the honourable member knows is prepared by the Deputy Premier. I will ask the Director to provide further details.

Dr McPhail: The Minister has covered practically all of the issues involved. The character of the new Bill will incorporate into both the Local Government Act and the Water Resources Act common statements; the Local Government Act will still be a source document for local councils, but the Water Resources Act will carry some of the provisions in parallel so that as a piece of legislation it is complete. We have come to a successful conclusion in our negotiations with the E. & W.S. Department.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I direct a question to the Minister, as Minister of Local Government, and having the overview of local government matters, including electoral procedures. Has the Minister had directed to his attention since the most recent local government election any claims of dispute which may or may not lead to a court of disputed returns, or has he been asked for specific advice in relation to any matters arising from last Saturday's elections?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: There has been one issue that I, as Minister, have been made aware of. I do not think that it would be proper of me to mention it at this time, but I will give it to the member privately when we adjourn for dinner. That objection could go to a court of disputed returns. I am sure that the member for Light realises that I cannot give that information publicly, but I will be pleased to give it to him at the dinner break.

Dr McPhail: Apart from this one major issue that could lead to a candidate's taking action, a number of matters have been drawn to our attention as essentially procedural or administrative problems with councils' operations of the electoral provisions of the Act—such things as candidates entering a polling booth, authorisation of scrutineers, and double voting. These are issues that I suspect are fairly common to elections at the other levels of government as well. They tend not to be so much defects in the legislation as problems at particular polling booths. We are holding discussions with the councils concerned simply about the administration of those problems, none of which, however, we believe could be construed as having affected the outcome of any election.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister responded to either the member for Henley Beach or the member for Peake earlier this morning relating to an attitude to community development boards. Is the Minister in a position to identify the existing community development boards and the councils with which they function? I believe that examples were given by the Minister's immediate predecessor in relation to the sharing of community development boards by some councils. Indeed, in the 1981 Estimates there was an indication of the growth which had taken place between 1980 and 1982, from about 31 boards to a total (if my memory serves me correctly) of 66 functioning in 69 councils. They may not all be existent at the moment, but I would be appreciative of identification of those organisations and, more particularly, any change that has taken place in the past 12 months.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The member for Light's information seems to be almost spot on. We will confirm it.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Did you ever doubt it?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I never doubted the member for Light's research ability, but we will check it out and give full details as soon as possible.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The question of rating for forest areas has been a thorny problem for a long time, and in the *Angaston Leader* of Wednesday 18 May there was an indication that, at a meeting on 9 May, the Minister had perhaps suggested that this matter was being looked at. He did not say so, nor would I have expected the Minister to have it resolved, but is the Minister able to give us any further information relative to an attitude to the rating of foresting? If foresting is to be taken as one example where there may be a rating applied that has not necessarily applied in the past, would it also be a fact that the Minister would be looking at a rating of any Government department that was producing income, as opposed to one which was providing a service and not necessarily producing income, but was totally reliant upon the State for its source of revenue?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: If the member for Light recalls, the previous Liberal Government rejected this out of hand. As a result of our policy, we have picked up the review and, as was quoted by one member from our policy paper, this will be considered in the second revision Bill dealing with the whole question of rates. The Department holds the view that the matter of rates on non-monopoly Government trading undertakings should not be viewed in isolation, but seen in the context of other Government assistance to councils through special purpose grants. I think that is very important. If the member for Murray still has the *Community Concern* magazine, where we listed some of our—

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: It was your policy paper.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That was not said. We seriously addressed ourselves to that question, and in effect said that in some areas there should be no return, but in others there should be 100 per cent return. I think that is the first serious assessment by any Government or political Party of that matter.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The press on Saturday last indicated that the Minister's Federal counterpart, the Hon. Mr Uren, had made an offer for financial assistance in the western areas. Is the Minister able to indicate to the Committee what response he has to that offer, whether it was an offer which was sufficiently 'fleshed out' to allow him to have an attitude, whether he is pursuing any aspect of the statement made by Mr Uren with the Minister's office or with the Minister himself, and generally, in relation to future Commonwealth-State Government relationships on such matters?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The offer has not been formally made to me as State Minister. Was that last Friday?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Friday evening, I believe, before the election Saturday.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: We have a special committee looking into the whole matter of the western districts. As soon as I receive a formal offer from the Federal Minister, I will respond accordingly.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Who are the members on that committee and which departments or organisations are represented on it?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The Department of Local Government, the Department of Environment and Planning, the local councils concerned, the Housing Trust and the Department of Transport are represented. I will obtain membership details for the honourable member.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Can the Minister categorically state that there is no intention for the Parks community

development to be transferred from the Minister's Department to the Premier's Department?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It has never been suggested.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I suggest to the Minister that it has been suggested in some places. I am not saying that the Minister or his departmental officers are responsible for that suggestion, although that view is abroad.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: As Minister, I am unaware of that suggestion. Mr Herrmann, who is a member of the Board, has informed me that he is also unaware of the suggestion. Anyone spreading malicious rumours like that should be completely ignored.

Additional Departmental Advisers:

Mr P. Edwards, General Manager, South Australian Housing Trust.

Ms M. Hill, Acting Senior Project Officer, Office of Housing, Department of Local Government.

Mr G. Black, Project Officer, Office of Housing, Department of Local Government.

Mr J. Luckens, Ministerial Adviser, Minister of Housing.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Will the Minister indicate what initiatives on the four Acts listed on pages 1 and 2 of the yellow book have been taken since he became Minister and say whether there is any contemplation of amendments or whether any identified areas of difficulty exist involving those four Acts?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: One of the problems I have within my Ministerial office (and I am sure members of this Committee will agree) is that, whilst my major portfolio is Minister of Housing, the South Australian Housing Trust, which operates as an autonomous body, also comes under my portfolio. I have a small office of three people. On the fourth line under 'Local Government administration' there is an allocation of \$70 000. Staff who were employed in the project branch in 1982-83 were the Acting Senior Project Officer (Margie Hill—AO2); the Acting Project Officer (Mr P. Malinauskas—AO1, seconded from the South Australian Housing Trust); and another Senior Project Officer (Mr D. Lewis—on secondment to the Victorian Housing Ministry until July 1984). In 1983-84 provision is made for an Acting Senior Project Officer (Margie Hill); a temporary Project Officer (Mr Black); and Manager, Office of Housing, which is vacant but will be filled as from 1 January 1984. I take it that one of the honourable member's questions was whether there were any difficulties within the Department?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The question was whether there were any difficulties with any of the Acts which allow the delivery of policy.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No, there is no problem whatsoever. It has been a commitment of this Government, as with the previous Government, that we work well with the South Australian Housing Trust. There is no intention at all to change the South Australian Housing Trust Act and, like the previous Government, we find that everything is working perfectly well and properly within my Department and the South Australian Housing Trust.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Since the Minister assumed office, has he issued any directives to the Housing Trust which change the thrust of its activities? For example, a suggestion is that it might be the Minister who advised the Trust that forthwith all design and construct houses would be established and built by persons who were members of the appropriate union. As I understand it, that is a major

change to what had been taking place and, more specifically, it is directed against people who are not employed by the Trust and who are not even paid by the Trust in relation to its development work until the house or houses involved in such a programme may eventually be taken over by the Trust. The whole system has been developed on the basis that, whilst it may be a general objective of the Housing Trust to procure houses which are built under this proposal, there is no definite demand upon the Trust that it takes all or any such houses built.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: That is a two-part question. First, the honourable member asked what instructions I have given the South Australian Housing Trust, as Minister, since assuming office. The first action taken was the reintroduction of the housing improvement and rent control provisions and their transfer back to the Housing Trust from local government. A decision of my predecessor took housing improvement and rent control away from the Housing Trust and gave it to local government. Local government was not aware of it, nor was the South Australian Housing Trust, until it happened. This occurred in November 1982, and one of the first acts I carried out as Minister was during 1982-83 when notices of intention to declare houses substandard were served in respect of 109 houses. A total of 56 houses was declared to be substandard, and rents were fixed or revised in respect of 355 houses. A total of 161 houses was released from the control of the Act as a result of repairs and renovations which generated an expenditure in excess of \$2 million in the building industry.

It will be noted that \$374 000 will be allocated from 'Treasury, Miscellaneous' to cover the increased work load. In respect of the main thrust of the member for Light's question, the preference to unionists clause was attached to the Trust's tender contracts under the previous Labor Government. We have extended this clause to new contracts under the design and construct arrangement. No evidence has been given to either the Trust or the Government that a preference to unionists clause leads to high house prices. The figure claimed by the Leader of the Opposition, namely, \$3 000 to be added to house prices by a preference to unionists clause, has been plucked out of the air. Indeed, a comparison shows that the Trust's design and construct contracts (which until now had no clause) are, if anything, marginally more expensive than tender contracts.

The State Government is rejuvenating the building industry with a massive injection of funds. However, it is also necessary, for the long-term viability of the industry and industrial harmony (and that is very important), to ensure that subcontractors and other workers receive appropriate remuneration. Added to that, it is interesting to see that the Secretary of the Housing Industry Association (who originally picked up the Leader of the Opposition's claim that it would add \$3 000 to a home) stated that it would increase the price by 25 per cent. I found in Monday's *News* (I think) that that 25 per cent had been decreased to 10 per cent. As I said, neither the Housing Trust nor this Government has received any indication that the preference to unionists clause inserted in the design and construct programme will increase the price of homes. All I am saying (and I think that privately the building industry will agree with me) is that it will create industrial harmony, and that was the main reason that we inserted that clause.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I will take up discussions with the Minister later about matters which he has raised by way of defence of a policy which is completely foreign to the view of members on this side. Can the Minister identify the serviced land which the Trust holds or which is in current preparation? Hopefully the Minister will be able to follow that through with information (if not now, it can be inserted in *Hansard* at a later stage), identifying it by suburb

or by general sector region and showing basically where that serviced land is. I ask this question against the background of information provided by the Department of Environment and Planning that there is a decrease in serviced block capacity, and information which was made available to all members of this House last week by the Electricity Trust indicating that, in the 12 months to 30 June 1982-83, it had provided service in a full development context to about 1 400 blocks. In essence, I am seeking information as to the Trust's present stock of serviced blocks, or blocks being serviced.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Obviously the Trust holds all the land. I will ask the General Manager to answer that question.

Mr Edwards: The Trust has land which it holds for development throughout the State because its building programme is carried on throughout the State. We therefore have land in virtually every location at every major centre of development right throughout the State, with smaller allotments in smaller centres. The major land holdings would be at the northern and southern perimeters of the metropolitan area. The Trust has significant holdings of land in the Salisbury and Munno Para council areas, and it also has significant holdings of land in the Noarlunga council area.

The current situation is that virtually all of the land which the Trust owns in the inner areas and in the mid-range suburbs is either under development or under plans for development, and we are identifying the need currently where the further expansion of land development should take place. If there is some difficulty, we could produce a schedule of land holdings but it will take some time.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It will not necessarily have to identify every road but, if the General Manager could indicate the suburbs, that would be adequate. We could forgo anything outside the recognised metropolitan area.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Including Gawler?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: No, I know what is in Gawler, and I know who the squire is, too.

Mr GROOM: I would like initially to congratulate the Minister on the great leap forward that has taken place in housing since he has been in office. I think the Government's programme is a credit to the Minister's efforts. I would like to direct my attention to the line dealing with the Office of Housing. I think I can safely connect it up with advisory and administrative staff. I notice from page 25 of the yellow book that one of the targets for 1983-84 is the completion of the home purchase assistance review and the implementation of any changes arising from it. I understand that the home purchase assistance scheme is likely to assist up to 1 000 extra families without additional cost to the Government. Can the Minister explain this and outline the programme?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Basically the home purchase assistance programme stemmed from a review which was an election commitment by this Government and which started earlier this year. It was widely advertised through the media and many people from social welfare agencies through to builders made submissions to the committee. The committee comprised members with a wide range of interests, involving the South Australian Housing Trust, the Department of the Premier, the State Bank, Treasury, and my own Department. The committee examined all existing available schemes, some of which had been set up many years ago and some had been set up by the previous Labor Administration and, prior to that, by the previous Liberal Administration.

One of the things that came through loudly and clearly in the early days of that committee was that that which was available to the general community was confusing them.

There were people on low incomes who wanted to get into the home purchase scheme, to fulfil the Australian dream of owning one's own home, but who were confused about the different methods available. Most of those people who were on low incomes went through either the State Bank, the building societies or the private banks.

In regard to the question raised by the member for Hartley about how the new home purchasers assistance scheme will assist up to 1 000 extra families a year without additional costs to the Government, I point out that this will be done in two ways. The Government will be reducing the maximum permitted household income for young couples on two incomes from \$537 (which is 150 per cent of average weekly earnings) to \$483 (which is 135 per cent of average weekly earnings), and increasing the repayments for borrowers earning in excess of \$197 (which is 55 per cent of average weekly earnings), so that their repayments will start at about 25 per cent of their income. That can be done without any cost to the Government. The only cost to the Government will be for advertisements, the operation of the committee, and the publication of booklets. This will enable 1 000 extra families to secure home ownership without having to go on to the Housing Trust waiting list.

Mr GROOM: I have seen a growing number of single people in the electorate that I represent, as well as generally, who also have significant housing problems. Will the Minister outline to what extent single people are being assisted in the purchase of homes, as they are also very important in regard to the housing industry.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Neither the member for Glenelg nor the member for Mallee has the call.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: A problem facing single people in getting into the low income home purchase arena was that none of the banks or building societies would recognise that they had a role to play in home ownership. Under the Government's scheme the eligibility criteria will be modified to enable single people to receive concessional loans. Rental purchases are expected to be the main form of that assistance to single people. The committee felt (and this view was supported by the Government) that the income limit should establish a fair relativity between households. The Government also believed that at least initially the income limit should be applied stringently, with the situation being monitored closely, so that eligibility could be fine-tuned on the basis of need and demand. The income limit chosen was at a level of 40 per cent of average weekly earnings (which is \$143). The recent home finance survey conducted by the Government indicated that the average age of private first home buyers is about 30 years. In recognition of the need to strike a fair balance in rationing home purchase assistance, it was decided that the minimum age for single people who would be eligible should be 30 years. People outside that limit will only be able to borrow subject to special consideration by the State Bank and the Government.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: How do charges and costs for Housing Trust accommodation in South Australia compare with those in other States, particularly with New South Wales and Victoria? I do not necessarily want a lot of detail about that. I am asking this question because I am concerned, and I know that the Murray Bridge council is particularly concerned, about the number of people who turn up in Murray Bridge from places over the border in both Victoria and New South Wales. They seem to lob in Murray Bridge and when questioned they do not seem to be quite sure why they are there, although often they point out that they are there because of the cheaper accommodation that is available through the Housing Trust. How does that accommodation compare with that available in other States?

Also, does the Housing Trust have a policy of looking after local people in a district whose application for accommodation has been outstanding for some time? Are those people considered before those people who have come from another State?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The answer to the second question is 'Yes'. Local people are given preference, purely and simply because they would have been on the list longer. In answer to the first question, yes, our rents are less than those charged in the two States mentioned by the member for Murray. I would have thought that the answer to the other part of the question would be obvious. The reason why people come from interstate looking for accommodation is because they know that South Australia has a darned sight better reputation for housing disadvantaged people than has any other State in Australia.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I do not doubt the work that the Housing Trust is doing, but often when people arrive at my office they know very little about the type of accommodation that is available. No mention is made in the yellow book of the number of people who are actually on the Housing Trust accommodation waiting list. Are those details available?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The latest figure (which worries me intensely) is 28 774.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Supplementary to that, is any action being taken by the Minister to move high-income tenants out of Trust homes to help the needy who are presently on the long Housing Trust waiting list?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: This is a vexed matter. No Government, of whatever colour, has really faced up to that problem.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Do you intend to do so?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The honourable member should let me finish. Very few tenants receive what one could call high incomes. Perhaps the honourable member should define for the Committee what he defines as a high income. Very few tenants are on high incomes: those who are receiving high incomes are paying the full market price.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I was referring to two-income families. Perhaps other members of the Committee can take up that matter later. My next question is supplementary to that asked by the member for Light, who referred specifically to land owned by the Housing Trust that is available for new development. I want to pursue that matter in greater detail. Is the Minister of Housing concerned about the lack of adequate building allotments for development in South Australia? Since the beginning of this year, the development industry has been asking the Government to rezone broad acres to alleviate what is seen by the development industry as an acute shortage of building allotments. My colleague referred to that earlier, and I repeat that I am not talking about Housing Trust land generally; I am talking about development land available for private developers.

The lack of action on the part of the Government in regard to rezoning, plus the lead time needed to produce land for building purposes, I would suggest, are resulting in a scarcity of available land which, as we all know, in turn means an increase in the price for new home builders, and we are already starting to see evidence of that. Is the Minister concerned about this situation, and what is he doing to attempt to convince his Parliamentary or Cabinet colleagues that positive action needs to be taken in this regard, and immediately?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I would have thought that the member for Murray, being the previous Minister for Environment and Planning, would fully support the announcement made recently in relation to the development of Golden Grove.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: It took long enough to do something about it!

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Ferguson): Order!

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It was a development that was stifled by the previous Government.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Rubbish! Absolute rubbish!

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: This Government and I as Minister of Housing are concerned at the lack of building allotments. That is one of the reasons why the Golden Grove project has been announced. As to the question of opening up broad acres for housing development (and I take it that the member means private development as well as Housing Trust development) I am sure that the honourable member is not aware of the cost of broad-acre development. There are some broad acres, especially at Craigmore in my electorate, which are now being opened up, but it was due to the foresight of the previous Labor Government that all services were provided in that area.

I will ask the General Manager of the Housing Trust to give a detailed account of the current general housing situation, not Government policy. One of the things that members opposite cannot seem to understand is that the South Australian Housing Trust, as well as providing public sector housing for those in need, carries out a continuous overview of the housing and land situations throughout the State—that is why it is so efficient.

Mr Edwards: In fact, the Minister has given a fair amount of information on the current scene. From the Trust's perspective, there is agreement that there will be a requirement for more serviced land for housing development as the housing industry picks up. Examinations have been undertaken in this regard. The matter has been considered by the Minister's Housing Advisory Council, of which I am a member, and the Council has advised the Minister on the need for action in this area. A report prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning and the Urban Development Institute, which represents the private land development industry (and, in fact, that report arrived on my desk just today and I think it is available publicly), analyses in some detail the availability of land, the areas where there are prospective shortages, and the areas where there appear to be a significant availability of land. This is one of a number of examinations being carried out elsewhere within Government in this regard. In addition to the Minister's comments, I point out that one of the obvious difficulties in regard to the land market is that there are still stocks of land available that are being disposed of at historic prices, whereas the current costs of development would indicate a price significantly in advance of historic costs.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Supplementary to that, the report to which the General Manager has referred is excellent: a great deal of work has gone into it. But one of the problems being experienced is that that report is already well and truly out of date, and that is recognised by both the Department of Environment and Planning and the Urban Development Institute of Australia. It was stated that 28 700 people are waiting for Housing Trust accommodation. Will the Minister say what was the equivalent figure 12 months ago?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It might be interesting to the Committee, and to those people who eagerly subscribe to *Hansard*, to note that in 1979, 15 618 people were on the waiting list; in 1980, 18 615 people, an increase of 19.2 per cent; in 1981, 20 854, an increase of 12 per cent; in 1982, 23 924, an increase of 14.7 per cent; and in 1983, the date of the booklet *The Housing Trust in Focus*, which again I recommend to all members, who can apply to me to obtain a copy, 28 774 people were on the waiting list, an increase

of 20.3 per cent. That is despite a record year under the previous Liberal Government and the fact that we will be producing 3 100 homes. In effect, no matter which Government is in power and how many homes are built, the Housing Trust waiting list will increase. That is indicative of the fact that people cannot or will not venture into home purchase because of their employment instability. It is to be hoped that the home purchase assistance scheme and the Federal Government's first homeowner scheme will allow some break in the increase in figures.

I have always made it a practice since I became the Minister of Housing never to score points about how many homes the Labor Government has built, and I hope that, when I eventually leave this Parliament, any future Minister will not score points. The problem of housing the disadvantaged in the public sector is a concern for us all. It is not sufficient to say that we have built more houses than the previous Government built last year. We are all trying to build as many homes as we can to at least arrest the increase in that figure.

Mr PLUNKETT: I refer to page 129 of the Estimates of Payments, the line 'Advisory and administrative staff', and also to page 25 of the yellow book. What has been the impact of the return of responsibility for housing improvements from the Housing Trust to local government? I sent the Minister a congratulatory telegram when he took office. The previous Government had given local government this responsibility. There is a demand for housing in my district, and I found, upon contacting the local government body, that, although the previous Government had given it the responsibility, no department was ever set up. When I contacted some of the bigger councils in the metropolitan area, it was explained that there was no such department and no employees to administer the Act. That was one of the many mistakes made by the previous Government. Will the Minister explain the situation?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Because of the nature of the District of Peake, many homes in that area are subject to the Housing Improvement Act. The honourable member was concerned when the previous Government gave the responsibility for that Act to local government. I understand that many members of the previous Liberal Cabinet were asked why the Government of the day made that decision. Most of them said (I assume truthfully because I always work on the principle that, despite politics, a Cabinet Minister should tell the truth) that they knew nothing about it. I understand that the shift of responsibility for the Housing Improvement Act from the Housing Trust to local government went ahead without the full approval of Cabinet. I believe that my predecessor was responsible for that action and I bitterly attacked him in the House. I described it then (and describe it now) as an act to appease his shark landlord friends. As a result, local government could not police the Act: and it would have had to employ more staff to do so.

I recall a speech made by the member for Peake about concern within local government in regard to the Housing Improvement Act and the destruction of a house. The whole idea of the Housing Improvement Act, from the early 1940s, was to upgrade homes. In 1982-83 it promoted \$2 million worth of work in the small building industry. We will never know why the previous Minister of Local Government shifted the responsibility from the Housing Trust to local government.

As soon as I repealed the Act, many people from metropolitan councils telephoned me and said that they were grateful that this Government was giving back the responsibility to those who should rightfully administer the Act. I do not know how much was lost in the small building industry from the time the previous Minister gave the responsibility to local government, but I do know that only

two orders were forthcoming after responsibility for the Act was transferred from the Trust to local government. As from November 1982, a total of 56 houses were declared substandard, notices were served on 109 homes, and whilst rents were fixed or revised in regard to 355 houses. Those figures speak for themselves. Working-class people were given protection by the Government of the day: equitable and fair rents were fixed and houses were repaired and upgraded, resulting in \$2 million going into the small building industry.

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

The CHAIRMAN: Before calling on the member for Peake, I have been advised that there is another change in the Committee's makeup. Mr Peter Lewis has been substituted for the Hon. David Wotton.

Mr PLUNKETT: I have a supplementary question in relation to the return of responsibility for the Housing Improvement Act to the Housing Trust from local government. I mentioned that I sent a congratulatory wire to the Minister immediately he reintroduced this system. Immediately that responsibility was taken from the Housing Trust and given to local government, whereas earlier there was no department to handle this and no persons to administer it, I found that some unscrupulous landlords increased rentals to double that to which they were entitled.

After investigations, I found that, instead of charging the \$35 per week to which they were entitled unless the place was improved, they were charging rents in excess of \$70 per week. I was able to get a refund for people who had paid the excess rent because, until the improvements were made under this Act, the person who owned the premises could not charge extra rent until he had made application to have his house reassessed. I was successful on many occasions in getting a refund for people who had come to me complaining about the condition of the houses in which they lived. One reason why I was pleased that this Act had been changed and its administration taken out of the hands of local government was that there was no move to set up a department to handle it. Now that it is in the hands of the Housing Trust, it has worked very successfully ever since the Minister has been back in office.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It is fairly obvious that the member for Peake has been keenly interested in the Housing Improvement Act (or the lack of it under the previous Minister), and was able to act not only within the Act but within his office to obtain at least some form of rental control. It seems that the change in the Housing Improvement Act was merely to help the shark landlords (the kind of people that the member for Peake is talking about) and, thankfully, now that it has been returned to the Housing Trust, those dubious people can no longer operate at the expense of the poorer people in our community.

Mr PLUNKETT: How many extra jobs will be generated by the Housing Trust's proposed construction programme in 1983-84?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It is always hard to give an exact figure, but it is estimated by my Department that, in relation to the 3 100 homes which will be undertaken during the 1983-84 construction programme, an extra 1 500 jobs will be generated. In addition, we believe that the change to the home purchase assistance programme ultimately will lead to an increase in building activity through increased demand for new houses. However, it is too early to predict the extent of the increase. We are talking about 1 500 jobs within the building industry. However, allied to that are jobs generated in the whitegoods industry and all other areas in relation to furnishing, and everything else. However, those kinds of figures will be handled by the Department

of State Development and, for the member's interest, as soon as I get those figures I will send them to him.

Mr PLUNKETT: This question relates to the home purchase assistance programme, and the Minister outlined part of this in his opening speech. What were the Government's objectives in setting up the Home Purchase Assistance Review Committee?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I appreciate the question. Perhaps I can read out the objectives of the Labor Government's policy which were clearly outlined at last year's election. We were committed to an election programme for housing which included a range of measures designed to broaden and extend the availability of assistance to low-income households which have had difficulty in attaining or maintaining home ownership. The reasons for setting up this review committee included a comprehensive review of the State Bank's lending programme to develop improved arrangements which better catered for the needs of low-income households aspiring to home ownership. I think that enough has been said already this afternoon about people on low incomes who want to aspire to home ownership.

Another reason was the provision of deposit gap assistance for means tested first home buyers who are ineligible for State Bank concessional loans yet unable to gain an ordinary commercial loan due to an inability to raise sufficient deposit. This is an area in which there are many people whose incomes are above the requirements for the State concessional loan obtainable from the State Bank but who are still ineligible to receive a loan from a private bank or building society. Another reason was the restoration of the Housing Trust rental-purchase programme to assist those households which cannot afford to buy private housing or who require a period in public housing to accumulate sufficient equity to service a deposit for private housing.

One of the greatest things that the Housing Trust introduced—which was completely destroyed by the previous Government—was the rental-purchase programme. In my own district many people obtained their first home under the rental-purchase programme. Those people stayed in the homes for between seven and 10 years on a reasonable mortgage or rental-purchase programme and were then able to purchase homes which they might wish to buy in other areas. It has been said that one of the most successful parts of that scheme is that it enabled real estate developers to move into that market. There are people still living in those homes in my electorate, and I am sure the member for Light, whose area is close to mine, knows what I am referring to.

Mr LEWIS: The Minister himself?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The member for Light did not buy a home through the rental-purchase scheme. I am sure he was more affluent than that.

Mr LEWIS: I said the Minister.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No, the Minister did not. I bought mine through the Savings Bank of South Australia. Another point related to consultation with lending institutions with a view to introducing alternative mortgage repayment systems to assist those households which could achieve home ownership with private housing finance if their repayments were geared more closely to their means over the term of their loan. The Labor Party foreshadowed the introduction of a new upgraded mortgage relief scheme, and while I talk about the mortgage relief scheme, to the credit of the previous Government it picked up the offer from the Fraser Government to introduce mortgage relief, but one only has to look at the miserable amount of money which was given and which was shown at the last Estimates Committee meeting to realise how little the previous Government paid to the mortgage relief scheme. We upgraded

it so that it works for all people with a view to early implementation of these policies and, in response to urgent household needs, some changes were made to the State Bank's programme; increased individual loans, increased purchase price ceiling, expansion of the low-deposit scheme, and there were changes to the mortgage relief scheme as well as increased assistance available to households and a broadening in eligibility criteria. All this was put in hand shortly after the State election in November 1982.

Each of the Government's policies was directed essentially at assisting different needs of groups, and the Government's aim in implementing them was to provide a package of schemes with common guidelines so that the home purchase assistance could be disbursed as easily as possible and with a continuity in the eligibility conditions geared to meeting the needs of the widest possible range of households. The Home Purchase Assistance Review Committee was thus established to develop proposals for the implementation of these policies in one comprehensive exercise. As I said earlier, the committee comprised senior representatives of the State Bank, the Housing Trust, Treasury Department, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Minister of Housing.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am grateful that the Minister has indicated that he knows how to read. It was when he strayed from reading the detail that he got far from the mark by suggesting that the previous Government was the one which got rid of the rental-purchase. It was a Labor Administration, before the Liberal Government, which put paid to that programme. The former Liberal Government put together a package which was not strongly supported, but there was a rental-purchase programme.

I am interested to know whether there have been any delays in signing contracts with builders under the 'design and construct' programme in the earlier part of this financial year; whether in fact the ordinary Housing Trust programme has been delayed in any way; and whether the Minister remains convinced that the whole Housing Trust operation, be it of its own volition, or of 'design and construct', will be able to meet the 3 100 building and purchase houses. I would be interested to know the number of purchase homes contemplated in that 3 100. In asking the question relative to what programme has actually been put in place and what is contemplated, I point out that figures supplied from Treasury today indicated that for the first two months of the financial year there is an overrun of some \$72 million, which is some \$30 million greater than for the first two months last year. It states specifically in the document put out by the Deputy Premier, who is Acting Treasurer, that it is in some way associated with a difficulty in getting funds together for the Government's housing programme.

I would be the first to say that I sincerely trust that there will be no delay in delivering as many units as possible, but certainly the building industry has identified a number of delays. The people who produce the products which go towards the creation of a house (the brickmakers, the joiners and various others) have indicated that the work load which they expected to take up in late June or July did not eventuate because of a series of delays. Therefore, I pose those facts to the Minister in asking the question that either he or the General Manager of the Trust may be able to answer for us.

If one goes beyond the programme that the Trust is to undertake, recognising the total building programme which we would look forward to in South Australia during the 1983-84 year, I suggest the potential has been somewhat reduced by the change of Commonwealth funding assistance which caused a hiatus between May and 1 October. Although additional Commonwealth funds were available for stimulating the desire to purchase, the nature of the announce-

ments of the Commonwealth prevented a number of people from seeking to commence a building programme during July, August and September; therefore, a quarter of the whole year's building programme has been adversely influenced, I suggest, talking of the totality of building, by that new programme. As good as it may be, it forced upon the building industry a hiatus of three months virtual inactivity.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: When the Government announced that it was going to build 3 100 homes through the Trust this coming year, I was rather surprised that Mr Cummings, of the Housing Industry Association (who appeared about once a fortnight in the press saying the Government was doing nothing for housing), when faced with the news that we were going to provide a record number of houses, came out with the statement that the housing industry could not manage that figure. I was pleased that the Hallett Brick company wrote to me immediately saying that it completely disagreed with that statement; it could meet the demand and would be only too happy to co-operate with the Government. We have similar letters from other associated manufacturers in the building industry. I contacted the South Australian Housing Trust, and was assured that it could meet the target. I am sure that we can. Mr Edwards might like to provide some further details.

Mr Edwards: I have not received any reports of the building industry being caused delay by delays in letting Housing Trust contracts. The Trust has every confidence that it will achieve the target of having an additional 3 100 houses in its rental stock in the current financial year. The balance between new construction and purchased homes is not precise, because it depends on variables in the processing of building applications through councils and on-site factors. However, in broad terms I expect there to be 2 700 newly completed units and 400 units purchased. I have some information in front of me about the progress of the Trust's building programme in the current financial year, to the end of August. To that time already 32 units had been completed. A further 1 512 are under construction, as compared with 1 267 units that were under construction at the same time last year.

In those two months to the end of August we had let contracts for 365 units, which is in excess of 136 units contracted at the same time last year. Further, 257 units were under contract over those two months, as opposed to 136 for the same two months last year. I have every expectation that the target figure of 3 100 will be achieved. A factor influencing that situation is that the Trust has recently agreed to let 'design and construct' contracts for about 650 units, at a cost of nearly \$30 million. All of those contracts are scheduled to be commenced and substantially completed during the course of the current financial year.

I believe that some concern was expressed about the apparent non-expenditure of Commonwealth wage freeze funds, which were not taken up in full. However, that was because the contracts that were let to take advantage of those funds were 'design and construct' contracts, where the Trust pays the builder at the end of the building period and not by means of progress payments during the building period. Therefore, although the building has commenced and is still in progress, the Trust has not been required to pay out the full amount of that money. It has paid only the money required for those units that have been completed under that programme. Nevertheless, the work is under way and is being funded from private financial sources.

When the houses are completed and handed over, the Trust will pay out the necessary amounts to the builders. Under Commonwealth rules it is possible to claim the money from the Commonwealth only when the funds are actually expended. I have no reservations at all in confidently

expecting that there will be 3 100 additions to the Trust's rental stock during the current financial year.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Will the Minister indicate his attitude in respect of the infill of properties made available from other Government instrumentalities (and I refer specifically to the Education Department)? I refer specifically to the position that exists at Surrey Downs, and to the parcel of land which was quite recently taken up at Ingle Farm, land which the surrounding community intended to use for a kindergarten or a pre-school facility. I refer also to a parcel of land associated with the Education Department facility in the general vicinity of Salisbury Heights. The areas that I have referred to at Salisbury and Ingle Farm are not as large as is the area at Surrey Downs. The Minister would be aware, as would everyone else who has read articles in the newspapers or heard the plea of people in the area, that those involved at that location bought their homes on the understanding that the area was to comprise a privately built suburb. I would like the Minister to place on record his or the Trust's attitude to this type of situation.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I am quite happy to place on record my own view and, I think, the view of the Government. There is a need to provide public sector housing at locations where there is an availability of land. I am sure that the thrust of the honourable member's question was directed towards the proposed development at Surrey Downs; he mentioned Ingle Farm and Salisbury Heights, but I think the honourable member is zeroing in on Surrey Downs.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister should not presume.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The Minister knows that that was the main thrust of the question. I appreciate perhaps that the member for Light could not ask outright a question dealing with Surrey Downs, because it might have seemed as though he was in support of the Surrey Downs Action Group, or perhaps in support of the Housing Trust—I am not sure where his support lies at the moment. It was intended that a school would be built at Surrey Downs, but the Education Department decided that it no longer required the site that had been set aside for that school. Negotiations were then conducted with the Housing Trust as to whether the Trust wanted to purchase that land. A price was agreed to, set by the Valuer-General's Department, and the Trust proceeded to buy the land.

Unfortunately, there is a certain feeling among people in our society that those who live in Trust rental accommodation are somewhat different from the rest of us, that they are the kind of people that one would not wish to have as neighbours. Unfortunately, this is the type of attitude promoted by people who build the private developments. They say to people, 'There is no way that you will have those lowly Housing Trust areas around you; you will be free to live here, pay off your mortgage, and the price of your property will increase as years go by.' But the fact of life is that there do exist genuine, ordinary people who need to be housed. The only reason why people come to the Trust to obtain rental accommodation is because they cannot afford to buy their own homes. I am very happy to represent an area containing one of the largest Housing Trust rental developments in South Australia. Living in that area has not done my children and me any harm. The same situation applies in regard to the member for Mawson's district.

When the news broke that the Trust intended to build 80 homes at Surrey Downs, a group of people set themselves up as the Surrey Downs Action Group. They proceeded to write a series of vitriolic letters to the Housing Trust and to the local member, the member for Newland, and to my electorate office. Those letters were completely racist, and maintained that any person who would live in a Housing Trust rental home was from a degenerate section of society.

If the honourable member wishes, I will show him a few copies of the kind of letter that I, the General Manager and the member for Newland received. They were racist, conveying the impression that Housing Trust tenants are members of another race. The Trust, through its officers, met with the Surrey Downs Action Group and tried to explain the situation involving the development there which was to be design and construct. The type of homes being built there would be equal to the homes built by private developers.

However, the officers were howled down. The member for Newland was placed in the position of being told that if he did not put pressure on the Government and the Trust he would lose his seat at the next election. The Trust then went out of its way to try to tread the middle path. With all due respect to the General Manager, I think that the Trust went a little too far, but it did at least try to appease those residents. The seven new allotments in the Zephyr Court cul-de-sac and the three new allotments in the Zoe Court cul-de-sac will be offered for sale at the completion of the development, and the Trust will seek to replace those by purchasing 10 existing housing allotments scattered elsewhere in Tea Tree Gully.

The Trust told those people what it would do: in other words, 'We will give you a buffer zone. You live in there in your nice private homes. We will put 80 homes in there for decent, ordinary working people, but we will give you a buffer zone and we will offer those for sale.' However, I understand that that was rejected. That was one of the alternatives that the Trust offered the residents. Five allotments were set aside for the future development of pensioner rental housing. The housing development would be constructed within a scale observing the impact of new development on the local community. In fact, it would be a staged development: each stage of the family housing programme would be carried out with an equal balance of Trust design housing and private developer design under the design/construct scheme, so that it would not involve the old traditional double unit. Such a form of construction is attractive, as can be seen if one visits the Aberfoyle Park area. Property will be provided for rental but each incoming tenant drawn from the Trust waiting list or by voluntary transfer from elsewhere in the Trust stock will have the option to purchase at any time.

That meant that there would be a selective procedure for people moving into that area, and those who wished to purchase could do so through the rental purchase scheme that I outlined earlier. Houses in the development will be available for sale to eligible Trust applicants and existing tenants who qualify in the normal way for concessional mortgage terms, and also for the rental purchase scheme introduced by the Government.

That is what the Trust did to appease those people who feel that, by living in Surrey Downs, they are separate from the people who live in Salisbury, Elizabeth, Noarlunga, Henley Beach and other areas where there is considerable Housing Trust rental accommodation. I take it that the Committee is well aware of how I feel about the situation. As Minister of Housing, I have a responsibility to house those people who are on the waiting list. The Surrey Downs area was ideal for development, and I would hope that the honourable member who asked the question would agree with the sentiments that I have expressed tonight.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Did I understand the Minister to criticise the Trust for going as far as it has? That was the direct statement made by the Minister. He has given an excellent summation of why the member for Newland is keen to move to Briggs at the expense of the present member for Florey.

Mr FERGUSON: We will start rumours about your side if you keep that up; if it is good for you it is good for us.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Thank you for your protection, Mr Chairman. In relation to the requirements of so many of these people who make up the 28 700 looking for Trust rental accommodation, is any attempt made to equate the place of building and housing to their ability to get to work or to schooling? I am appreciative of the 'design and construct' programme and the current building programme of the Housing Trust.

I was with the Minister and the General Manager when inspecting some delightful constructions in the Thebarton area only 10 days ago, and I believe that both the Minister and the General Manager would agree that the concept of such accommodation has advanced tremendously. However, many people live in areas some distance from schooling and from where no immediate job opportunity exists, and they are seriously disadvantaged. It has been publicly stated that not only the Surrey Downs project but also the somewhat different project to take place on the previous Hooker estate at Morphett Vale East will cause some degree of concern to people who do not have ready access to education and job opportunity. Will the Minister project his thoughts along those lines, rather than make cheap political points?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I would not have thought that I was making cheap political points in my previous reply. I was saying something which echoes the views of all decent South Australians with regard to the plight of their fellow citizens. I would not have thought that to be cheap political publicity. The honourable member asked whether he heard correctly when I said that I criticised the Trust. Yes, he did hear correctly, because I felt that the Trust should have stuck to its guns and developed the site as originally intended. I made that perfectly clear to the General Manager and to the Trust Board, and I make no apology for that. I also made it perfectly clear to the member for Newland. If that is cheap political capital, perhaps the member for Light's interpretation and mine are different. The Trust currently has 2 500 applications for rental housing in the Surrey Downs area.

The member for Light asked whether, if we put those 80 homes there, we were catering for future needs. As far as jobs are concerned, I cannot answer that question. I hope that the economy will lift and that jobs will be more plentiful in the future. That site is ideal for that kind of development. A kindergarten and primary school are close by and shops are within 100 yards. It meets all the requirements of a stable, efficient development by the Housing Trust. All those experts in urban planning believe that it is the ideal site on which to place those 80 houses. It is piecemeal accommodation and is placed in such a way that it is close to buses and shops. The only people who are against it are those who believe that their existing homes will be devalued when Housing Trust tenants move into the area.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Does that in fact happen?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: It will not happen, but that is the view of the people who form the Surrey Downs Action Group. I sincerely thought that all members in this Parliament, on whichever side they sit, would support a development of this nature, and say to the people who are writing these letters in the media, as well as to the member for Newland, the Housing Trust and my office, that we are doing this for our fellow South Australians who need to be housed.

Ms LENEHAN: I refer to page 25 of the yellow book. Under 'Specific targets/objectives' for 1983-84, reference is made to the implementation of reorganisation of the Emergency Housing Office. I am unsure what that means. I believe that a review has taken place into the future oper-

ations of the Emergency Housing Office. As I do not know the outcome of that review, will the Minister tell me what administrative changes are proposed to the current structure of that office?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I thank the honourable member for her question. I have a prepared answer, as the matter has been causing me some concern. Despite the very good accord I have with the General Manager on housing policies, the E.H.O. has been causing concern for some time. We have a situation where the E.H.O., in effect, became the catalyst for those people who desperately needed accommodation. Those people can go to the Housing Trust, give an application number and then wait their turn. The E.H.O. offers something unique in that it can provide a loan of bond money so that one can move into the private sector whilst waiting for Housing Trust accommodation.

Under my Office of Housing, we have carried out a review of the administration funding requirements and we intend, in the coming year, to implement organisational changes within the Department. We intend to reorganise the E.H.O., increase its staff and resources and place it on a permanent footing. Staff will be offered permanent employment with the Housing Trust. The office will operate as a separate unit under the administration of the Housing Trust. A new position of Manager has been advertised. The Manager will have the authority to deliver services, formulate policy and programmes and have direct access to me as Minister. The E.H.O. will continue to have separate offices in city and metropolitan locations.

Preliminary work has been completed to upgrade locally operated emergency housing services in Mount Gambier, Gawler, Port Pirie and Port Augusta. Discussions will be held in other country centres in the coming year. The office reorganisation will, apart from the upgraded position of Manager, include an appropriate level of delegation and authority for an organisation of this size. Regional office opening hours will be increased. The E.H.O. role now includes whereabouts (which, as all members would know is a service which provides rental accommodation that is unavailable in the daily newspapers), which is receiving an average of 65 inquiries per day. It has attracted support from real estate agents and private landlords. It will investigate the proposal of Government-owned housing, which is not for the immediate and necessary use of employees but for emergency housing through the E.H.O.

Ms LENEHAN: I thank the Minister for his answer. A great deal of concern has been expressed in my area. We are concerned not to see the annexation of the E.H.O. under the general and all-embracing umbrella of the Housing Trust. It is important that the E.H.O. remains separate and has separate premises. I have received representations from ordinary users of the E.H.O. along those lines. I will not go into that, but suffice to say that I support the independence of the E.H.O. I am pleased to see that regional offices will be opening for longer hours, as that has been a problem in my area.

The next line refers to a review of the Mortgage and Rent Relief Scheme and the implementation of any necessary changes. When does the Minister think the review will be completed, as I believe it is important that we look at some changes in the way in which such schemes are implemented? Will the Minister elaborate on that line?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: We briefly touched on that question earlier. In regard to mortgage relief, there are four major changes under the new scheme. The income limit for eligibility has been increased by \$18 a week for each dependent beyond the first child. Previously the income limit did not reflect family size. The second major point is that assistance can now be provided as a non-repayable subsidy as well as a loan. Previously assistance was provided only

as a loan. The third major point is that households can now receive assistance for more than 12 months. Under the previous scheme, one could only receive assistance for 12 months and, despite one's financial situation, one was then taken off the mortgage relief scheme. If one can prove to the Housing Trust that one is still eligible, assistance can now be extended beyond 12 months.

The fourth major point which I think is very important is that mortgage assistance is now available to separated or divorced parents who are attempting to keep a family home but who are unable to meet repayments. Too often, divorced or separated parents, because they cannot meet that commitment to keep the family home together, will sell the home, and that creates real problems in relation to children of the family. They are the four major changes.

Ms LENEHAN: I refer to the provision of housing services for special needs groups such as homeless young people, women and the aged, 'including the promotion of innovative community housing schemes, particularly housing co-operatives.' I am quite delighted to see that provision, because in my district, and particularly in the southern region of Adelaide, there is a desperate situation in respect of homeless youth. I am sure that I do not have to elaborate in this Committee on the plight of homeless youth. It has been a concern of mine that the Housing Trust has not in the past adequately addressed itself to the needs of homeless youth in respect of providing accommodation in relation to a group of young people who had to find someone to be a head tenant and, if that person was under 21 (I am not quite sure of the exact stipulation), it provided a number of problems for young people trying to obtain Housing Trust accommodation.

I have worked with a group in my district for nearly 12 months looking at establishing some sort of innovative type of accommodation. Hopefully this may be accomplished through the Housing Trust, particularly in looking at a multiplicity of types of living units within a complex. These complexes exist in metropolitan Sydney where there is a whole range of innovative types of housing where young people can be adequately housed with some supervision yet with a degree of autonomy. Does the Housing Trust have any such innovative schemes on the drawing board for the Noarlunga area? I stress that this is an area which has a tremendous problem in relation to homeless youth.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Whilst the honourable member might be talking about Noarlunga, I think that she has hit the nail on the head concerning many areas in metropolitan Adelaide. The Emergency Housing Office assisted a record number of young homeless people in 1982-83 and we expect that figure to increase again this year. I ask Mr Edwards to indicate what the Housing Trust is doing in this respect.

Mr Edwards: The Trust is aware of the significant demands for housing for homeless youth, and there are a number of programmes by which they can be assisted. I suppose that the largest numbers of youth would have been assisted through the services of the Emergency Housing Office, through the advice they are given on securing accommodation in the private sector and through the provision of advances of rent in advance, bond money and so forth. In addition, the Trust started in 1981 a formal programme to provide housing for the accommodation of youth. The target number of houses under that scheme has been successively increased.

As at 30 June, 67 homes have been allocated to youth and that number has gone up somewhat since then. I can obtain the most recent figure if necessary. Those houses are made available to youth in two ways: first, by direct leasing to groups of youth who present themselves as having been unable to find accommodation in the private sector, having tried diligently and failed. The second scheme is where

housing is on a head lease basis with an organisation which is prepared to accept some of the care and responsibility for the youth.

A significant number of houses have been leased in that way. One of the difficulties experienced in the Noarlunga area is that we seek local government approval for the use of family housing for this kind of purpose. It is the experience that that kind of application tends to attract local opposition. However, there are housing facilities for youth in that area as elsewhere. Finally, the Trust is well aware of the proposals being developed in other States under community tenancy schemes. In our view (forgive me for flag-waving) this is an attempt by some of those States to introduce schemes in those States which have been operating in this State for several years under a different title.

Ms LENEHAN: I asked whether there was anything at present on the drawing board in respect of innovative types of housing for young people in the Noarlunga area. I do not want to go into the type of innovation that I had in mind, because I do not want to hold up the Committee. However, is something proposed for Noarlunga at present?

Mr Edwards: There may have been some discussions between local groups and the Trust's local manager, but I am not aware of any initiatives. One of the problems in taking that through is that characteristically young persons do not always stay in the same group for an extended period and, if one is engaged in an exercise of designing new forms of housing, it takes some time and there are some problems. However, the Trust is open to discussions with any group which is interested.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I refer to page 25 of the yellow book under the heading 'Need being addressed' which states that the Government, recognising the importance of a public sector is 'keen to ensure that Government regulation and influence complement and encourage private sector endeavours'. It further states:

The Government is co-ordinating activities and pursuing initiatives to ensure effective assistance is available to increase people's access to housing.

It further states:

... initiatives are required to maintain and encourage home ownership. The existence of a healthy building industry, able to produce housing at a reasonable cost to meet the established demand for housing, is essential. Closer liaison between the building industry and local government is being encouraged.

Can the Minister or his officers give a clear indication of where positive action has been or is being taken in relation to those statements? Blandly, they are motherhood statements, and I do not believe that that was the intention, nor would I want it to be the intention. What actual proof is there of positive action being taken towards achieving those goals?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I agree with the member for Light that one could read those details (and I do not think that there was any degree of cynicism on his part) and say that that is a bland statement. The provision of home ownership to as many people as we can (which, in effect, comes out of that, is enhanced by our home ownership made easier scheme which was announced last week and of which I have given details this evening. Secondly, a Housing Advisory Council set up by the previous Minister (and this is not a reflection on that Minister) just was not working. There have been drastic changes to the Housing Advisory Council. In effect, we have set up two sections: one deals with finance and the building industry; and the other—for want of a better term—deals with consumer-type matters such as those involving SACOSS welfare agencies.

They are the people who are giving me direct advice, so I am receiving advice from, as well as giving advice to, the building industry. Might I say that, apart from occasional

clashes that I might have with the Housing Industry Association, relations between this Government and the building industry have never been better. There has been a real input by the finance people who are now, in effect, talking to this Government and to the Housing Trust. All of that, in effect, whilst taken separately might not mean too much, but collectively it meets the broad objectives outlined at page 25. I think that the building industry is very happy with the way this Government has put that amount of money towards housing. The fact that the building industry made such a great commitment to the Home Purchase Assistance Review Committee indicated that there is a real move by private industry, the Government, Treasury, the banks and the Housing Trust to work together.

I might add that I think that for the first time in 10 to 15 years the Housing Trust, which was seen by the private building industry as a bureaucracy which received padding and favouritism from the Government, is no longer seen in that light. I think that the General Manager would agree with me that that no longer occurs, mainly because of the 'design and construct' programme. I think we can say that the broad objectives outlined at page 25 are being met.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is the Minister able to indicate whether any builders who have been participating in the 'design and construct' programme have declined to continue their involvement? The figures that were cited to the Committee by the General Manager of the Trust indicated that the Trust had direct input in relation to 2 700 buildings and that 400 purchasers, I take it beyond the 'design and construct' programme, were involved. More specifically, how many of the 2 700 buildings came under the 'design and construct' programme and how many resulted from the direct initiative of the Trust? If information is available, I would like some general indication of the various types of development envisaged: how many of the 3 100 buildings are cottage flats, duplexes, or two, three or four-bedroom homes? I would like to know the general basic statistical detail relative to that programme.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I will answer the first question and then perhaps I will ask the General Manager to give the detailed information that has been requested. When it was announced in the media that a preference to unionists clause would be introduced into the 'design and construct' programme, Mr Cummings, of the H.I.A., made some rather gloomy forecasts that many builders would want to opt out of the 'design and construct' programme. As yet, I have not received any information in regard to any withdrawal and I am sure that the General Manager can reiterate that the Trust has not received any such information. The information available up to the fifth call indicates that more builders have been prepared to move into the 'design and construction' programme than there is money available. So far, as I say, no-one has notified me that he intends to withdraw. The only person who has made any comments at all has been Mr Cummings, who commented on the particular clause.

The preference to unionists clause would not affect current contracts being undertaken by builders for the Housing Trust; it would affect only future contracts. Again, I give credit to the previous Government for introducing the 'design and construct' concept. It has enabled builders, in effect, to use their existing land, land which they were sitting on and could not get rid of in the current market. It enabled the builders to go to the Trust and say, 'Yes, we will offer you this land and we will build houses of this type to the specifications provided by the Trust.' I cannot see that the preference to unionists clause has affected any builder who wanted to participate in that programme. I will ask Mr Edwards to give detailed information.

Mr Edwards: I have figures which indicate that, of the 2 700 expected completions this year, approximately 1 100 would be 'design and construct' and the balance of approximately 1 600 would be traditional Trust designs. Over and above that, there would be approximately 400 purchasers of existing homes. There will be 600 new constructions in country areas and 2 100 in the metropolitan area. I have the figures for pensioner units and the different categories. I was not sufficiently forward thinking to obtain subtotals, so I cannot give precise figures on pensioner units, but several hundred such units of both Trust design and 'design and construct' will be involved.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Supplementary to that, I take it that that material will be extracted and made available for the record in the debate.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Further to the general activity of the Housing Trust, it was stated a short time ago that approximately 650 buildings will cost \$13 million. And, indeed, a number of statements which have been made since the initial statement by the former Federal Government in regard to wage pause money being made available suggest that each individual unit to be produced and commissioned by the Housing Trust, on my arithmetic, will cost on average \$50 000, but I may be wrong in that assumption.

Certainly, the statements made by the Minister and by the Federal Government when the wage pause money became available suggested that the average cost (although I am appreciative of the fact that an average is difficult to obtain because of the variables involved) would be about \$50 000 a unit. Is information available about the average cost of units in stock over the past five or seven years? Also, what does the \$50 000 figure represent in real terms, using a comparable example?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I can provide a brief explanation and I will then ask the General Manager to give a more detailed reply. The member for Light referred to a figure of about \$50 000, although he was not quite sure about his figures. Generally within the industry a new Trust dwelling costs about \$45 000 on average, and privately constructed project homes are available for about \$30 000. There are three reasons for that \$15 000 gap. Project homes exclude the cost of the land, which on average costs \$8 000. That is a fairly low figure when one considers the cost of land that is being sold at Flagstaff Hill and even at Craigmore. Further, the Housing Trust always insists on using expensive fittings for plumbing, cupboards, and so on, with an aim to minimising maintenance costs in the future. We all know that in some private project homes beneath the glossy finish there are things that can cause problems in the future. Also, the cost of Trust dwellings includes concrete pathways and some landscaping which is not usually included with project homes. Taking into account those three factors, in effect, a Housing Trust constructed home is cheaper than a privately constructed home. Perhaps Mr Edwards can elaborate on that.

Mr Edwards: The average price of family housing of its own design provided by the Trust is about \$45 000. The overall cost for pensioner units, which form a very large proportion of available housing, is of the order of \$30 000 to \$32 000. There are, of course, significant variations of those averages, particularly outside the metropolitan area where building costs are significantly greater. The 'design and construct' programme, on information we have developed so far (and it is a bit hard to compare because we are not comparing apples with apples), appears to be slightly more expensive in the metropolitan area, but in a sense the Trust is paying a premium for that opportunity of acquiring land at locations that it would not otherwise have. So, it

seems to us to be a fair price. I do not think there is much more information I can add.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I referred to 650 units and to the sum of \$13 million, which is a figure that I thought the General Manager had cited: I realise that that does not equate to \$50 000 per unit. Are those figures correct?

Mr Edwards: Yes, about 650 units were approved under the fifth call of the 'design and construct' programme and the overall cost of those units, as I recall, is about \$30 million.

Mr FERGUSON: Under 'Targets/Objectives' (page 25 of the yellow book) it is stated that one of the objectives will be the renegotiation of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. Will the Minister say what the Government hopes to gain from the renegotiation of that agreement?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The renegotiation of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement will commence later this year at a convened meeting of all State Ministers and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for this matter. One of the things that will be discussed will be a review of the mortgage and rent and relief scheme. At the moment the rent reduction scheme is costing the Housing Trust and the State Government quite a sum of money. Numerous requests were made to the former Federal Liberal Government in regard to the fact that South Australia's commitment to the rental reduction programme should be recognised by the Federal Government. It is really far too early to comment on exactly what the Government would like to see occur, but we will be pressing for a better deal for South Australia.

Mr FERGUSON: I refer to the low energy project house built by the Housing Trust in the District of Henley Beach. I compliment the Housing Trust for proceeding with that project at Henley Beach, because the District of Henley Beach represents everything that is good about South Australia. It is average in everything so far as wage-earners, home ownership, and numbers of graduates are concerned. It is a very average electorate in a very fine State. I congratulate the Housing Trust for the experimentation that is going on in that area. What has been the result of that experiment? Has it been worth while, and has the Trust considered building more of these low energy houses?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The member for Henley Beach said that he represents an average electorate, but I place on record that those who live in that electorate have a better than average member to represent them! I have not had the pleasure of inspecting the low energy house at Henley Beach, although I have seen such houses at Port Augusta. As far as I know, the knowledge that the Housing Trust has acquired from the experimental low energy houses is being incorporated into the general building programme being undertaken by the Trust. I am not paying political compliments, but this proves once again that the Housing Trust is the leader in this country in providing the best in housing for the people of this State.

Mr Edwards: The benefits of the experimental house at Henley Beach, which was the first experiment that the Trust engaged in, have been applied generally in our building programme. We devised an energy policy, in the light of the results of that experiment, which led us to establish quite clear rules about the orientation of houses, the extent of overhang of eaves, the relationship of the garden space and the location of trees to windows that were facing the sun, and some of the materials that were appropriate. So, we learnt from that experiment and we have applied our experience. Generally speaking, all Trust houses are built to try to achieve what I understand is known as a high standard of passive energy conservation rather than using expensive air-conditioning. In addition to that, as the Minister mentioned, there is another experimental house at Port Augusta which is somewhat different in that that house is partially

sunk into the ground so that the earth around the house offers some kind of climatic control of the temperature inside the house.

Mr FERGUSON: Will the Minister state why the Government has extended eligibility for concessional loans to older childless couples?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Previously, people who had no children were not eligible for concessional loans from the State Bank. Under the previous arrangements, couples without dependants whose combined ages exceeded 52 years were not eligible for assistance. The committee, the recommendation of which was supported by the Government, recognised the recent shift in regard to child-bearing couples and the age limit has now been increased to a combined total of 60 years. The Government believes that, given social and demographic trends, some consideration should be given to older couples without children. As has been the case with single persons, we have decided to establish a stringent income limit of 60 per cent of average weekly earnings (which equals \$215 a week), with the situation being closely monitored so that eligibility can be fine-tuned on the bases of need and demand. There must be some flexibility in regard to people with special circumstances.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Will the Minister say whether the expandable house project of the Trust has been successful? What statistics are available of individuals or builders who have benefited directly by the scheme?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The expandable house programme has been generally accepted by the building societies, which have provided additional or extended finance in that regard. The building industry generally has not picked up the programme, which is a disappointment because it gives ordinary people a chance to purchase a basic home and then build on in the future.

Mr Edwards: The Trust carried out the expandable home project as a one-off pilot demonstration project, and it attracted a considerable degree of interest. We acquired a lot of information from people who came to view the home, and there seemed to be, on the basis of the comments made, a degree of interest. It was something which appealed to people. As the Minister has said, it is not subject to copyright and the concept can be taken up. Although some builders have expressed interest in that concept, I am not aware that there has been much positive taking up.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is the Minister taking steps to hasten dual occupancy plans, and does he intend to endeavour to cause local government zoning to be changed to permit dual occupancy in most suburbs or indeed in any suburbs?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Since the previous Government announced dual occupancy, there has not been much movement, but we are having discussions with the L.G.A. on the matter. Members will be well aware that, when that measure was announced by the previous Government, it received the support of the Opposition. As predicted, in many cases local government would not agree with the concept. At the moment the issue is of a very delicate nature and we are still proceeding with discussions with the L.G.A. to try to resolve the situation with member councils.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: On the first day on Committee A in relation to Treasury lines it became apparent that there was a possibility that, because of the method of financing Housing Trust development this year, all projects associated with the Housing Trust in excess of \$500 000 would have to go before the Public Works Standing Committee for approval. The Premier indicated that he would seek a Crown Law opinion on this matter, because some doubts had been expressed. He had hoped that he might have been able to inform this Committee before it sat as to the precise situation. Has the Minister any information, or can he make available

any information to the Committee, on this aspect of Housing Trust activity?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I read the report of Estimates Committee A when that question was put to the Premier. We are still awaiting Crown Law opinion on that matter, and as soon as it has been received by either my office or the Treasury office, the person who asked the question will be sent a reply. I do not want to take up the time of the Committee by reading out a copy of a letter from the solicitors of the South Australian Housing Trust, because if I did that members opposite would say that I am trying to waste time. However, in summary, it states:

We do not consider that the Public Works Standing Committee Act has application to Trust houses.

That is from the Housing Trust's solicitors. As a Government we will be seeking a Crown Law opinion. When such opinion has been received (and we did try to get it through quickly, as we expected the question to come up today), the honourable member will receive a copy either from the Treasurer or from me.

Mr MATHWIN: I refer to the purchase of properties on the open market. I have been given to understand that the Trust, at times, appears to give priority in the purchasing of homes and, in fact, sometimes pays more than the going rate for them. Further, many houses are in a bad state of repair and need upgrading. The Trust is then faced with an extra cost to upgrade them. Does the Minister have any figures on the number of properties that change hands in that manner? What is the cost of upgrading those homes? I heard of one house in my district which, I understand, cost about \$30 000 to upgrade. It involved two units (maisonettes) and that seemed a colossal amount to spend on upgrading a property unless it was purchased at a basic price. It does not appear to be good business. Does the Minister have any information on such purchases?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The General Manager can give more detailed information. However, I would have thought that the member for Glenelg would not listen to such rumours. The Trust is not placed in any position of advantage for purchasing existing properties. It buys them on the open market and pays the going rate. The member for Glenelg may recall last year's Estimates Committees, during which I objected most violently because the Government of the day had instructed the Trust to buy homes that were almost a walk-in proposition for tenants and, in effect, was creating severe problems for those people usually carrying out maintenance work for the Housing Trust. When the Trust purchases an existing home, it is no different from anyone else. It selects homes on the open market. I will ask the General Manager to give more detailed information on exact costings.

Mr Edwards: The Trust is not aware that it enjoys any special privileges and does not try to pay top prices. The Trust enjoys an advantage in the market place in that it can make up its mind quickly and can be a cash purchaser. Its purchases are not dependent on the sale of another property, as is the case with many purchasers. Because of those advantages, we believe that we probably pay a price lower than the market price. The Trust's purchasing programme is heavily concentrated in established communities. One of the reasons we have the purchasing programme is to provide housing in areas of demand where it is not possible to build new houses as the area is fully established. Thus, the vast majority of houses we purchase would be located within five to 10 kilometres of the city centre and, therefore, tend to be in areas which, particularly over the last few years, have shown a more rapid increase in prices.

In addition, we tend to buy houses for special purposes. Larger houses can be used as women's or youth shelters or as a place for ex-prisoners or disabled persons, such people

requiring larger houses. Expenditure may be required to make them suitable for that category. I have average figures for money expended in the period for the first two months of this financial year, during which time 55 dwellings were purchased, the average price being \$38 051 and the average cost for upgrading being \$8 394.

Mr MATHWIN: Does the Trust also purchase blocks of flats or units on the same system? I was informed that quite often the Trust is approached before some properties go on to the general market.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The Housing Trust does not buy many blocks of flats but the conditions previously outlined by the General Manager apply in exactly the same way.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is the Minister contemplating any alteration to the personnel on the Housing Trust Board and, if so, when? I have noted that the Minister has lauded the work of the Trust, and well he might. Obviously there is a balance of personnel on the Board who have assisted management to achieve the results and are looking forward to the achievement of the building programme under contemplation this year.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: As members are well aware, replacements will occur as from January next year. It is the prerogative of the Minister and the Government of the day to make any replacements they see fit. I have said on many occasions that I believe the balance on the Board is a good one, but that does not necessarily mean that all members will be reinstated. The previous Minister made wholesale changes to the Board. I assure the Committee that, if there are changes, it will not be to the detriment of the Trust in providing a worthwhile job in building houses for those people who need them.

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

Works and Services—Department of Local Government, \$3 730 000

Chairman:
Mr Max Brown

Members:
The Hon. B.C. Eastick
Mr D.M. Ferguson
Mr T.R. Groom
Ms S.M. Lenehan
Mr I.P. Lewis
Mr J. Mathwin
Mr K.H. Plunkett
Mr W.A. Rodda

Witness:

The Hon T.H. Hemmings, Minister of Local Government.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr E.M. Miller, State Librarian, Department of Local Government.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the vote open for examination.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I have two questions which will involve a degree of statistical information which I hope

that the Minister will be able to give to the Committee at a subsequent stage if it is not available now. The supportive document is excellent in the information it gives relative to projects recently completed, projects in hand, and projects in contemplation. Can the Minister outline from the sources available to him the total projects which have been undertaken under this initiative and the projects beyond the period contained in the foreshadowed projections of the identified towns which are still to be given consideration? At the same time, the Minister may be able to indicate to the Committee whether all the projects have been self-supporting once they have been undertaken, or whether there are any projects which, as time progresses, have or are getting to the stage where there may need to be an injection of additional capital to pick up a short-fall in major maintenance of them.

I think that the Minister would appreciate that quite often major works of this nature will function very satisfactorily, say, for 15 to 20 years, and may then show signs of weakness or need upgrading. As with this initiative, so many other initiatives associated with capital works, recreation development, halls, etc., comes the time when the asset upon which one has come to rely is an albatross around the community's neck. It is not one that Governments should necessarily have to pick up, but it is an area of involvement which I think any Minister would have contemplated in an overview of his responsibilities.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out that, if the information which the member for Light is seeking is purely statistical, and if the Minister does not have it, it might be advisable to put it in *Hansard* without going into the question at some length.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I do not really want to waste the time of the Committee. In relation to the total programme since it was commenced (and I take it that the member for Light is also including the future programmes up to 1990), I do not have that information available. I have, and I will table with the consent of the Committee and the Chairman, the 1982-83 programmes and the projected 1983-84 programmes. I seek leave to have those tables inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

Capital Expenditure

Effluent Drainage

1982-83 Payments made

Work in Progress	\$
Balaklava—Construction	310 000
Kalangadoo—Construction	78 000
Glossop—Construction	17 000
Robe—Design	47 000
Nairne—Design/Construction	22 000
Macclesfield—Design	23 000
Keith—Design/Construction	54 000
Karoonda—Design/Construction	23 000
Greenock—Design	27 000
Clarendon—Design	29 000
Bute—Design	1 000
New Works	
Streaky Bay—Construction	2 000
Echunga—Construction	5 000
Completed Works	
Meadows	44 000
Freeling	398 000
Ardrossan	639 000
Hawker	140 000
Strathalbyn	466 000
Mundulla	125 000
Littlehampton	104 000
Total Expenditure	2 554 000

1983-84

Proposed Expenditure

Work in Progress	
Balaklava—Construction	212 000
Kalangadoo—Construction	409 000
Glossop—Construction	323 000
Robe—Design	35 000
Nairne—Design/Construction	686 000
Macclesfield—Design	23 000
Keith—Design/Construction	541 000
Karoonda—Design/Construction	307 000
Hamley Bridge—Design	2 000
Greenock—Design	17 000
Clarendon—Design	5 000
Bute—Design	2 000
New Works	
Streaky Bay—Construction	190 000
Echunga—Construction	371 000
Miscellaneous	155 000
Completed Works	
Meadows	25 000
Freeling	59 000
Ardrossan	32 000
Hawker	6 000
	<u>\$3 400 000</u>

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: As for the other aspects about the possible cost to the community, that is the councils that undertook projects, as yet we have received no information that that will happen, and that involves my having a crystal ball to know exactly what will happen in 20 years time. However, I think that it should be made perfectly clear that the programme of effluent drainage schemes is one that has been picked up by all Governments, and it has been picked up only if those councils request it. I think that councils which request an effluent drainage system in their areas must be aware that it could possibly cost them additional expenses in the future. As yet, we have had no information that this will happen.

One point I will make is that there have been discussions between officers of my Department and the Health Commission about a simpler way of providing effluent drainage systems to councils. At present, as the member is well aware, we work to a strict E.&W.S. standard. If it is possible to reach some common ground, the resulting cost to those councils (which are, in effect, in line waiting to come on stream) will be considerably lower.

I stress that, in the opinion of the officers of my Department, that would not result in the efficiency or future cost to councils being affected. It is something that is being discussed. We are looking at the increased costs to councils and, as soon as there is any information (and I stress it may take 12 to 18 months before the final decision is made), then obviously either I, the Minister of Water Resources, or the Minister of Health will make a suitable announcement.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to the public parks and the appropriation of \$330 000, are there any specific projects to which this amount has been committed, or is it yet to be determined? I seek any general information of a statistical nature which the Minister may be able to provide to the Committee.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: No commitments have been made for this year. Again, if the Committee is agreeable, I will table a statement of the total of the development subsidies for the period from 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983 and a table showing the total of acquisitions of \$356 633. I seek

leave to have the tables inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

Public Parks Act, 1943-1981

Total of Development Subsidies for the Period 1.7.82 to 30.6.83

Corporation of the City of:

	\$
Burnside	7 496
Enfield	1 823
Henley and Grange	20 314
Unley	17 940

Corporation of the Town of:

St Peters	1 576
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District Council of:

Barossa	233
Blyth	12 422
Kimba	525
Kingscote	100
Le Hunte	787
Mallala	5 560
Meadows	27 760
Meningie	4 521
Murat Bay	133
Murray Bridge	15 250
Paringa	2 088
Riverton	1 021
Wallaroo	817
Yankalilla	2 276
Total Development Subsidies	\$122 642

Public Parks Act, 1943-1981

Total of Acquisition Subsidies for the Period 1.7.82 to 30.6.83

Corporation of the City of:

	\$
Campbelltown	20 000
Marion	7 667
Mitcham	108 716
Port Lincoln	2 876
Prospect	12 667
Payneham	22 000
Tea Tree Gully	53 667

Corporation of the Town of:

St Peters	24 000
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District Council of:

Dudley	4 750
Munno Para	30 000
Murray Bridge	9 167
Stirling	32 373
Willunga	16 750
Yankalilla	12 000
Total Acquisition Subsidies	\$356 633
Total Expenditure	\$479 275

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? There being no further questions, I declare the examination completed.

Minister of Housing and Minister of Local Government,
Miscellaneous, \$8 298 000

Chairman:
Mr Max Brown

Members:
The Hon. B.C. Eastick
Mr D.M. Ferguson

Mr T.R. Groom
Ms S.M. Lenehan
Mr I.P. Lewis
Mr J. Mathwin
Mr K.H. Plunkett
Mr W.A. Rodda

Witness:

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings, Minister of Housing and Minister of Local Government.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr E.M. Miller, State Librarian, Department of Local Government.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the vote open for examination.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I go to the listing of grants, more specifically in relation to community centre projects which have shown an increase. Is this money yet committed? What is the statistical detail or, alternatively, if it relates to decisions that have yet to be taken, the Minister may be able to identify and place on the record the distribution of the previous year. In commenting upon the line the Minister might indicate any change of attitude in distribution or approach that he is able to identify for the benefit of the Committee.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I take it the member wanted to know what the commitment was for this year?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Just repeating, if I may: have any decisions been taken relative to the disbursement of the \$1.781 million or so much information as is available relative to that disbursement and any comparative information which is available in respect of the previous year's distribution of \$1.681 million.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: First of all, for 1982-83 the expenditure was \$1 681 498, of which Thebarton council received \$80 000; Parks Legal Service \$31 700; Parks Community Centre \$1.527 million; and there was also a special grant for the Royal visit by Prince Charles and his wife, who went to the Parks. That was an additional sum of \$2 830, occasioned because of extra security, cleaning, etc. A terminal leave payment to P. Varma involved \$28 168; L. Bell, salary and terminal leave, \$10 670; Institute of Municipal Administration, \$1 130.

The commitment this year is as follows: Thebarton council, \$80 000; Parks Legal Services Inc., \$32 000; Parks Community Centre, \$1.611 million; and as yet uncommitted allocations which will go out as different organisations come to us, \$58 000.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I refer now to the subsidies to local government libraries. There is a sizable increase here of over \$1 million. Identification is given in the supportive documents to the proposition of five new libraries. I would like, if the Minister has it and can make it available for the record, the distribution to individual libraries for the previous year and the contemplation for this year. I repeat to the Minister that the Committee is already aware that there has been a need by individual libraries to place on the handling of books a surcharge which is passed on to the users, or finishes up as a reduction in the service available to the community which uses the library. Is any attempt made in the distribution to the libraries this year to offset the possible reduction in service that might have been imposed upon the libraries by the requirement that they introduce a handling charge?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: In regard to the information that the honourable member requires, I will first give some explanation, and then I will seek leave to have the details of maintenance costs of existing libraries inserted in *Hansard*. The yellow book refers to the establishment of seven new libraries. Fortunately, the Government has been able to establish eight new libraries. They have been established at Kadina, Aberfoyle Park, Renmark, Peterborough, Kingston in the South-East, Port Broughton, Keith, and at Riverton.

We would have liked to have an additional three libraries established, but resources would not permit it. We were lucky to get eight. The total cost for the establishment of those libraries will be about \$674 023. I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* details concerning the development and maintenance programmes for 1983, without my reading them.

Leave granted.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, 1983-84

Library	Population	Est. Cap.	IBG	Annual Books, etc.	Admin.	
1. Kadina	4 750	100 000	50 629	8 225 (950 vols.)	3 000	161 854
2. Aberfoyle Park	20 000	130 000	53 294			183 294
3. Renmark	6 500	55 000	53 294	10 150 (1 300 vols.)	3 000	121 444
4. Peterborough	2 750		23 291	4 675 (550 vols.)	10 000	37 966
5. Kingston S.E.	2 450	15 000	27 979	4 438 (525 vols.)	500	47 917
6. Port Broughton	1 100		25 122	4 140 (471 vols.)	500	29 762
7. Keith	2 540	22 000	29 006	4 544 (544 vols.)	500	56 050
8. Riverton			30 546	4 690 (571 vols.)	500	35 736
	40 090	322 000	293 161	40 862 (4 911 vols.)	18 000	674 023

Special Projects (Trust Funds)

	\$
Replacement Flinders Mobile	15 000
Kensington and Norwood (Administration and Books)	18 000
	\$33 000

MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME
SUBSIDY ALLOCATIONS, 1983-84

Council	Service Points	Councils	Population Served	Subsequent Capital		Books and Related Materials		Administration		Total	
				Voted 1982-83	1983-84	Voted 1982-83	1983-84	Voted 1982-83	1983-84	Voted 1982-83	1983-84
Andamooka C/S			500		100	3 115	4 201	430	445	3 545	4 746
Barmera			4 300	200	250	9 555	9 378	17 200	19 840	26 955	29 468
Barossa Valley	3	2	9 500	125	500	14 540	16 835	23 248	32 000	37 913	49 335
Berri			6 100	825	1 375	8 973	10 243	23 312	24 000	33 110	35 618
Brighton			20 300	1 020	2 645	31 920	32 820	50 000	76 125	82 940	111 590
Brown's Well C/S			350			1 233	1 380	150	150	1 383	1 530
Burnside			30 000	1 250	4 000	56 730	49 550	100 000	112 500	157 980	166 050
East Torrens			5 300		250		6 600		9 500		16 350
Burra C/S			2 450		370	4 075	5 237	655	851	4 730	6 458
Campbelltown	2		35 100	1 572	800	24 975	44 335	94 950	112 105	121 497	157 240
Clare			3 700	5 765	750	6 175	6 645	18 250	23 875	30 190	31 270
Cleve C/S			2 600			3 580	4 167	190	223	3 770	4 390
Elliston C/S (Lock)			1 470			3 075	4 323	210	255	3 285	4 578
Coober Pedy C/S			3 000	600	285	11 592	5 465	2 700	2 030	14 892	7 780
Coonalpyn Downs C/S (Tintinara)			1 850		350	3 805	4 959	1 140	1 640	4 945	6 949
Elizabeth	3		33 700	12 510	75	49 260	58 610	150 000	126 375	211 770	185 060
Enfield	2		32 000		6 440	55 605	46 198	67 150	96 327	122 775	148 965
Eudunda C/S			1 400	470	250	3 917	4 160	325	295	4 712	4 705
Flinders Mobile		5	6 650			1 285	8 775	13 483	16 760	14 768	25 535
Franklin Harbour C/S (Cowell)			1 400			2 562	4 374	500	790	32 507*	5 164
Henley & Grange			16 000	150	150	22 040	23 850	45 240	51 600	67 430	75 600
Hindmarsh			8 000	1 750	655	13 523	13 927	23 875	29 450	39 148	44 032
Jamestown C/S		2	2 350	150	750	4 355	5 075	4 505	1 000	43 310*	6 825
Kanyaka-Quorn C/S			1 600			2 678	5 469	500	540	34 073*	6 009
Kapunda			2 500	7 000	1 880	3 000	4 745	9 830	6 250	19 830	12 875
Karoonda East Murray C/S			1 800		350	4 610	5 263		125	4 610	5 738
Kingscote			3 000	475	475	5 560	5 275	22 325	23 875	28 360	29 625
Le Hunte (Wudinna) C/S			1 500			2 038	2 600	350	350	2 388	2 950
Leigh Creek C/S			1 270			5 925	7 007	870	620	6 795	7 627
Loxton			6 700	300	2 320	8 370	10 705	19 500	21 830	28 170	34 855
Lucindale C/S			1 500		60	3 415	3 860	260	195	3 675	4 115
Mallala (Two Wells)			3 550		500	3 897	6 470	1 400	2 050	51 333*	9 020
Marion	3		50 000	9 650	5 660	58 845	69 525	150 000	187 500	218 495	262 685
Meadows			20 000	4 000	990	16 840	28 185	46 450	56 525	67 290	85 700
Millicent (and Beachport)	2	1	10 250	1 100	6 000	17 044	16 200	32 460	38 438	50 604	60 638
Minlaton C/S			2 550	715		4 065	4 685	2 660	3 115	7 440	7 800
Mitcham	2		49 600	14 000	14 000	62 530	70 972	100 000	186 000	176 530	270 972
Moonta C/S			1 700		200	3 087	3 565	175	215	3 262	3 980
Mount Barker			12 100	500	350	2 805	11 635	9 450	14 027	12 755	26 012
Mount Gambier			19 100	500	1 250	21 100	27 025	50 000	55 450	71 600	83 725
Munno Para	2		27 200	4 995	3 845	24 485	33 961	78 000	87 408	107 480	125 214
Murat Bay (Ceduna) C/S			3 950	300	123	5 323	6 433	2 339	1 425	7 962	7 981
Murray Bridge	2		13 600	600	600	14 980	17 735	34 367	47 152	49 947	65 487
Naracoorte (M & D.C.)			7 050	6 645	2 305	9 860	8 270	26 555	26 438	43 060	37 013
Noarlunga	2		50 000	6 100	4 950	60 810	70 800	100 000	145 025	166 910	220 775
Orroroo C/S			1 050			2 793	3 085	200	200	2 993	3 285
Payneham			16 700	1 325	7 000	24 215	24 345	37 535	42 475	63 075	73 820
Peake (Coomandook) C/S		2	970			2 123	3 005	250	250	27 138*	3 255
Penola C/S			3 850	60	100	5 975	6 637	740	750	6 775	7 487

MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME
SUBSIDY ALLOCATIONS, 1983-84—continued

Council	Service Points	Councils	Population Served	Subsequent Capital		Books and Related Materials		Administration		Total	
				Voted 1982-83	1983-84	Voted 1982-83	1983-84	Voted 1982-83	1983-84	Voted 1982-83	1983-84
Pinnaroo C/S			1 500	237	660	3 905	3 721	798	819	4 940	5 200
Pt Adelaide	3		36 200	7 455	6 550	47 035	53 185	104 395	106 860	158 885	166 595
Pt Augusta			16 250			19 380	21 480	44 100	49 500	63 480	70 980
Pt Lincoln (and part Lincoln)			11 500	722	1 275	13 365	16 440	40 010	43 075	54 097	60 790
Pt Pirie			12 000	1 090	1 400	15 350	16 065	34 060	45 000	50 500	62 465
Prospect			19 200	1 500	1 750	13 590	24 805	46 700	52 650	61 790	79 205
Ridley—Cambray C/S			1 000		625	1 643	1 814	245	175	1 888	2 614
Swan Reach C/S			900	40		1 363	1 727	245	312	1 648	2 039
Robe			1 250		500	2 382	4 970	1 000	7 250	65 958*	12 720
Saddleworth & Auburn			2 000		500	3 985	6 800	800	6 175	58 078*	13 475
St Peters			8 700	6 735	2 750	12 795	14 500	34 000	40 000	53 530	57 250
Salisbury	5		85 100	5 250	5 672	115 605	91 294	250 000	319 125	370 855	416 091
Stirling			13 300	1 500	2 600	22 295	22 530	50 000	52 000	73 795	77 130
Streaky Bay C/S			2 400		250	3 488	4 707	2 300	2 925	51 333*	7 882
Tatiara—Bordertown			4 500			6 342	7 435	6 000	17 095	131 942*	24 530
Tea Tree Gully			33 000	725	1 655	37 771	47 978	50 000	123 750	88 496	173 383
Thebarton			9 400	4 775	2 270	12 805	14 215	27 885	34 030	45 465	50 515
Unley	2		35 100	4 100	5 875	61 729	70 121	100 000	131 625	295 829*	207 621
Victor Harbor			6 600	900	4 153	7 805	9 235	18 800	28 000	27 505	41 388
Waikerie			4 700	300	300	6 960	8 405	19 500	22 000	26 760	30 705
Wakefield Plains—Balaklava C/S			4 400	1 000	450	5 148	5 875	3 335	1 300	15 323*	7 625
Walkerville			7 000	925	105	12 410	12 125	34 953	37 000	48 288	49 230
West Torrens	2		45 400	14 000	4 890	37 772	40 612	40 612	133 220	130 597	178 722
Whyalla	3		31 850	8 285	145	32 350	40 660	84 710	95 025	125 345	135 830
Willunga			7 100	450	7 000	8 965	10 795	22 575	24 055	31 990	41 850
Woodville	4		76 300	13 250	14 850	92 130	92 300	150 000	285 675	249 278	392 825
Woomera			1 800	175		3 825	3 935	13 775	13 530	17 775	17 465
Yorketown—Warooka C/S		2	3 800	200	200	5 285	7 065	2 500	2 410	7 985	9 675
	104	84	1 023 360	152 164	139 378	1 319 741	1 483 358	2 588 740	3 360 945	4 642 940**	4 983 681

* Total includes Establishment Capital and IBG (82/83)

** Grand total 82/83 includes Establishment Capital: \$249 990; IBG \$332 305.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The honourable member referred to subsidy changes. That has occurred because of the increasing inequity between local government and State Government contributions towards the administrative subsidy for public libraries. The Government instituted the change in 1983-84 to provide a \$1 for \$1 subsidy to give a standard level of public library service across the State. Prior to this change, an ever-increasing number of councils, especially in the metropolitan area, were being forced to meet more and more of their library costs while some smaller councils were allowed to provide a much higher standard of service because their capacity to receive a subsidy was not being limited.

This adjustment to subsidise on a per capita basis to the limit of \$3.75 per head has allowed all services to be treated equally. Very small country services have received a minimum subsidy to ensure that they are not disadvantaged, and adjustments have been made which will apply to a small number of councils to ensure that the change in the formula will not lead to undue hardship, particularly where use is higher than average because a council is providing a service to neighbouring councils without libraries.

Councils for which adjustments have been made for this reason are: St Peters, Stirling, Walkerville, Port Lincoln, Victor Harbor, Naracoorte and Millicent. It is expected that the services to Port Lincoln, Naracoorte and Millicent will be regularised for 1984-85 as the adjacent councils agree to make a contribution to the service. A number of councils will be substantially better off under the new arrangements, but will still not receive full \$1 for \$1 subsidy.

The Libraries Board considers that the level of service provided in these instances is above the State standard, and that therefore the councils should be asked to bear the additional cost. The councils affected are Brighton, Burnside, Elizabeth, Marion, Mitcham, Salisbury and Unley. School community libraries have not been affected and will continue to receive their full \$1 for \$1 subsidy.

In response to the matter raised in regard to the processing charge, I point out that, whilst in the past councils have shared equally with Government in the purchase of book stock and other materials, the Government has paid the full cost of acquisition, cataloguing, and processing each item. The Government considered that, owing to the substantial increase in the administration of subsidy arrangements, this was an unfair cost for the Government alone to meet. A processing fee of 80 cents has been applied for 1983-84, of which the councils must meet 40 cents to cover that service. In most cases that fee amounts to only a few hundred dollars and a very small percentage of the total cost of libraries.

In regard to books and other material subsidies, two minor changes have been made. The limit has been increased to maintain full \$1 for \$1 subsidy. Only one library, the Tea Tree Gully Library would have been affected by this, but this has not happened. The per capita standard of 1.4 books per head has been reduced for those libraries servicing over 50 000 people. It is a graduated scale down to one book per head for libraries servicing 80 000 people.

With the larger library services, both the board and the councils affected accepted that a smaller collection per capita would not disadvantage library users. Only Salisbury and Woodville are affected this year. Three years ago, for the same reason, the board increased to three volumes its per capita standard to councils serving under 3 000 people.

Concerning other subsidies, no changes have been made to the establishment capital or subsequent capital subsidies because it is considered that they are already adequate.

Mr Miller: Just one small point on the processing costs: whilst some councils feel that this is an imposition by making a charge that did not exist before, the Government

has seen fit to increase, on average throughout the State, the maintenance subsidies by 27 per cent in 1983-84 over that for 1982-83, while the book processing costs charged to councils amount only to 2 per cent of their library costs, on average, between 1982-83 and 1983-84. It is only a small charge compared to the increase in subsidy that has been provided.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to the Outback Areas Community Development Trust, I notice that there is a line-ball situation with regard to funds available. Is it contemplated that there will be any change of initiative within this Trust? Is the work that it has undertaken in respect of local government for some of the outback areas now complete? Can the Minister indicate an overview of what the Trust intends to do this year compared to its activities in the past?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I do not envisage any change in the Outback Areas Community Development Trust programme. The Trust has engendered a lot of goodwill within the outback areas, and it was my pleasure to reappoint Ted Connelly to the position of Chairman shortly after I became Minister. I was rather disappointed, as were members of this Party when we were in Opposition, when the previous Minister decided not to reappoint Ted Connelly to the Outback Areas Community Development Trust, despite the fact that there was a strong plea from the member for Eyre who had recognised the work that the previous Chairman had carried out; Mr Connelly is now back as Chairman, and his term expires on the 31 December 1985. For the information of the Committee, the other members of the Trust are L. O'Donoghue, M.J. Balharry, M.K. Francis and N.W. Hyatt. The sum provided in connection with the Trust is to cover debt services, but I do not envisage any change at all. It was rather pleasing to note that in the town of Leigh Creek, the Outback Areas Community Development Trust is no longer having a real input: the local community is now providing it, and this is the general thrust of what the Outback Areas Community Development Trust is trying to do in the Far North.

Dr McPhail: This line obscures a little the operation of the Outback Areas Trust. It is purely the expenditure line in relation to the Government's servicing of the borrowings of the Trust. That Trust operates on the investment of loan moneys it has, lives off the interest and pays grants to community organisations in the outback. This year the Grants Commission made an allocation of \$142 000 to the Outback Areas Trust. It has an income based upon its investment of the loan funds and moneys received from the Grants Commission which recognises it as a form of local government for the outback areas. This line simply represents Treasury bringing into account, under the Department of Local Government, the interest paid on the borrowings of the Outback Areas Trust.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Details of the activities of the Outback Areas Development Trust will be tabled in Parliament within the next two or three weeks, and people will be able to see exactly what it has achieved over the past year.

Mr PLUNKETT: The A.L.P. State platform involved a policy of placing a priority on training and development in local government. I refer to the line involving the Hockridge scholarship, the allocation for which is reduced from \$10 000 to \$1 000. In previous years a local government officer has travelled overseas, and this year I understand that a leading American city manager was brought out here and ran a successful training programme.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Yes, the honourable member is correct: our platform on local government is to place priority on training and development in local government. I, for one, was disappointed that the previous Government

reduced the Hockridge scholarship from an annual to a biennial award. I hope that, when financial provisions permit, this Government will make that scholarship an annual event.

In regard to Peter Marshall from Newark, who was the Hockridge scholar this year, that was a change from the usual event where, in the past, members of local government have travelled overseas. This time we brought someone in from overseas to give people here the benefit of his expertise in local government, and I understand that that was an outstanding success. He made an excellent impression on all concerned, especially on me as Minister. I was present when he arrived and attended a couple of meetings at which he addressed local government officers. I also pay a tribute to the Elton Mayo school which helped fund the visit and indicated to me that it greatly appreciated Peter Marshall's teaching methods. I am not saying that all local government officers are dour, stilted people, but he had a really lively approach to his lectures. That was appreciated by all. He brought to this State all the expertise of a thriving mid-western American town. I believe that the Elton Mayo school will in future contribute towards bringing into South Australia other people from elsewhere, so that their expertise can be disseminated among councils.

The reason for the reduction in the line from \$10 000 last year to \$1 000 this year is mainly that the \$1 000 is to publish the report that Mr Peter Marshall will deliver. It is my view that the Hockridge scholarship should be an annual award. It was named after a very dedicated public servant in local government, a person whom the present Director (who took over when Keith Hockridge died tragically) will say has left a mark on local government throughout this State. It is surprising to me that, no matter where one goes, there is always someone within local government who can relate how Keith Hockridge affected his life. As soon as it is humanly possible, I will make a submission to my Cabinet colleagues to make the Keith Hockridge scholarship an annual event.

Mr PLUNKETT: To what extent has the Department of Local Government liaised with local councils and clerks, advised on problems, development of training programmes, provided assistance to regional organisations and councils, promoted courses for elected members and council officers, and acted as a resource for local government?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: Within the Department of Local Government there is a small group of six advisory officers whose main task is to do all those things and, in addition, to assist me in the administration of the Local Government Act and the 25 other Acts committed to my administration. Other people in the Department, from the Director down, also contribute very substantially to what I might call our capacity building programme covering the points raised.

Departmental officers are always available. The Department is called on by the Institute of Municipal Administration and the Local Government Industry Training Committee to provide speakers for a number of seminars run in co-operation with those bodies. This is frequently done in their own time and it is something of which I am very proud: officers of my Department are prepared to go out in the evening and talk to local government groups at their own expense. They get no recompense for it.

On one occasion when we were monitoring the traffic on the Department's switchboard (with a view to replacement, I might add), we found that over 80 calls in one day were directed to just one officer. Of course, they were spread around a little, but that points out two problems: as legislation or other aspects of local government change, the Department is recognised as a very important resource to councils, members of Parliament and the general public, I do not think that there is any member of this Parliament who finds that,

when they write to or telephone my departmental officers for information, the information is not forthcoming. That also points out the enormous demand and the need to do more, but we are limited in the number of people available to do it.

Mr RODDA: I was interested in the Minister's comments (and I might have misunderstood him) in relation to libraries at Naracoorte, Penola and Lucindale. I understood that he said there was to be an increase in facilities and he referred to the contribution of adjoining councils.

I wondered whether my interest was parochial, because Lucindale and Penola adjoin Naracoorte and Tatiara is adjacent to the north. They have an excellent library which has been established under the system. I heard you mention Keith, which is within Tatiara. I think I heard you mention Kingston and Lacedpede, and that is going to be serviced by the announcement tonight. Beachport also adjoins these councils. These libraries in Naracoorte and the places mentioned are excellent, and I may say they have uplifted the quality of life. I think people who have never read books in their lives have become quite avid readers of the latest publications. I was a little puzzled as to what the Minister said. Perhaps I misunderstood him.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: With all due respect, I know the member for Victoria usually has a very agile mind and can pick up all the information.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no line that has any reference to the mind of the member for Victoria.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I know, but quite a few things have been said today which have nothing to do with the lines. The eight new libraries I was referring to were Kadina, Aberfoyle Park, Renmark, Peterborough, Kingston (in the South-East), Port Broughton, Keith, and Riverton. The areas about which I was speaking in relation to subsidy changes were St Peters, Stirling, Walkerville, Port Lincoln, Victor Harbor, Naracoorte, and Millicent. They are the areas I think the member for Victoria is concerned about, but I would ask the State Librarian to enlarge upon what the actual changes mean.

Mr Miller: Lucindale, which has a small community library, last year received \$3 675 and this year will get \$4 115, so there has been an increase there. Last year Millicent received \$50 604 and this year will receive \$60 638. Again, there has been an increase there. I should also point out that Millicent and Beachport are at present negotiating a joint agreement and it is very likely that the service this year will be a joint service to those two councils. Last year the corporation of Naracoorte received \$43 060 and this year will receive \$37 013. That is one of the councils which has had its grant reduced under the new formula, and it was made on the basis the Minister previously announced, that the Libraries Board considered that it should provide an equitable subsidy to all councils based on what it considered to be an adequate level of library service. Naracoorte had a service that was above that average and, therefore, it did not get quite as large a grant, but I should also point out that Naracoorte is getting a grant from the district council, and again negotiations are under way for those two councils to join together in the provision of a library service. It also receives a further grant from the Department of Technical and Further Education from the college in Naracoorte, because it provides a library service to it, so in fact the amount of money that Naracoorte will be getting overall will be higher than it got last year.

Mr RODDA: The Minister referred to the Keith Hockridge Memorial Scholarship in answer to a question from the member for Peake, although I do not think he made quite clear why the proposed expenditure for this year has been reduced from \$10 000 paid last year to \$1 000 proposed for 1983-84. What is the reason for the reduction?

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: I thought I explained that the reason is because it is a biennial scholarship which was inaugurated by my predecessor, Hon. Murray Hill. The sum of \$1 000 will pay for a report that will come from that scholarship. The Director may be able to provide further details.

Dr McPhail: A biennial grant of \$10 000 is made in one year, \$1 000 is necessary for the next year, and then the allocation is restored to \$10 000 in the following year. However, we are looking towards a special project towards the end of 1986 when we may in fact split up the grant and try to work towards providing exchanges between clerks from councils of similar size in Texas and in South Australia. We hope that that will be a useful recognition of the Jubilee 150 year and will provide special experience for a much wider range of local authority officers. We expect that the grant for next year will be a more traditional one, when an officer from South Australia will go away for about three months to visit an overseas location to learn about local government practice in other countries.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Can the Minister provide details relative to subsidies for the purchase of land for public parks and recreational areas? I dare say that some of that is already committed and that there is other money yet to be committed. However, information would be welcomed by members of the Committee. So that the Minister's staff do not feel that anything has been left undone, the Minister might like to make available all the questions that were not asked and all the answers that were prepared!

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That remark is out of order.

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings: The member for Light is being very flippant with his last question. Personally, I would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for your handling of the Committee during the day. I thank members of the Opposition and members of the Government for their questions. I especially want to thank my support staff, the Director of Local Government (Dr McPhail), my Chief Administrative Officer (Mr Herrmann), and the State Librarian (Mr Miller), who have been here since 11 o'clock this morning. I also thank the General Manager of the South Australian Housing Trust (Mr Edwards), and the project officers from the Housing Trust (Margie Hill and Greg Black). This has been my first Estimates Committee, and like all new Ministers I was nervous when I came here today, but I can assure members that after this it will be a breeze.

The CHAIRMAN: For the record, the Chair points out that 140 questions were asked, fabricated or not fabricated! The time for the examination having expired, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Thursday 6 October at 11 a.m.