

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 1 October 1985

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Chairman:

Mr Max Brown

Members:

Mr H. Becker
 Mr D.M. Ferguson
 Mr T.R. Groom
 Mr G.A. Ingerson
 Mr J.K.G. Oswald
 Mr J.P. Trainer

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

Tourism, \$9 168 000

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government and Minister of Youth Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr G.J. Inns, Director of Tourism, Department of Tourism.

Mr A.B. Noblet, Deputy Director of Tourism.

Mr D.E. Packer, Assistant Director, Administration and Finance.

Mr L.J. Penley, Assistant Director, Development and Regions.

Mr P.J. Vanderlee, Assistant Director, Planning and Research.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination. In so doing, I draw to the attention of departmental officers that, if information is to be provided later in answer to questions asked today, it would be appreciated if it could be provided in a form suitable for insertion in *Hansard*, and no later than 18 October. Before calling on the member for Morphett, who, if he wishes, may make a statement to which the Minister can reply, I inform the Committee that I have made a practice of allowing three questions, or thereabouts, from members of the Opposition, and then three questions from Government members. The member for Morphett.

Mr OSWALD: I do not intend to make an opening statement. I have a series of questions that I wish to ask, and that will give me an opportunity to put on record details of matters of concern, while at the same time asking specific questions. First, I refer to page 4 of the yellow book where, under 'Issues', it is stated that:

Recent indicators reveal that the rate of South Australian tourism growth is slowing in the face of strong promotional competition from other State tourism authorities.

At a time when the Adelaide Convention Bureau is responsible for generating more than \$80 million of expenditure per annum, I am concerned that the marketing budget has been reduced in real terms from \$2.618 million, spent last year to \$2.536 million this year.

Taking into account the approximate rate of inflation for media costs (and I emphasise media costs) at about 20 per cent, this is a significant reduction in marketing effort. I

am also concerned that the Government's failure to make a more realistic commitment to marketing has resulted in efforts undertaken by South Australia being rendered ineffectual by better funding and more aggressive marketing programs from our interstate competitors. While I acknowledge that an increase has been made by the Government in capital expenditure (for example, the convention centre), why has the Minister cut back the funds allocated to marketing? Without an aggressive marketing plan the advantage to this State by having increased expenditure in bricks and mortar is going to be lost.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Marketing is not the only factor that is important when talking about tourism. There are other factors which are external to efforts that can be made by the Department of Tourism in attracting tourists to this State. The sorts of things that I would have in mind here are things like the extent to which the destination choice is discretionary. Approximately 53 per cent of the people who visit this State come here either on business or to visit relatives and friends, so to that extent our marketing effort is perhaps a secondary thing as far as those people are concerned. There are other reasons for their choice of destination.

The second point that I think is important here is the relative cost of destinations, that is, how much it is going to cost visitors to travel from their place of origin to South Australia. We are all aware of the relative disadvantage that we in South Australia experience as a result of our geographical position within this country. When people are deciding where they should go for a holiday, they must bear in mind the cost of internal air fares and such factors.

There are other questions, too, for example, the extent to which other factors influence the market's perception of South Australia as a holiday destination and the time taken for any promotional campaigns that we undertake to really sink in to people's minds and lead them to choose South Australia as their holiday destination. I suppose we should also bear in mind that a large proportion of visitors to South Australia come from Victoria and New South Wales.

Many of those people drive to South Australia for their holidays. So, other factors like the cost of petrol and those sorts of things will also have a bearing on the decisions that people make about whether or not they come to South Australia. Our marketing campaigns are not the only factors that we need to consider when we are looking at visitors and the total number of visitor nights in this State.

I turn now to the question of the marketing budget, which has not decreased this year, rather, it has increased. Last year's budget was \$2 444 000. This year our budget is \$2 601 000, which I acknowledge is different from the figure that appears in the yellow book. However, there is a factor here which needs to be explained: last year the department was given an advance of \$250 000 on this year's budget, because we needed extra money for the production of brochures and that sort of thing.

Since this Government came to office three years ago we have increased the marketing budget from \$1 270 000 to \$2 600 000, which is more than a 100 per cent increase over three years. We are doing rather well in relation to marketing. Also, criticisms that have been made by Opposition members about our marketing budget—and I refer particularly to remarks made by the shadow Minister of Tourism in her budget speech—ignore the fact that this year the Government is not only allocating funds for marketing South Australia through the usual Department of Tourism lines, but has also allocated separate funding for events that are coming up in South Australia during the next 18 months. I refer to the Grand Prix, for which something like \$1 million has been allocated for promotion during a 12 month period.

Mr BECKER: From your budget.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, these are separate, but ought to be taken into account when we are looking at the overall marketing of South Australia as a tourist destination. First, we have the Grand Prix. The Jubilee 150 Board has been allocated \$400 000 for marketing the Jubilee next year, and the Adelaide Convention and Visitors Bureau has also been allocated \$200 000. We should take that into our total picture when we look at marketing in this State, because there is no doubt at all that these special events will play a very significant role during the next 18 months in attracting visitors to South Australia.

Mr OSWALD: I refer to page 189 of the budget papers at which a line appears under 'Goods and Services, Regional Tourist Associations, \$235 500'. What is the breakdown of that figure? Specifically, what proportion of it is for the Adelaide Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB)?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: \$130 000.

Mr OSWALD: In response to the first question, the Minister said that the marketing budget had been increased from \$2.444 million to \$2.6 million. It appears, when one takes into account the figure that I gave earlier of the media inflation rate (which runs between 10 per cent and 20 per cent, depending on whether one is talking about print or electronic media, even with the new figures which you have given us and which are not in the yellow book) that there is still a slight drop in the amount of money allocated to marketing.

In 1984-85 the ACVB received \$130 000, less \$10 000, which was its contribution to the Adelaide Tourist Region (ATR), leaving a budget of \$120 000. You have confirmed that in 1985-86 it was to receive \$10 000, plus an additional \$10 000 to be passed on to the Adelaide Tourist Region. In other words, it will receive \$130 000, which is an 8 per cent increase. This appears to have been determined on last year's figure plus 8 per cent, a matter on which the Minister may wish to comment.

Why does the Minister continue to use this basis for determining the ACVB budget rather than support what I thought would be a fairly logical philosophy in a tourist ministry: a zero based budget, determined each year on the provision of the marketing dollar in proportion to the potential return to the industry. In other words, one does an assessment and, if the ACVB has the capacity to generate in this case \$40 000 000, one writes a budget accordingly rather than continuing to adopt the Treasury philosophy of last year's budget plus 10 per cent.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member is aware, with funding for both the regional tourist associations and the ACVB, the intention of the Government support was never that we should subsidise them heavily but rather that we should assist them during a period while they grew and became self-sufficient. The honourable member would be aware that these subsidies were first initiated under the Liberal Minister of Tourism. It was certainly her intention, and it is the intention of the current Government, that we should provide support for these organisations to enable them to get on their feet and to generate their own funds through membership subscriptions to be able to run their own affairs.

Bearing that philosophy in mind, it is reasonable that we should maintain the sort of levels that we have with the ACVB, because membership subscriptions for that organisation during the past 12 months have not risen significantly. Therefore, the proportion of State Government funding reflects that position. The honourable member should note that marketing for conventions in this State will also be aided by the marketing budget of about \$200 000 which has been allocated for the new convention centre.

Mr OSWALD: The ACVB generates business worth about \$40 million a year for South Australia, I am advised. This year it will receive assistance (as we have found out today) amounting to about \$130 000, while equivalent organisations interstate receive in excess of \$1 million. In view of the proposed reduction in real terms—it is arguable, but I believe the new figures indicate a reduction in real terms in this year's marketing budget—what plans does the Minister have to assist the industry with cooperative advertising during 1985-86, and would the Minister consider a dollar-for-dollar subsidy to assist the industry?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think the honourable member should be aware of the points that I just made regarding the ACVB, and the whole philosophy behind the financial support it receives from the Government. As it stands, the ACVB is one of the highest subsidised convention bureaux in Australia, so the point I made previously stands: our objective is to assist the ACVB to get on its feet and support itself.

Mr OSWALD: My information may be incorrect, but I have been advised that an organisation in Queensland received \$1 million, for example, and that three other interstate organisations received about \$1 million.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not know how much Queensland received, but I can inform the honourable member that New South Wales (which has a much larger population than South Australia) allocated only \$50 000 for its convention bureau. I would be surprised if Queensland could provide the amount of money indicated by the honourable member. It seems to me that the honourable member should be addressing his remarks to the industry itself. That seems to me to be more appropriate.

Mr FERGUSON: I refer to overseas visitors, especially in relation to New Zealand. If I recall correctly, during last year's Estimates Committee we were told that New Zealand provided the greatest number of overseas visitors. Does that situation still prevail? How has devaluation affected tourism from New Zealand, if at all? At this time last year our New Zealand office had not been open for very long. Has an assessment been made of the New Zealand office? What consolidation will occur in relation to that office?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We do not actually have an office in New Zealand—we have an officer seconded to the Australian Tourist Commission office there, and I will ask one of my officers in a moment to comment on how successful he feels the work in New Zealand has been. With respect to figures for tourists from New Zealand, the latest figures I have are for 1983-84, indicating that that country came second in terms of numbers of visitors from other countries into South Australia. Some 20 600 people came to South Australia from New Zealand in 1983-84, the largest number of visitors that year coming from the United States—a total of 21 800 people. I will ask Mr Noblet to comment on the success of the New Zealand office.

Mr Noblet: As the Minister rightly identified, our officer works on secondment to the Australian Tourist Commission office in Auckland but is responsible for covering the whole of New Zealand. The effect of South Australia's marketing activities in New Zealand in recent years is revealed in an analysis of the nights spent in South Australia by New Zealand visitors. The latest available figures that we have from the international visitor survey suggest that New Zealand visitor nights in South Australia—that is, South Australia's share of New Zealanders' time spent in Australia—have grown from 3.6 per cent in 1981 to 8.7 per cent in 1983.

So, South Australia's market share of nights spent in Australia by New Zealand visitors has increased significantly. This is the only market in which consumer advertising has been undertaken. It would appear that the

cooperative activities of the Department of Tourism, Qantas (the national carrier) and the Australian Tourist Commission have been particularly effective in bringing about a significant increase over that time.

Mr FERGUSON: A study is currently being undertaken for the western region of councils. Is there any input from the South Australian budget into that study? Has the department had time to look at the earlier reports and make an assessment of any of the recommendations that have come out of that study? I am very interested in the suggestion that the Henley Square ought to be redeveloped, and if there is any information on that I would appreciate it.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have not allocated any direct funding, other than providing staff time, which involves a representative from our department on the task force that has been looking at the issue. The departmental representative concerned is Paul Vanderlee, and I ask him to report on the latest state of play.

Mr Vanderlee: The committee has reached a stage in its deliberations where on Friday an interim report was issued by the consultants. That report has come to the conclusion that the western region offers real development opportunities for tourism, particularly along the coastal area of the region.

The main focus of work for the next stage of the study will be on tourism management strategies, and particularly in relation to such aspects as avoiding adverse impacts of visitors on sensitive locations, perhaps the best examples of which relate to some of the foreshore areas. So, it is still fairly early days for that study, but at this stage it seems to be showing some promise with its early findings.

Mr FERGUSON: I turn now to a different subject. What major development projects is the Department of Tourism involved in? Further, what is the capital cost of such projects?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Department of Tourism is involved in a number of major projects in South Australia, the total cost being about \$.5 billion. In these projects the Government has either a coordinating responsibility or a financial input, or is in some other way involved in initiating a project. I refer to some examples of these projects. First, there is the ASER Convention Centre. The Director of Tourism is chairing the ASER Project Co-ordinating Committee, which has overall responsibility for overseeing all the subcommittees involved with the ASER development. Also, there is the proposed entertainment centre for South Australia, and a committee is investigating suitable locations and proposals in relation to that. That committee is also chaired by the Director of Tourism.

In addition, the State Government has been involved with the Lincoln Cove development at Port Lincoln, and that project is now well under way, with tenders having been called for excavation of the marina at Port Lincoln. We also have an involvement with the Jubilee Point project, proposed for Glenelg, and we have been involved there with consultation and providing advice and assistance to the private operators who are putting that proposal together. Those four projects are worth something like \$160 million, \$50 million, \$30 million and \$200 million respectively. So, that small parcel of activities is a very worthwhile one.

In addition, the Government is involved with the Lady Nelson Park at Mount Gambier, the establishment of the River Murray Interpretive Centre, at Goolwa, and with the Outback Interpretive Centre at Port Augusta, as well as with a number of other projects. I should point out that unprecedented development is occurring in South Australia with the number of really quite enormous tourist developments currently being undertaken or proposed. In the history of this State there has never been development to this extent or proposals put together that are worth so much both in

dollar terms and in potential tourism terms. I think that we can be justly proud of the involvement of the Government, the Department of Tourism and its officers in supporting and developing these projects.

Mr OSWALD: Marketing a tourist destination is an ongoing commitment (I think we all agree on that). I acknowledge that the Government is spending money from resources outside the tourism portfolio on projects such as the Grand Prix, etc. However, it has been revealed that there has been a cut in promotional dollars available internally within the Department of Tourism. Because of that, what additional effort can be expected by the department in our overseas markets that have been cultivated over recent years, and will the cuts in promotional dollars within the department, as revealed, be reflected in any of our overseas promotions over the forthcoming 12 months?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The honourable member does not seem to have very good hearing. I answered his very first question about our marketing budget by saying that there had not been a cut in marketing to the Department of Tourism this year. I adhere to that statement. The fact is that we have had an increase of \$2.44 million to \$2.601 million, and this represents a 17 per cent increase in the marketing budget this year. So, the other questions that have been raised seem to be irrelevant.

Mr OSWALD: Perhaps I could ask the Minister or one of her officers whether it is acknowledged in the tourism industry that the media inflation rate is running at between a minimum of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent, depending on whether one is talking in terms of the print media, television or other advertising.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I understand that the figures given are correct, and we are within that range. So, I do not understand the point that the honourable member is making.

Mr OSWALD: On the figures that you gave me, if a media rate within that range is applied, at say half-way between, that is, 15 per cent, we would be looking at least at a standstill budget, and certainly not an increase. The figures that the Minister wants us to believe are figures for last year, taken away from the figures for this coming year, and therefore that equals the expected amount of dollars available to promote tourism. Of course this is not the case, because the tourism product must be sold in the media on increased rates, in some cases, of 20 per cent. If one applies the media inflation rate, the Minister should agree that we would not be looking at the figures suggested, but at least at a standstill budget or a slightly reduced one.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not agree with that. I stick to the points that I have already made. The honourable member should also bear in mind that marketing is an ongoing activity. It has no peaks and troughs, but continues from year to year. Our marketing efforts are ongoing, and that is the way these things are organised. I ask the Deputy Director of the department to comment on the point that the honourable member has made and to give more information about things like inflation rates in marketing at the moment. We may be able to clear up these points.

Mr Noblet: The Minister identified that our tourism marketing is an ongoing process, and there is a continual shift of emphasis within the marketing plan of the Department of Tourism. The resultant effect is that about the same, if not more, money becomes available for media expenditure in various markets as and when it is required. In different stages of development in different markets we undertake different types of activities. To quote an example: in its early years of marketing in New Zealand the department has used the services of marketing consultants to support the work of the departmental officer on secondment to the ATC. We have now reached the point of development in

that market where those consultants are no longer required. The funds previously spent in that area can now be diverted back to consumer advertising using mass media.

A similar shift in priorities occurs in domestic markets. Because of events coming up in the future, such as Jubilee 150 and the Grand Prix, which have required significant expenditure on advance production of brochures, we saw a very significant contribution to brochures out of the marketing budget in 1984-85—an amount in excess of \$500 000, which in 1985-86 will be reduced by about \$200 000, as the advance production will have taken place. Again, the result of that shift of allocations within the total budget means that more funds will become available for media expenditure, and that more than takes care of the increased costs of buying media time and the rate of inflation.

Mr OSWALD: Turning to page 188 of the budget papers, I refer to the marketing of the Adelaide Convention Centre at \$200 000. Can the Minister give a breakdown of that figure?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is not possible for me to give a breakdown of that \$200 000. The activities that have been pursued by the convention centre during the past 12 months will continue, but the program could be modified following the appointment of the new manager for the centre, who presumably will have his own thrust and priorities to bring to bear on the marketing of the centre. Until we know more about his intentions, it is not possible to give further details as to how that money will be spent.

Mr OSWALD: A supplementary question to that: do I take it that that \$200 000 is specifically for marketing, or are there any wages, salaries or anything else incorporated in that figure?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, it is just for marketing.

Mr GROOM: Is any research to be undertaken to measure the tourism benefits of the Grand Prix that is due to start in a few weeks?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Department of Tourism, in conjunction with the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies, is undertaking a survey of visitors to the Grand Prix. We hope that this survey will provide information on what sort of visitors come to this State, what they spent while here, and to what extent they toured around South Australia, both before and after the event. We hope that the survey will yield some very valuable market research data on visitor impressions of South Australia and also the Grand Prix event itself.

The research work should also establish an objective and credible methodology for evaluating the economic value of major tourism and sporting events like the one that we are to enjoy in South Australia in the next month. I do not think that there is any doubt that this sort of research is necessary and will be very important to us in planning our tourism strategy in particular for future Grand Prix events. I think that one of the things acknowledged by everybody who has been involved with the planning for this Grand Prix is that, to some extent, it has been a learning experience. None of us have had any previous experience to draw on in knowing what sort of people would come to an event like this and what they want to do when they get here. There has never before been an event of this kind in the southern hemisphere and certainly not in Australia, so I think that in the past few months we have learned a great deal as to what sort of role that we as a department can play in assisting people who come to this State. We need much more information, and this survey will be very valuable in directing us for our future plans.

Mr GROOM: In relation to the major marketing campaign based on the State's wine image that was launched by the then Minister, Mr Keneally, the Minister announced earlier this year that a major marketing campaign based on

the State's wine image would be launched in 1985-86. Can the Minister outline any progress that has been made in developing this campaign?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. This campaign, which as the member pointed out was announced by my predecessor earlier this year, is due to be launched in March next year. Its objectives are fourfold: first, to position South Australia as the home of Australia's wine industry and to promote the idea that to own wine is a good thing; secondly, to encourage people to visit the wine regions of this State; thirdly, to suggest that there is a great variety of interesting things to see and do in these regions other than visiting wineries and organisations associated with wine; and, last, to gain an awareness that there are other great wine areas in South Australia than the Barossa Valley. One of the things that we already know about public perception in Australia in relation to South Australia is that the Barossa Valley is very well known as a wine region in this country, but perhaps fewer people are aware of other wine growing districts, like the Southern Vales or the Clare Valley, so we hope that, with this campaign, we will be able to raise people's awareness of those other regions of the State.

As part of the campaign it is intended to produce a comprehensive brochure which will be supported by media advertising, public displays and a direct mail promotion. The campaign will have a total budget of some \$500 000 which will be shared by the Department of Tourism, tourism industry operators and representatives of the wine industry, so this will be a joint promotion of our wine regions. I think that in itself is a very exciting development, that the Government and private sector will join together to make this an important promotion for next year. At this stage it is intended to begin the campaign in Victoria and it will be extended later in 1986 to New South Wales. I think that it will be a very successful promotional campaign for South Australia in view of the already enormous interest that exists around this country in our wine growing regions.

Mr INGERSON: On page 4 of the yellow book there is a statement that there could be considerable potential expansion of new jobs because of the tourist industry. It then goes on to mention several negatives, which are taken up in more detail on page 9: for example, the price of petrol, the devaluation of the Australian dollar and major events undertaken by the South Australian and Federal Governments in relation to tax reform. With those fairly significant negatives, how does the Minister see this potential new job opportunity being achieved? What sort of strategy will be used?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think it is rather obvious: there will be an enormous growth in employment in various parts of the State as time passes with the developments that are taking place here in tourism. We have the ASER project, the new casino (which I think alone will employ some 600 people), the Jubilee Point development and the Lincoln Cove development at Port Lincoln.

The range of new developments includes hotel accommodation, restaurants and bars—all of which will promote work for South Australians. Certainly, wearing my Minister of Youth Affairs hat, one of the things about which I am most excited is that many of those jobs will go to young people in this State, because it has already been shown that the sort of development in South Australia in some of those tourism oriented areas has provided considerable employment for young South Australians.

Mr INGERSON: In the light of last week's statements in relation to the entertainment tax, and so forth, remarks about youth employment in the restaurant and hospitality industries seem to contradict the comment made by the Minister. The general feeling within the community is that there will be a significant loss of jobs if the current tax

proposals in relation to the entertainment industry come into effect in the near future.

My next question relates to the ASER project itself. At page 5 an allocation of \$1 500 000 to that project is mentioned. Can the Minister explain for what that \$1 500 000 was allocated?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Before I answer that question, I return to the honourable member's remarks about the Federal Government's proposed tax package. I know that there have been a number of reports in the paper about various predictions being made by people in several areas of the hospitality industry in particular. All sorts of predictions have been made about the effects of the proposed entertainment tax on those organisations. At this stage it is rather difficult to predict what sort of effect it will have on those industries. All people involved would admit that that is true.

Perhaps some predictions made by some sections of the industry have tended to overstate the possible effects. In saying that, I bear in mind some of the remarks made by other members of the industry who have predicted very little change in the behaviour of people who are currently claiming lunches, dinners, and so on, as a tax deduction. We will need some time to be able to judge the effects of that and to see how people modify their entertainment practices—whether they adopt new customs or change their style of entertainment. We will not know until we see exactly what they do. However, from all assessments so far, and looking at this logically, some statements that have appeared in the press tend to be rather alarmist and to overstate possible effects.

I return to the question about the ASER convention centre and provision of \$1 500 000 for capital expenditure. This sum was allocated for the acquisition of furniture, fittings and equipment for the convention centre and for the Government's proportion, with developers and the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, for landscaping the surrounds of the Torrens River as part of the ASER project. The total cost of that part of the landscaping that will be met by the State Government is \$600 000, \$340 000 of which will be spent during this financial year.

Mr INGERSON: In the last couple of days I received a letter from a very significant (in terms of size) restaurant and hotel operator. He commented that he began as a very small business, and that he has gone from employing 25 staff to approximately 95 staff. I quote from his letter:

Our first week of Mr Keating's proposed tax on perks reforms now over and we have had a chance to evaluate its impact. Our lunch trade was down 36.7 per cent while dinner trade was down 31.4 per cent, overall representing a decline in trade of 32.4 per cent on last year, quite significant when one is led to believe the worst is to come. This represents a minimum sales decline of some \$340 000 per annum, a turnaround no business can afford let alone survive. . . . Tomorrow morning we will be having a 'breakfast meeting' with some 45 of our permanent and permanent part-time employees, where we will be informing them quite clearly of the Government's attitude to this industry, while unfortunately we will also have to make it clear the company can only support our current staffing levels for another two to three weeks, should the trend continue.

Whilst that is a quote from only one letter from a very significant employer in that industry, numerous other people in the industry are concerned. I put that forward as a general comment to support my earlier remarks that they are not just purely and simply hearsay: within one short week the situation is significantly different from what it was less than a week ago.

Since it has been fairly difficult to get costings of the ASER project, I ask: what is the cost of the convention centre; what charges will be made to the Government in terms of rent, or whatever; what is the final size of the convention centre in terms of accommodation and general

flexibility of the centre; and what are the alternative options available for the centre in terms of movement within it? I know that this is very difficult to answer, but what options do we really have?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Since we have with us the Chairman of the ASER Committee, I will ask him to respond.

Mr Inns: I think I understand the full ramifications of that question. The total cost of the project is still within its original budget of \$160 million. That has not varied over the past several months. Contracts so far have been let for in excess of \$75 million of that \$160 million. The components of the ASER project are hotel, convention centre, office tower and car park. There is an element of what is described as 'the public areas', which are assigned not to one project but are shared in terms of cost at a rate of 40 per cent to the Government and 60 per cent to the developer: that is, the plaza, roadways, etc.

The casino is not part of the ASER project. The convention centre component is approximately \$30 million, when all the aspects are taken into account. The cost of construction is separate from that. That tender has been let. The question was asked: what is the Government's commitment in all this? The Government is not investing in any of the capital of the ASER project whatsoever. Under the Tokyo agreement, the Government has agreed to lease the car park and the convention centre and, if required, will occupy 50 per cent of the office tower if letting space is not let to the private sector to that extent.

The Government's lease arrangements are on the basis of 6¼ per cent of the capital cost of both the car park and the convention centre. It is estimated at this stage that the net cost, that is, the total commitment of the Government on a year by year basis—incidentally, those figures are indexed to cost of living increases—having regard to the revenues and the lease costs, is still considered to be of the order of \$1 million per annum, which is the figure that the Premier quoted in this Chamber some 12 months ago; in other words, our estimates are still on target.

Mr INGERSON: There has been some variation in the number of people that the convention centre can take at any one time and its general flexibility.

Mr Inns: The factor that has varied in the past 18 months is the size and flexibility of the convention centre. It is a purpose-built convention centre, which will hold 2 500 people in convention configuration. However, it has sufficient flexibility to be converted for banqueting use and for certain sporting and entertainment uses. It will seat in banqueting format 2 000 people, which will make it the largest banqueting facility in the State. It will be able to seat 3 800 people in sporting and other forms of entertainment configuration.

Mr INGERSON: Can the Director advise us how he gets that net cost of \$1 million? In other words, what is the revenue and what is the actual cost?

Mr Inns: May I take that on notice? I do not have the full configuration of that figure in front of me, but I can provide it before 18 October.

Mr FERGUSON: There has never been a Committee meeting where the Adelaide International Airport has not been mentioned, and I do not want to upset the Committee by letting this opportunity go! I understand that you were part of the committee that investigated and looked at the Adelaide International Airport, and that certain recommendations came out of that committee. For example, it recommended that extensions be made to the airport lounge in order to overcome the problem, and the suggestion was made that this would be conveyed to the appropriate federal Minister. There were also things like displaying South Australian tourism posters on the walls of the international

airport. Have you yet had an opportunity to take up this matter with the federal Minister?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not sure about the committee that you are referring to. I have not been a member of any committee that has been established by the Government.

Mr FERGUSON: It was the Caucus backbench tourism committee.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Certainly as a backbencher I was a member of that committee. I recall the inspections that we did at the Adelaide International Airport and the recommendations made to the then Minister. I understand that he took up those matters with the relevant Ministers. Some of those questions relating to the size of the airport lounge and those sorts of facilities that are contained within the airport are the responsibility of the federal Minister for Transport. I know that the State Minister of Transport has taken up those issues on more than one occasion with the federal Minister with a view to having the Adelaide airport facilities extended.

One of the things that has become very clear since that airport was established in South Australia is that it is much too small for our needs. One of the points that should be made about the use of that airport is that in the past three years since the Government has been in office the number of international flights into the Adelaide International Airport has almost doubled. This is putting severe strain on the airport facilities, which were never really designed for a city of the size of Adelaide.

We have to cope with this airport, which was really designed for Townsville, which is just a country town, because the former Government was so indecent in its haste to get an international airport established in this city prior to the last State election that it threw aside any questions of planning, future needs and that sort of thing and took the best thing that was offering at the time. So, we are suffering the consequences of the action that was taken at that time, and this Government has been left with the job of trying to pick up the pieces.

As I said, the State Minister of Transport has taken up this matter a number of times with his federal colleagues. So far, we have not been successful in having extensions made to the Adelaide International Airport's facilities, but we will continue to press for those improvements.

Mr FERGUSON: My next question relates to the overseas tourism section again. I refer particularly to the Japanese market. I know that the department has been concentrating strongly on that market. I attended, with some of my colleagues, a seminar on this subject during the past financial year. Can you tell me whether visitation from Japan is increasing, and what is the situation with our agency, which I understand is with Elders, in that country?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I am happy to say that the proportion of visitors from Japan is increasing. At the moment, Japanese visitors make up about 4.9 per cent of the visitors who come to South Australia. With respect to visitor nights, the proportion of time that Japanese visitors spend in South Australia is also growing: in 1981 the proportion of time was 6.1 per cent and by 1983 it had reached 8.8 per cent. Therefore, our market share of Japanese visitors is increasing, and that is very satisfying indeed.

As the honourable member would know, we have been making significant attempts to promote South Australia in Japan as a tourist destination. During the past 12 months or so we released a very attractive brochure printed in the Japanese language and put together by Japanese photographers who came to South Australia and took photographs of this State. Therefore, the brochure represents South Australia through Japanese eyes.

The brochure has been very well received in the Japanese market, and it is helping our promotion considerably. In South Australia very recently we launched a new brochure intended for Japanese visitors while they are here. It has been produced in the Japanese language and gives people information about the various sights to be seen in this State, including other information of importance to tourists about how to get around the city and the services and facilities available to them to assist them while they are here. I understand that our representation in Japan through Elders is proceeding very effectively. Mr Noblet will give further information about that.

Mr Noblet: The Government has a contractual arrangement with Elders IXL whereby one member of its staff is dedicated full time to the promotion of tourism to South Australia. That really means that they are working very closely with the Australian Tourist Commission and with carriers servicing the Japan to Australia route. South Australia is not a destination in its own right for the Japanese, but it can well be included as an important part of an Australian itinerary. The work of Elders IXL, and the staff member in particular, is directed almost exclusively at increasing the amount of time that Japanese may be able to spend in South Australia during an Australian holiday. That contractual arrangement is due to expire on 30 June 1986.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: For the coming 12 months we are allocating some \$200 000 for our Japanese promotion. That will be made up of about \$120 000 to go to Elders in Japan, and \$80 000 to be spent directly on marketing South Australia in Japan.

Mr FERGUSON: I refer to '1985-86 Specific Targets/Objectives' on page 11 of the yellow book, which states that the first stage of a 'general awareness' theme is moving to a second phase highlighting particular aspects of the South Australian holiday product. I take it that this follows on from the Enjoy campaign, or is it the same campaign presented in a different way?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The honourable member is quite right: the general awareness campaign begun by the department some time ago is the Enjoy campaign. That was the first phase of the marketing strategy adopted by the department to promote South Australia. That phase of the marketing campaign is now coming to an end because it has been operating for some time. It has been very effective in raising the general imagination of South Australians and an awareness regarding South Australia among consumers around Australia.

We now believe that it is appropriate to move into the second phase of the marketing campaign, which will concentrate on specific holiday ideas and the promotion of particular regions, holiday destinations, or particular kinds of holiday experiences that people might be interested in pursuing now that they are aware that South Australia is an interesting holiday destination. Things to be included in the campaign are nature-based holidays, particularly on Kangaroo Island, in the Flinders Ranges and along the Murray River (which provides houseboat holidays, river cruises, and so on). We will be moving into a much more specific form of marketing.

Mr OSWALD: My previous question related to \$200 000 for marketing the Adelaide Convention Centre. I am concerned that the Minister has allocated an amount double that allocated last year but does not know how it will be applied. I refer to page 5 of the yellow book, which states that \$151 000 will be used to fund computerisation of the department's information and booking service. Will the Minister describe the components of this sum and indicate the timing for its introduction?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Before replying to the question, these comments within questions are very interesting. To return to the honourable member's first point about the convention centre, I do not think it is unusual at all that I am not able to supply detailed information and a break down of the \$200 000, because we have just appointed a new general manager. I would have thought that it would be rather inappropriate to prescribe to that individual exactly how he should allocate his marketing budget. Presumably, the idea of appointing someone in this capacity is for him to come in with new and fresh ideas.

Mr OSWALD: He must be given some guidelines for the allocation of the \$200 000. You cannot say, 'I have given you almost a quarter of a million dollars—go off and market': there must be a basis for the allocation of that money. How do you justify the 100 per cent increase in expenditure this year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have decided that our marketing effort needs to be much more intensive than has been the case in the past. In this budget we have actually doubled the amount of money available for marketing. However, we are going to leave the job of deciding what the marketing strategy should be to the person to whom we are paying money to do that for us. That is a reasonable thing to do. I now refer to the question asked about our plans to computerise the travel centre. First, the money that has been allocated for computerising our facilities has come after a comprehensive review of the department's computing needs. We are introducing a system that has been designed and is operated by the Queensland travel centre, and we have chosen that one because it already operates in the Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australian, Victorian and ACT travel authorities and means we are going to be able to link our South Australian operations with an established network of over 40 Government travel centres throughout Australia. This system has been selected by the department but also endorsed by the Data Processing Board.

The system is obviously going to enhance the service that we will be able to provide in our travel centres and will assist consultants in providing a much quicker and more efficient service to people who come into our offices making inquiries about the sorts of holiday and accommodation packages with which we can help them. I would think also that it would assist us in effecting sales because, when a customer comes into the travel centre seeking information about the sorts of things available, it will be possible to produce a readout of those things immediately and assist in effecting a sale on the spot rather than giving people a handful of brochures and sending them away to think about it and come back to speak to us when they are ready to book a holiday. It will be a useful service for consumers and should assist in improving the business conducted by travel centres throughout Australia.

At the moment the department is in the process of gathering information which will be required to establish the information data base. It is proposed that the Adelaide travel centre will be the first of the travel centres to use this new information, and that should come on line in March 1986, followed by our offices in Melbourne and Sydney. The booking system will then be implemented, and it is anticipated that all these systems will be fully functional in all centres by the middle of next year. With respect to the breakdown of the \$500 000, I will ask Don Packer to give further information.

Mr Packer: The lion's share of that amount (\$130 000 approximately) is taken up in a payment to the Queensland Travel and Tourist Corporation for use of its systems. The remaining \$20 000 is a mixture of recurring and once only costs such as telephone lines, salaries, postage, stationery and those sort of things.

Mr OSWALD: I refer to page 15 of the yellow book. Under the heading '1985-86 Specific Targets/Objectives', it states:

Liaise with other Government departments to develop tourism infrastructure, e.g., Wilpena facilities and St Michael's House, Mount Lofty.

What is the Government planning to do with St Michael's House and at what cost?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This matter is currently under consideration by the State Government. The control of the Mount Lofty area comes within the responsibility of the Minister for Environment and Planning. As the honourable member will be aware, the kiosk facilities and other things were destroyed at Mount Lofty during the Ash Wednesday fires, so there has been considerable activity. A couple of studies have been undertaken through the Department of Environment and Planning to decide what is the best way for us to deal with that area, whether or not we ought to re-establish facilities at the summit or whether it would be a better idea to shift tourist facilities away from that area.

One of the propositions suggested was that the Government purchase the old St Michael's House, which of course was also extensively damaged during the Ash Wednesday fires, and develop it as a tourist facility of some kind and return the Mount Lofty summit area to its natural state. Decisions on those questions have not yet been made. The committee established under the Department of Environment and Planning does have on it a representative from the Department of Tourism. I cannot make any further statements on that matter, because no firm decision on the best way for us to go has as yet been made by that committee, and no recommendations have been received by the Government.

Mr OSWALD: As a supplementary question, I accept what the Minister says, as it sounds logical. However, in the event that St Michael's House is acquired and the point mentioned in the yellow book becomes applicable, what is the situation? Let us assume that the property is purchased over the next few months: is there any money in the budget to go ahead and develop the project?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, we do not have any money in our budget to do that. This project is under the control of the Department of Environment and Planning, so I would expect that any provision that might have been made in this financial year would come under the lines of that Department. Whether or not that has happened, I am not aware.

Mr OSWALD: Prior to the 1982 election the Government undertook to establish a tourist commission. I have been advised that the Government again intends to make this pre-election promise for the 1985 election. Whereabouts in the budget have such funds been provided? If they have been omitted, has the Government scrapped any idea of a tourist commission?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: To correct the statement made by the honourable member, the Labor Party did not promise to establish a tourist commission prior to the 1982 election: we promised to investigate the establishment of a tourist commission and, on coming to office, we set up an inquiry to look at that issue. A decision was made by Cabinet in 1983 that a commission should not go ahead at that time.

The main reason I think was that it was considered inappropriate timing to make such a huge change in the way that we were pursuing tourism. Especially in view of the new marketing strategy that had been adopted, it was considered that it might be disruptive to introduce such an enormous change at that time. Subsequently, my predecessor asked the Tourism Development Board to look at this question again. That review is under way, and I expect a report from the Tourism Development Board in early 1986.

Mr GROOM: Does the Minister see any advantages to tourism in having an entertainment centre in or near the city of Adelaide? Further, to what extent is the Director of Tourism involved with this project, and for what reasons?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There would be very distinct advantages in having an entertainment centre in or near the city of Adelaide, and I am sure that most people in this Chamber would agree with that. The responses that we have had from various sectors of the community over the past few years indicate that many people in the community think that a big entertainment centre in South Australia is highly desirable and perhaps overdue. One of the problems that we have had, of course, is finding a suitable location for an entertainment centre of the size that people want.

The Government is examining proposals for the construction of an entertainment centre which would seat some 8 000 people. Any venue of this kind will attract visitors to the city. Certainly, visitors from the country areas would come to Adelaide for performances and sporting events to be held at such an entertainment centre. But I think that perhaps the most important value of such a centre in Adelaide is that it will provide an additional component in placing Adelaide on the international map. When built, this centre will attract large numbers of international performers, and their circuits are well publicised throughout the world.

Hopefully, this centre will be a dual purpose centre, purpose built for both entertainment and sporting events. This will also enable us to attract people in the sporting field. In many cases important sporting events are followed by different sorts of people from those who will attend entertainment attractions. So, we can expect large numbers of visitors to come to Adelaide to attend events of both kinds. As the Director of Tourism has been closely involved with the ASER project, the Government considered it desirable to ask him to chair the Entertainment Centre Committee and to examine, together with other members of the ASER Committee, the registrations of interest made by various organisations interested in bidding for the new entertainment centre in Adelaide. I ask the Director to comment further on the entertainment centre proposals.

Mr Inns: The Minister has covered the current state of affairs very well indeed. We are in the process of examining registrations of interest. I think it has been publicly reported that some 12 registrants have recorded an interest in designing an entertainment centre. We are currently examining those registrations, and we have now completed the interviews. The committee is currently examining a number of sites—I think about 30 sites have been identified as possible locations for an entertainment centre. We are examining those and, hopefully, we will be able to achieve some resolution at the end of this month about the next direction that we should take.

Mr GROOM: The Flinders Ranges is an important component in South Australia's tourism potential. I understand that in April the Flinders Ranges Tourism Development Study was commissioned. Can the Minister indicate whether there is any indication at this stage about the economic feasibility of a resource development in the Flinders Ranges?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The market research analysis of the Flinders Ranges tourism potential has yielded some fairly promising findings. It has indicated that there is a market for further development of the right sort of accommodation in the Flinders Ranges, and that would be linked with a range of leisure activities on site. As long as that accommodation is located in the right place in the Flinders Ranges, it will be very popular and widely used.

Mr BECKER: Will the Minister indicate whether the Department of Tourism has looked at what impact legalised poker machines would have on South Australia, particularly in relation to the tourist industry? I refer particularly to

aspects of this in relation to the regional areas of South Australia. If that has not been done, why is that so and will the Minister ask officers of the department to undertake such a study? At present about 30 buses a week travel across the South Australian border into New South Wales, and it is estimated that between \$5 million and \$10 million per annum is spent on travel arrangements. The costs are very low indeed: it costs about \$20 to \$25 to go to Broken Hill, and low cost first-class accommodation is available (obviously, it is subsidised).

The amount of money invested by people participating in this form of entertainment at the licensed clubs in New South Wales must be considered. I am advised that these tours have had quite an impact, and have made it possible for one South Australian tour operator to put on more buses, and also to contemplate building a motel in New South Wales, which is the only State that has licensed poker machines as such in clubs. I wonder whether South Australia still has an opportunity to legalise poker machines for the benefit of tourism? In relation to regional employment, in particular, there is no doubt that hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs would be created.

In relation to the welfare impact, I maintain that the majority of people in this State are fairly well balanced. We know that the casino should have had poker machines—about 70 per cent of the population supported that proposal. However, whether or not a private member's Bill is introduced, the Government must still indicate whether it will support any such legislation.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, to my knowledge, the Department of Tourism has not looked at the question of the introduction of poker machines into South Australia. I am not really certain that it is the role of the Department of Tourism to do that, but I point out that, sometime ago in this Parliament, a select committee was appointed to determine whether or not a casino should be established in South Australia. I understand that one of the terms of reference of that committee was to determine what kinds of gambling facilities should be included in a casino if one was established. It was resolved that poker machines should not be included in a casino. I suppose we can view that as an expression of opinion of members of this Parliament, representing South Australians, that poker machines are not desirable. It is certainly not the intention of the South Australian Government to introduce poker machines into South Australia, but the question of their introduction would be considered in the Labor Party as a matter of conscience, and a conscience vote would be granted to all members of my Party, should anybody choose to take the initiative in this area. Perhaps if the member for Hanson thinks that poker machines are such a good thing, he ought to introduce a private member's Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope that we are not going to develop a debate as to whether or not we are going to have poker machines. I am allowing the question only because it could be linked to whether or not the State is losing tourism, et cetera, to other areas.

Mr BECKER: You have summed up, Sir, exactly what I was going to say: the State is losing tourists to New South Wales. It would be fair to say that a large number of people, if given an opportunity to choose between visiting the Gold Coast, Sydney, Melbourne or Perth, would choose New South Wales. If they go to Surfers Paradise a lot of people pop across the border to visit licensed clubs that have poker machines. I asked the question because I think at some stage your department will have to look at the matter. You have spoken about new ventures and the new jobs that are coming into South Australia because of Government initiatives in assisting and promoting tourism, and I support that. What will be the net gain of jobs? Some of those jobs

could well be created at the loss of jobs in other areas. We do not seem to be getting totally new concepts or initiatives, although the Grand Prix is one, and I think that has given us an excellent opportunity to create some jobs.

If we are to attract people to South Australia from overseas, our approach will have to change dramatically. That has already been indicated by the Government in allowing retail stores to open for extended hours. I can see seven day a week trading being requested more frequently and obviously 24 hour trading, so again there will be a movement of people in jobs.

In relation to the tourist industry, I would like the Minister to take on board the thought that at some stage her policy department should look at the impact of poker machines, first from the casino point of view, which I think would help make it viable, and, secondly, in general, and the provision of services that would result in the various regions. What is the department's approach to this matter, and have any discussions taken place interstate or federally in relation to penalty rates? Everybody says that penalty rates are killing our tourist industry. Have you given any thought or consideration to looking at the policy area of penalty rates within the tourist industry?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I want to return to the question of poker machines, because I think that the issue we are discussing here is actually broader than the question of what is desirable as a form of tourism. We are also discussing a social question. In this State in particular, new methods of gambling traditionally have been rather controversial. Whilst I take the point that it may be the case that some South Australians are moving across the border to visit establishments where poker machines exist, I think that we first have to keep things in some sort of perspective.

We have talked today about all sorts of new initiatives that are taking place in South Australia. I outlined approximately half a billion dollars worth of new projects that are going to draw tourists of one kind or another to this State. In addition, we will shortly be opening a casino in South Australia that will provide a new form of gambling for South Australians. I think that we ought to assess the impact of that new facility before we look at other forms of gambling in this State.

Returning to my point about social attitudes, we must also bear those questions in mind when thinking about tourist development in this State. The fact that we are not competing with other States in attracting people who are interested in poker machines may be good or bad, depending upon the point of view on that matter. I suppose that the same would apply to other tourism developments of which some people approve and some do not. Some people would like to turn Hindley Street into a strip club street, or something of that nature, and others would find that very offensive. I suppose in our community we have to take those ideas into account and create some balance between the competing interests. It may be that we as a State decide that we are prepared to forego income that we might derive from poker machines because we believe that the social evil outweighs the economic benefits. From all indications of parliamentary debates and other things that in the past we have had on the question of gambling, I would say that that is South Australia's position at the moment. That may change and, if it does, I suppose we will then take another look at it.

Since I have been Minister, penalty rates is not a matter that I have taken up with my federal or any colleagues. It is not an issue that has come before me in the 2½ months that I have been Minister. The South Australian Tourism Industry Council is currently looking at the question of penalty rates. They have commissioned a research project, which is being undertaken by people at Flinders University.

The survey will involve selected tourism establishments. It is planned to gauge the impact of penalty rates in those industries, so it will be very interesting to see the results.

I have been advised that we expect the survey to be completed by about the end of this year. It will make a significant contribution to the debate, which I know is currently important to the tourism industry. Elimination of penalty rates *per se* will not reduce the cost of labour in industries about which we are talking. The reality of industrial life is that any renegotiated rates for wages which remove penalties will result in a base rate equal to the total rate now being paid.

It is a very complicated question. Statements often made by people in the tourism and hospitality industries are really rather simplistic and do not take account of the reality of industrial life in Australia. I look forward to receiving the results of the survey that will be produced by SATIC. It will make a significant contribution to the debate in South Australia.

Mr BECKER: That is an excellent approach to the whole debate, because tourism is a seven day a week industry and highly labour intensive, as we all know. Those employed in the industry are not highly paid when one compares them with those in other service industries. There could be a general review of the wage structure right through, including junior rates. I certainly would not want to see young people victimised at the cost of trying to provide a cheap sandwich.

However, at the same time our accommodation costs are high compared to those in America and other countries. I get the impression that what we class as international standard accommodation is expensive. Australian motels are certainly far more expensive than others. Anything that can contain costs within the industry to help our accommodation sectors become more competitive will certainly help us to attract people to tourist packages. I cite the instance of one person in Melbourne who bought 1 000 gold passes and offered a package to come to South Australia for nine days, staying in hostel accommodation. He was charging \$1 500 for those nine days and I think he sold four tickets. That proves how incompetent people are when trying to market something, but unfortunately it reflects on us. What is the reason for the delay in announcing Government support for the International Six Day Enduro Event in 1988? Unfortunately, the *Advertiser* got it all wrong. The Minister of Transport did—

Mr Ferguson: Will it be held in your Party room?

Mr BECKER: No, it will be held in the Barossa Valley, not far from where I was born. It is still a good area. But, as a keen supporter of motor sports, I believe that the International Six Day Enduro Event could attract more overseas people than the first Grand Prix. However, by the time we get it we will be well established on the international tourist scene. So, any delay at this stage could cause problems, because Queensland is very keen to take it away from us. They are making all sorts of noises and promises.

As members would be aware, it is considered to be the Olympic Games of motorcycle sport. There are 10-man teams from each country. The idea of the opening ceremony is that they all parade in their colours. I believe that 28 countries will compete—excluding South Africa. Of course, it is an extremely popular sport in Europe and America. Also, some Asian teams will compete, as well as representatives from the Eastern Bloc.

In Holland in 1984 the Enduro attracted 500 000 people over six days. I do not know what we could anticipate here in South Australia, but we would hope to see at least 100 000 people. I am also told that with the backup of staff, teams, mechanics, manufacturers, sponsors and enthusiasts, we have virtually been assured of 5 000 Americans who faithfully

follow the event coming here. A substantial number of media observers would also attend.

It appears to be a wonderful opportunity to add another feather to our motor sport cap. Can the Minister confirm whether or not we will have it? I think the problem is that the Government probably wants to run it itself. Will the Government run the event or will it let the autocycle union hand it to someone to run? Basically, I want to know the reason for the delay.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder whether, because of the in-depth and rather lengthy prologue to the question, the Minister would like to have lunch and come back, after giving the matter some thought, and give an answer.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That is an excellent idea.

[Sitting suspended from 12.57 to 2 p.m.]

Membership:

Mr Meier substituted for Mr Ingerson.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister would have given great thought over lunch to the answer that she will give to the profound and in-depth question that was asked by the member for Hanson before lunch.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Thank you, Sir. Prior to the luncheon adjournment, we were discussing the six day Enduro, the Government's position in relation to that event, and the alleged delay in making a decision on it. The first problem that the Government ran into with this event was that we received submissions from consultants who had been engaged by the motor cycle organisation that is bidding for the international event. Unfortunately, those submissions were really inadequate, to say the least, because certain issues were not adequately addressed. Indeed, insufficient information was given on such things as the environmental impact of such an event in the Barossa Valley, which was the chosen site, over six days. It was important to have that information, because such a six day event had not previously been held in the area.

Some estimates as to crowd numbers seemed to some of us to involve rather wishful thinking to say the least. Also, some of the other statements made by the people involved had no evidence to support them. Further, no written evidence of support for this event was forthcoming from important organisations, especially the regional tourist organisation and the local government authorities. If the Government had been asked to support the proposition in principle only it may have been possible to respond quickly to the submissions that were made to it. But, as well as being asked to endorse the proposition in principle, the Government was asked to provide \$25 000 to pay for the consultants' fees for the preparation of the submission; therefore, it was only reasonable to expect that we would want to be satisfied on various points before taking a decision.

As a result, a working party was established with representation from the various Government departments that were interested in the event, especially the Department of Recreation and Sport, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Transport and the Department of State Development. Some of these issues that had not been resolved were addressed and information was sought from various people who might have been able to fill the gaps. Once the information was there, a proper assessment could be made by the working party, and a recommendation then went to Cabinet. Yesterday, a decision was taken which, I understand, the Minister of Recreation and Sport will announce tomorrow. I am not at liberty to do so.

The situation has highlighted the need to establish guidelines within which the Government can work in future when

submissions of this kind are brought to us for approval. A matter such as this is complex: it is a multi-disciplinary issue. Various departments are affected by, or have an interest in, such an event and, to provide some sort of framework within which we as a government can assess requests such as the one that we received regarding the Enduro event, it will be important to address that matter and to establish some sort of committee to handle these things quickly.

The research which will take place following the Grand Prix, and which will establish a methodology for assessing the impact in various ways of events such as that, will provide an important beginning for us with things such as this because eventually the issue which is most difficult to assess and upon which people tend to disagree most concerns the economic impact of such an event. If we can establish a methodology that enables us to get at the root of these arguments quickly, the Government will be able to respond more quickly than it has been able to do on this event. There probably have been some shortcomings all along the way both regarding the organisation that made the bid in the first place and, I would have to admit, regarding the Government's response to it. We have learnt some important lessons, and we will be able to handle such situations much better in future.

Mr GROOM: I have two questions, the first of which concerns Kangaroo Island. I believe that a report that was commissioned some time ago identified infrastructure needs on the island and a considerable sum to be spent there. Will the Minister provide a report concerning the future of Kangaroo Island in this regard?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member has said, a report was commissioned by my predecessor (Hon. Gavin Keneally) and the Minister for Environment and Planning (Hon. Dr Don Hopgood). That report has been completed. It identifies a need for substantial expenditure on Kangaroo Island to bring the level of the infrastructure to a stage where it is more adequate to meet the needs of the sharp increase in the number of tourists now visiting the island, especially tourists who bring their motor vehicles with them, and also those who have been travelling to the island on *Philanderer III* since it commenced operating.

That committee recommended that about \$1.1 million needed to be spent on the island in upgrading the facilities available there. As a result of that, we have had discussions as to how we can best address these needs. No doubt the honourable member has read in this morning's paper that the Government has now allocated \$30 000 to undertake necessary planning work on the island so as to ensure that the funds that we spend will be spent most efficiently and so that the infrastructure that is required there is located properly.

That planning work will proceed immediately and will be the responsibility of a combined group that will comprise the Department of Tourism, the Coast Protection Board and the two councils on the island. I expect that we will be able to make some decisions about how and when we can start work on the island once that initial planning work has been completed. This will ease considerably some of the pressures that emerged as real problems during the peak season last summer when so many tourists found that the facilities on Kangaroo Island were really inadequate.

Mr GROOM: I know that a desnagging and dredging program is taking place on the Murray River because of its importance to tourism. Can the Minister outline the Department of Tourism's role in this project and how important it is regarded by the department?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Department of Tourism recognises the importance of the Murray River as a prime tourist destination in South Australia. The development in

the past few years of river cruises, involving river boats and houseboats, as tourist attractions in this State makes it very important that the Murray River should be navigable at all times. The Department of Tourism has played an important role in bringing this to the attention of the departments responsible for keeping the Murray River clear: the responsibility for the waterways rests with the E&WS Department.

The Director of the Department of Tourism has been appointed by the State Government as the liaison officer to work on behalf of all Government departments with the users of the Murray River, and particularly with Murray River Developments, which over a long period has been fairly vocal and rather critical of the Government's commitment in these areas. Within the past two weeks Cabinet approved a proposition to spend some \$35 000, first, to survey the Murray River to establish exactly where the most urgent work needs to be done, and a further \$20 000 has been allocated to undertake the work that is necessary.

The short answer to the question is that the Department of Tourism is very well aware of the importance of keeping the Murray River clear because it is a very important tourist attraction in our State, and we are cooperating with the E&WS Department to see that the river is kept clear.

Mr OSWALD: Referring to the yellow book, page 6, relating to staffing, I notice that total employment has risen from 78.4 to 85.5 full-time equivalents, consisting of an increase of 3.7 in marketing the State, 1.7 in advice and support, .7 in advice and assistance to regions, and one full-time equivalent for agency services, making a 7.1 increase. I also notice under 'Program Titles' that for 'Marketing the State as a Tourist Destination', 16.3 full-time equivalents were proposed in 1984-85 and that the actual outcome was only 14.6. Why was the full allocation not taken up for marketing the State as a tourist destination? Will you also explain what your plans are to utilise those other full-time equivalent additions that I listed?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member would be aware, there has to be a cut-off point for putting together figures of this kind. It just happened that on 30 June there were a number of vacancies in that area. Those positions have been advertised, and it is intended that they will be filled.

Mr OSWALD: According to the second line under 'Marketing the State as a Tourist Destination', 16.3 were proposed and the outcome was 14.6: is that what the Minister is referring to?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes.

Mr OSWALD: Will you now answer the other part of the question? When I listed the increase in marketing in the State—those other four areas where I worked out the full-time equivalent increases—my question was: will you tell the Committee how you intend utilising those additional personnel in the department?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Those two additional people will be employed as senior development officers.

Mr OSWALD: There were 3.7 additional full-time equivalents in marketing the State, 1.7 in advice and support, .7 for advice and assistance to regions and one for agency services, making seven additional members of the staff.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: To explain this, I have to draw your attention to the total program figure of 83.7 for 1984-85 and 85.5 for 1985-86. From that figure, you will see that overall there is an increase of two positions. Those two positions—general manager and marketing manager—have been created for the new convention centre. The other variation in the figures for the various sectors of the department cannot be explained easily, but they represent a reallocation of existing staff in the various areas of the department. In effect, we have only two new positions this year.

Mr OSWALD: In the area of reallocation of staff, have numbers been increased among the consulting staff during peak periods in the Travel Centre, and do any of the new consultants have skills in any major languages other than English?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, during peak periods we have experienced travel consultants who are placed in other areas of the department and can come back to the Travel Centre to ease the pressure during those times. In addition, with respect to the honourable member's question about languages, we have staff available who can speak a total of 12 different languages and can assist in language skills at the Travel Centre at all times and not only during peak periods.

Mr OSWALD: I refer to page 67 of the yellow book and 'marketing of the State as a tourist destination' under 'recurrent receipts': it has been drawn to my attention that in 1984-85 proposed receipts were \$122 000, whereas the outcome was \$87 000. Why is the receipts figure down so dramatically?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We will take that question on notice.

Mr OSWALD: I refer to page 188 of the budget papers and the marketing of the State as a tourist destination. In particular, I refer to our overseas offices in Los Angeles, Auckland and Singapore. I acknowledge that most of the information I require is statistical and that my questions will be taken on notice. Several of my questions have been asked by members opposite, but I will repeat them. What is the cost of rental space in each of our overseas offices? What is the cost of all office equipment being provided in those offices: for example, for teleprinters, telexes, typewriters, and so on? What is the entertainment cost that accrues in each of those offices? What is the vehicle allowance for each of the offices? What is the travel cost for staff, including accommodation, meals, board, airfares, and so on, that can be attributed to the offices? What companies are visited by staff at those offices for which reimbursement or expenditure is required? What is the cost of promotion over the past 12 months in each of the offices? What rental costs, if any, have been paid for private accommodation of posted staff by the South Australian Government in those countries? What other individual costs are associated with the offices in each country?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Some of the costs required by the honourable member would not be borne by the department at all but by the Australian Tourist Commission, which is the body to whom our officers have been seconded. However, it is true that some of the costs would be borne by the department. I think the Deputy Director can supply some information.

Mr Noblet: It might be useful to again clarify the relationship between the department and its overseas representation. The Department of Tourism has no overseas officers: three members of the department's staff are on secondment for fixed periods to the Australian Tourist Commission. That relationship means that the Department of Tourism continues to pay the salary of the employee. All location costs, including the overseas living allowance, are paid by the Australian Tourist Commission in accordance with a determination relating to overseas service set by the Commonwealth Public Service.

The simple answer to the first question in relation to the cost of rental space overseas is nil. The second question related to the cost of office equipment provided to officers serving overseas, and the answer is nil. The fourth question related to the vehicle allowance provided to staff, and the answer to that is also nil. However, the Department of Tourism has either leased or purchased vehicles in each of the three locations for use on Department of Tourism busi-

ness by those officers. As the Minister indicated, the other responses will be provided in writing by 18 October.

Mr OSWALD: I acknowledge that certain costs are being picked up elsewhere. I want the net bottom line cost for South Australia. What records are there in relation to the number of tourists who visit South Australia as a result of initial contact with our overseas offices? Has a return in respect to tourist dollars warranted our high investment overseas in the promotion of South Australia? In other words, we have made this expenditure overseas and by now we should have statistics relating to the number of visitors coming to this State as a result of contact with our overseas offices. When one looks at the equation, is it a cost-effective exercise?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, it is virtually impossible to measure the number of people who come to Australia or South Australia as a result of our own marketing effort overseas, because our promotional work is not the only work being undertaken overseas. We are also involved with the Australian Tourist Commission in promoting South Australia as a destination, and they are doing their work in some ways independently of us. In addition, other private organisations, such as hotels, airlines and other groups, are engaging in promotions of their own which can be expected to encourage people to come to this State as well.

In addition, it is difficult to assess our impact because we do not have a booking service of our own, so we are not able to gauge numbers at that level, even if that facility gave us a reasonable indication, which it probably would not because people would be making bookings through other services anyway. We are able to assess numbers to some extent through group travel bookings and some of the convention business which comes our way, but that really gives us just some idea of what is happening—it certainly does not give us a full picture of how effective are our promotions. It is because of these other influencing factors that it is almost impossible to be able to make that assessment anyway.

Mr FERGUSON: The last update of the tourism development plan in early 1984 continued to provide the tourism industry with purpose and direction. However, it has been recognised that a further update of the plan is required for consideration at the 1986 tourism conference, and I understand the department is preparing accordingly. Since the original plan there have been so many new emphases and initiatives in the domestic and international tourism industries that it would appear that the updating would amount to a rewrite of the plan. Is that the situation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, I agree with all points the honourable member has made.

Mr FERGUSON: There was some criticism of the last conference, at which the tourism plan was not discussed. I suppose that that would have been for the same reason, namely, that the changes had been so great since the introduction of the first plan that there was not a great deal of purpose in discussing it.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I agree with what the honourable member has to say and point out that the rewriting of the tourism development plan is scheduled to occur prior to the next conference. It is intended to present that to the conference for its consideration.

Mr MEIER: I refer to the Riverton to Clare railway line. The Minister would be aware that Australian National threatened to pull up the railway line some time ago and, as a result of urgent meetings and negotiations, a representation was made to her predecessor to see whether a stay of execution could be effected for the Riverton to Clare rail link. The previous Minister made representations, as the current Minister may have done, but if my memory serves me correctly AN has given only until the end of this year

as the period when the moratorium will end. In recent discussions, representatives of the Riverton community, particularly members of local government, have indicated to me that they would need more time to come up with a feasible proposal for using the Riverton to Clare rail link as a tourist attraction. A couple of the ideas they suggested to me had a lot of merit.

Has the Minister made further representations to Australian National to ensure that the rail link will remain for some time beyond December of this year? Secondly, is the Minister, through the Department of Tourism, able to offer people in the Riverton and Clare district any assistance in coming up with ideas for use of the rail line as a tourist attraction?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Department of Tourism has not contacted the Federal Minister for Transport to have the moratorium period extended beyond the end of this year and, indeed, we have not been approached to do so by any of the people involved with this proposed project. Neither have we been approached by the people involved to assist with putting together suitable proposals. However, if those interested people wanted to seek the advice of the Department of Tourism, that most certainly would be forthcoming.

Mr MEIER: My second question relates to Government spending on tourism. Certainly the budget is increasing and that is a positive thing if it can attract more tourists into South Australia and perhaps have greater tourism within the State itself. However, it concerns me as to what is the upper limit on spending. We heard yesterday an announcement that housing interest rates would be subsidised by the Government for a section of the community. One could easily apply that across the board and say that bank interest rates also should be subsidised. It is a dangerous move because we, the taxpayers, are paying those subsidies.

In that connection I have had representations over the last 12 months, and before, from people, particularly on Yorke Peninsula, that something should be done about that or the other as it affects tourism. Such things include reconstruction or development of roads that tourists mainly use, the preservation or restructure of older buildings, and the like.

In the absence of Government funding for redevelopment due to a limited budget, in what other ways can the Government give encouragement to local communities, for example, by offering help with ways to restore buildings, by getting service clubs involved, as well as other community groups, to support and raise money for a project? To what extent is the Department of Tourism able to provide assistance to local communities that require such help?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am very aware of the point that the honourable member is making about the Government's and the department's responsibility to assist local communities. There is always a problem with financing tourism propositions. As the honourable member has rightly pointed out, the Department of Tourism has a limited budget to spend on the development of tourist facilities in this State. The department therefore must set priorities for ventures which are considered the most likely to succeed and which are in areas of the State where the development of tourism will be most beneficial. Funds are allocated accordingly. This means of course that projects in some regions of the State miss out on financial assistance from the department. For people who have become very attached to certain projects and ideas, it is sometimes very difficult for them to accept that. I appreciate the disappointment that can arise, but that is really just a fact of life.

The department has another role to play in providing not financial support but other forms of advice to people in various regions of the State about how they can best go

about helping themselves, if you like, in some areas, and about how proposals can be put together and brought to fruition, together with some advice about how to package a product or market whatever it is that is to be offered. The department is constantly receiving information about such projects from our regional managers.

One of the department's major roles is to identify some of those projects at a very early stage and to provide the sort of assistance that local people need to develop the things that they want to bring about. We also work very closely with the regional tourist organisations in much the same way. So, there are those aspects to the work that we do, and during the last number of years the department has assisted many local government authorities and other groups in various regions of the State, both financially and in terms of the sort of advice and support that I was talking about.

Mr MEIER: My next question is supplementary to that. Just north of Windsor, on the Port Wakefield Road, there is a cactus farm. Is it Government policy to consider provision of funds to assist in the function of a private enterprise such as that? This cactus farm is sited adjacent to the road, and there is adequate parking space for tourists to stop and go in and have a look. However, the present owner of the farm is finding that the farm is not an economic proposition to run at this stage, although he is making changes and improvements. Is it Government policy to consider Government finance for such a project?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, it is not. There is no Government funding available to assist private operators with their projects. The Government can assist them with advice on marketing and development, and very often we do that with private operators and private developers. But there is no financial assistance to them.

Mr MEIER: My third question relates to the Government's policy on promoting tourism, in the sense of ensuring that tourists have the opportunity to identify towns that are perhaps slightly off the main highways. I am thinking here in particular of Virginia and Two Wells, which are now bypassed by the Port Wakefield Road. People in those towns have been concerned ever since the bypass was opened that much of the tourist trade no longer passes through those towns. People in those towns, and I, have asked for signs to be erected near the highway to identify some of the features of those towns. However, the Highways Department has continually knocked back such approaches. Is it Government policy to promote, through tourism, the installation of such signs? Perhaps to put it in another way, is the department prepared to seek a reassessment by the Highways Department of its current position on highway signs for tourist purposes?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, it is the policy of the Department of Tourism to work with local authorities in erecting signs to indicate tourist attractions throughout the State. We work closely with the local government authorities and the Highways Department—whichever is the more appropriate. In fact, we have a road signs policy which establishes a set of guidelines and priorities for the erection of road signs. A constant review is being undertaken of the various tourist facilities around the State and of whether or not road signs are appropriate in the various regions. So, the short answer is, yes, we do pursue that, and it occurs as and when funds are available.

Mr MEIER: Who is the best person for representatives of the interested parties at Virginia and Two Wells to contact to set up initial discussions on possible signs?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, there is the Regional Manager for the Mid North region, John MacDonnel, who is based at Clare, or they could contact Les Penley, at the Department of Tourism. I am not absolutely clear about the sort of signs that the honourable member is talking

about. He seems to be talking about road signs that indicate the direction of Two Wells and Virginia, although I am referring to tourist signs which indicate what kind of tourist attractions people can expect to see off the main highways.

Mr MEIER: I was thinking of signs similar to those that are erected at some entrances to the Barossa Valley, such as at Tanunda. In other words, it is nothing like a highway sign but, rather, is oriented towards tourists. I have been given sufficient information to enable me to take it further.

Mr BECKER: What action can you as Minister of Tourism and your department take to assist the promoters of the expo associated with the Grand Prix that will be held at the Wayville Showgrounds, and what action can you take to encourage your colleagues or counterparts interstate to take up tourism stands at the expo? Yesterday I saw Sandy Clark, Coordinator of Impulse Promotions, on another matter, and we talked about the expo. I understand that she has received no response from interstate tourist organisations. The idea of the expo at the Wayville Showgrounds is not necessarily oriented purely towards South Australia, but people are coming to South Australia and may want to go on from South Australia to other States on their way home.

No interstate tourist office has accepted the offer of having a display at the expo. As a matter of fact, she was quite concerned and has given me a copy of a letter that she wrote to John Brown, the federal Minister for Tourism. I think that you received a copy of the telex where she asked what the federal Minister could do to encourage support. She said that you and your department have been a tremendous help to them, but it would be a pity if the whole thing fell down because no other State was prepared to come in now. I understand that the other State tourist organisations are adopting a wait and see attitude.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am aware of the problem to which the honourable member refers. I received a copy of the telex which Impulse Promotions sent to the federal Minister for Tourism, seeking his assistance in encouraging other State travel centres to participate in the promotion. I was delighted to read her remarks, as mentioned by you, about the fine cooperation that she has received from our own Department of Tourism. I really do not have any direct influence over the work of other Ministers or other departments or tourist commissions.

All I can really do is the sort of thing that Sandy Clark has asked the federal Minister to do, that is, seek their support and ask them to participate. I think that Mr Noblet, the Deputy Director-General of the department, has had a little more to do with it than I have, and he may have some further comments to make about it.

Mr Noblet: There has been some difficulty this year because of the short lead time leading up to the full Grand Prix carnival, which includes the Mardi Gras and the Grand Prix. It has been very difficult for individual South Australian tourist regions and interstate tourist departments or commissions to participate in this event, because the expo component of Grand Prix week was not planned sufficiently in advance to enable them to budget not only funds but also time and other resources. This is nobody's fault, because Grand Prix week has gradually come together over recent months. I am confident that all involved will use Grand Prix Week 1985 as both a learning experience and an opportunity to measure the real impact that they might be able to make on such an occasion in the future.

I think that Impulse Promotions and other such organisations will find it much easier to gain support in the future when we have a longer lead time. It is quite well known that the date of the 1986 Grand Prix could well be determined within a matter of days, and that would give us close to 12 months planning and adequate time in which to advise

other States and other organisations that the event is coming up and to invite them to make provision in their budgets.

Mr BECKER: I do not know how much notice anybody would need in order to put an exhibition or a display and information centre together. I would have thought that all the Adelaide offices of the various State tourist organisations that operate here could arrange for a person or representative to be at the expo with video displays, posters and pamphlets. I believe that it costs only \$450 for a site. Someone with a reasonable amount of intelligence could surely be provided to help promote the respective States. It is all under one roof and, if overseas visitors were thinking of going on to another State, I should have thought that our Travel Centre would take the opportunity to help a South Australian company assist others. It is a bit of a two-way affair. I wonder whether it would be worth while making an approach to the respective Ministers of Tourism in other States, because it would not be very costly.

Mr Noblet: The cost of participation far exceeds the rental of the space. The biggest cost involved in any such tourism promotion is the cost of disposable material, that is, publicity brochures. The Department of Tourism in South Australia and other tourism departments interstate regularly participate in such public promotions. It is quite well known that an event of that size, which might attract somewhere between 50 000 and 100 000 people over four days, could well dispose of literature worth \$15 000, a vast percentage of which ends up in rubbish bins; but, more particularly, that amount has not been provided for in any of the departments' budgets.

The Department of Tourism believes that principally it is a budgetary problem and, secondly, that it is a question of allocating resources to other priorities ahead of that, because there is as yet no real recognition interstate of what the value of participation in an event like the Adelaide Grand Prix will really be in the future.

Mr BECKER: The Grand Prix would be a wonderful yardstick in relation to assessing what could be done to look after these people and get them to return in the future. Have you had any indication of possible effects if the Grand Prix is held in South Africa? If so, what will be the Commonwealth Government's attitude in relation to granting visas to the drivers? Will they be prohibited from coming to Australia if they compete in South Africa, or will there be a special exemption? There seems to be an attitude that, if you compete in a sporting event in South Africa, you could be banned from competing in sport in Australia. Will this be considered a separate event, because I would hate to see any hiccup at this stage with the considerable amount of commitment involved?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not have any indication that the Federal Government will prevent any participants in the South African Grand Prix (if it comes about) from entering Australia. As I understand it, arrangements being made to bring participants and their equipment from South Africa for the Grand Prix to Australia, should that be necessary, will take place using airlines other than South African Airways. That is the most recent information I have received. As a potential problem, hopefully it will not arise.

Mr BECKER: Visas will be granted to all people associated with it, if they compete in South Africa, but anyone who competes in South Africa is virtually banned from competing in this country. Is that so?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As far as I am aware, that is not likely to be a problem.

Mr BECKER: How many motor vehicles are allocated to the Department of Tourism? Does the Department use the Government motor vehicle pool? What impact will the Federal Government budget announcement have on your

budget if you are required to pay a tax because of officers' access to motor vehicles for home to office use?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Currently, in the Department of Tourism, we have access to 10 vehicles, two of which are used by our officers interstate. We do use the Government car pool. In answer to the final question about the Federal Government's tax package, I am not really able to say what impact it will have on the Department of Tourism. I believe that that matter is being assessed by the Department of Services and Supply.

Mr BECKER: It will not be very much, anyway, will it?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I should not imagine so, but the Department of Services and Supply and the Public Service Board will look at that question and assess it.

Mr OSWALD: In the yellow book at page 21 the following statement appears in the second paragraph under 'Issues/trends':

The demand for services by increased numbers of visitors will place existing outlets under pressure during 1986.

What will the department do about that? We have one centre operating in King William Street but, if the department has acknowledged that demand for services resulting in increased numbers of visitors will put increasing pressure on outlets during 1986, can the Minister say what budget was provided?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That will be a question of organisation of staff and resources. I ask the Deputy-Director of the department to respond to that question.

Mr Noblet: There is sufficient flexibility within the staffing structure of the Government Travel Centre in Adelaide to cope with variations in pressures from time to time. The department is well aware that there will be an increased demand in 1986, but it is very difficult at this time to quantify it.

The administrative arrangements within the department for staffing the Government Travel Centre in King William Street have sufficient flexibility to enable us to cope with pressures that may occur from time to time. Additionally—and the Director of Administration and Finance may be able to add more—I understand that there is a budget provision for further casual staff to be engaged from time to time during 1986 if visitor demand on the Travel Centre exceeds our ability to cope with existing staff.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The new computerised information and booking system, which will be introduced into the department in 1986, can be expected to relieve some of the pressures on the Travel Centre facilities as well.

Mr OSWALD: At page 15, under the last dot point in the right hand column, it is stated:

undertake comprehensive survey of tourist road sign posting needs in two regions and implement.

Which two regions have been selected for the comprehensive survey of tourist road signs? Also, what is the cost and the completion date?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The two regions about which we are talking are the Flinders Ranges, for which \$6 000 is being allocated, and the Burra-Mid North region, for which \$5 000 is being allocated. However, these are in addition to three areas for which approvals are being carried over from 1984-85: the Adelaide Hills, the South-East and Fleurieu Peninsula, for which \$7 260 had previously been allocated.

Mr OSWALD: The last paragraph on page 15 refers to an amount of \$250 000 expected to be received from operations of the car park connected with the ASER project. That is referred to in the subprogram, 'Estimate of appropriate tourism infrastructure'. Who gets this money? Will it be paid to Treasury, the Department of Tourism, or someone else?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am advised that the money will go into consolidated revenue, not into the Department

of Tourism. The money will be accounted for through the Department of Tourism accounting system.

Mr OSWALD: On page 17, in the left-hand column, under the heading 'Activity', appears the sub-program 'Encouragement of appropriate tourism infrastructure', and part of that encouragement is stated to be advising the Highways Department on grants for local roads. What is the mechanism and priority setting procedure for this provision?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A fairly complicated set of criteria is used by the department in determining which proposals should have priority. I do not have with me a copy of the written guidelines that have been established, but I can provide them later.

The CHAIRMAN: It can be provided in written form that can be published in *Hansard*, so long as that is done by 18 October.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will undertake to do that. The information covers about two pages and could be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Mr OSWALD: On page 20, under 'Recurrent Expenditure', the proposed expenditure for 1984-85 was \$445 000; the outcome for 1984-85 was \$412 000; and \$453 000 is proposed to be spent this year. The increase in proposed expenditure from last year to this year is not keeping up with the rate of inflation in real terms. Will the Minister comment on that aspect, and will she explain why only \$412 000 of the proposed \$445 000 was spent last year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The difference in the figures can be explained by the cut-off point that we must take for the end of the financial year. By 30 June, some of the money had not been claimed by regional tourist associations or town tourist offices; otherwise, the whole of the sum proposed to be spent during 1984-85 had been claimed or allocated. Regarding the overall allocation for this program, I refer to the argument that I put earlier in our discussion on the objectives that we are pursuing in funding regional tourist associations and town tourist offices.

When this fund was established, it was intended to provide a sort of seeding grant for organisations such as these to help them get off the ground. The objective is for regional organisations to be self-sufficient. Therefore, the arguments that I used earlier still stand. That explains the funding procedures that we have pursued.

The Hon. TED CHAPMAN: As I have not been a member of the Committee throughout its sittings, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister on her recent appointment to Cabinet. I have a couple of questions within the boundaries of her portfolio, especially as the tourism industry relates to Kangaroo Island. The island is a delightful place in which to live, to be engaged in primary production, or to spend time as a tourist. What input did the Minister or her departmental staff have in the design of *MV Troubridge II*? If she has not that information with her now, could she provide it later?

MV Troubridge has serviced Kangaroo Island and Eyre Peninsula for some years: it has transported commodities to and from those areas and has catered for vehicular and tourist traffic. Experience has shown that it has been difficult, if not impossible, to cater adequately for the transport of both primary produce and passengers in the volumes that have been offering simultaneously. In view of recent announcements suggesting that the replacement vessel will try to cater for both commodities and passengers, will the Minister say what input, if any, she or her department had in the design of the vessel, and in which direction do the authorities intend to proceed in this matter?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This development took place before I became Minister, but I am told that the Department of Tourism advised the Department of Marine and Harbors

on tourism trends and other matters concerning tourism. My department certainly had no role to play in giving advice on the design of *MV Troubridge*. That was not a matter for the Department of Tourism. However, when the proposal concerning the *MV Troubridge* was being discussed, the department was involved in assessing the impact of *Phlanderer III*. So the department was fairly tied up with assessing the tourism impact for the various craft and also for Kangaroo Island at that time. It was able to provide relevant tourism information to the Department of Marine and Harbors, but that is the extent of the advice supplied.

Mr MEIER: My question results from a telephone conversation that I have had with the proprietor of Murray River Developments, which runs boats on the Murray River. The proprietor, who is also the captain of one of the boats, is a little concerned that he sent the Minister correspondence dated 18 July this year—soon after she came to her new office—which congratulated the Minister, indicated a little about Murray River Developments and what it is doing and said that the company would be pleased if the Minister could be its guest on one of the boats.

Nothing was heard from that correspondence. Apparently, on 14 August a telephone call was made to the Minister's office to ask whether the letter had been received, and the answer was that it had been received. Apparently, the person who rang indicated that he hoped that it would be at least acknowledged. Apparently, the letter still has not been acknowledged, even though one of the persons concerned with the company indicated that last Friday he again wrote and expressed the hope that some action would occur. In other words, for 2½ months now nothing has occurred arising from that letter to the Minister. Seeing that Murray River Developments is referred to as one of the biggest tourist attractions in that area, I hope that the Minister is not reflecting Government policy and ostracising part of the State, because these people are looking to the Minister for her support. Has she any comments?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I certainly do. I find this question really extraordinary. The Murray River Developments letter of congratulations to me on my election to the ministry was one of several hundreds I received. I have been attempting to reply to those letters, but I am sure that the honourable member will be aware that my job is fairly busy and is a bit more involved than replying to my letters of congratulations.

I am very grateful to the people who have seen fit to write to me, congratulating me on my elevation to the ministry, and I am attending to the correspondence as quickly as I can. I have replied to the Murray River Developments letter, and I am surprised that it has not been received by Captain Veenstra. I am sure that it would have reached his office some time during the period in which he was overseas, because I understand that he was overseas for some 2½ months both prior to and following my election to the ministry. The letter of congratulations was signed by someone else in his company. If he has not received that reply, which I know has been forwarded, I shall certainly make sure that he receives a copy.

With respect to our relationship with Captain Veenstra and Murray River Developments, I know that over the years the State Government and the various departments with whom he has had to deal have worked very hard to establish and maintain a good working relationship with him, but I am sure also, as he would be probably the first to admit, on many occasions he has adopted rather unorthodox ways of going about his business in various negotiations with some of the Government departments, which at times have led to disagreements and misunderstandings.

However, my department has enjoyed a very good relationship with Captain Veenstra. In fact, the Director of the

Department of Tourism has been appointed by the State Government to act as the liaison officer for all Government departments to work with Captain Veenstra on matters that are of mutual interest and concern. That relationship is good, open and frank. The Director of Tourism is always accessible and available for discussions with Captain Veenstra and other representatives of Murray River Developments when necessary. I certainly propose to adopt the same sort of approach during the time that I am Minister of Tourism. I have not yet been able to accept his invitation to ride on one of his boats, but I certainly hope to do that at some stage in the future as soon as my program allows.

Mr BECKER: Is the tourist agency service—I take it that that is the travel and accommodation booking service—of the Department of Tourism a viable operation? If not, what can be done to improve its viability? I notice in the Auditor-General's Report on page 218 that the Melbourne office cost some \$343 000 in 1984-85 and the Sydney office \$441 000, but they have a dual role of promoting the State as well as acting as a travel agent.

I am more concerned about the operations here in South Australia. The Auditor-General's Report tells us that sales recorded through the working account for the year comprised for the Government \$3 983 000, and private \$3 948 000 for fares, \$708 000 for accommodation and \$920 000 for other, making a total of \$5 576 000. So, the throughput for the Government and private was \$9 555 000.

It is interesting to note from the Auditor-General's Report that there is nothing there for Government regarding accommodation and other: it is all fares. At 30 June, \$564 000 was owing, of which \$404 000 was in respect of Government departments. That comes to the second point of my question: why are Government departments owing such a sum of money and how long has that amount been outstanding?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: To take the last point first, concerning the money that was outstanding on 30 June from other Government departments, that is another argument about the cut-off point that we have for these accounts. At 30 June that amount of money was outstanding, but it is no longer outstanding: it is just a cut-off point. We do not have any outstanding or doubtful debts.

Mr BECKER: We would be better off if we changed the accounting system to remove those sorts of unsavoury figures.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not qualified in accounting practices, so I cannot really comment on that statement: I will leave it to the experts. The department keeps strict control over the amounts of money owed by Government departments, and it chases those amounts carefully and frequently. With respect to the statement about no amount being set aside for accommodation, the department does not normally make accommodation bookings, anyway.

Mr BECKER: Private accommodation amounting to \$708 000 is a pretty good sum.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That is right; we do in relation to private arrangements. However, we make few or no accommodation bookings for people travelling through. In relation to the economic viability of the Travel Centre itself, it is true that the commissions we receive do not cover the cost of salaries. We hope that the introduction of the new computer system will assist in reducing some costs. We must bear in mind that the Travel Centre is not just a booking service but also an information service. It was never really established as an operation which would necessarily cover its own costs. We must provide that information service, and we do so at a cost. We do as well as we can, but at the moment we do not cover costs.

Mr BECKER: To assist in improving turnover to cover costs as far as the travel agency is concerned, has any consideration been given to the Travel Centre becoming an

agent for the State Bank, in other words, taking over the State Bank travel agency? Is that possible?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think the answer is, 'No'.

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

Works and Services—Department of Tourism, \$3 537 000

Chairman:

Mr Max Brown

Members:

Mr H. Becker
Mr D.M. Ferguson
Mr T.R. Groom
Mr G.A. Ingerson
Mr J.K.G. Oswald
Mr J.P. Trainer

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government and Minister of Youth Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr G.J. Inns, Director of Tourism, Department of Tourism.

Mr A.B. Noblet, Deputy Director of Tourism, Department of Tourism.

Mr D.E. Packer, Assistant Director, Administration and Finance, Department of Tourism.

Mr L.J. Penley, Assistant Director, Development and Regions, Department of Tourism.

Mr P.J. Vanderlee, Assistant Director, Planning and Research, Department of Tourism.

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

Mr OSWALD: Following meetings at officer level between the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet, Tourism and Transport on the one hand, and Australian National on the other, and following that a more formal meeting by Ministers affected by the plan, I am advised that the Government has decided to introduce a tourist rail service on the Victor Harbor to Adelaide railway line. I also notice at page 15 of the yellow book that \$2 million has been budgeted for that railway line. When will an official announcement be made about the proposed tourist line, and will the \$2 million be the total South Australian Government commitment?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This matter is currently before Cabinet. A decision has not yet been made about how we will proceed with respect to the Victor Harbor railway line, so it would be inappropriate for me to comment on that any further.

Mr OSWALD: Do we have to wait for the Premier's policy speech to hear the announcement?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I cannot tell the honourable member when the announcement will be made.

Mr OSWALD: Is the announcement imminent?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I suppose that depends on how one defines 'imminent'. This matter is reaching the final stages of consideration. I expect an announcement to be made in the next couple of weeks.

Mr OSWALD: In that case, I assume the policy speech will be made within the next couple of weeks.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not think that that would be a reliable assumption to make.

Mr FERGUSON: In relation to the ASER project (which I assume comes under this vote), I notice that it is anticipated that the first returns of \$250 000 from the car parking are anticipated this financial year. What is the anticipated date of completion for the car park?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is intended that the car park will be completed in varying stages. The first stage will be completed by November this year. Other sections will be opened progressively, with final completion in about November 1986.

Mr INGERSON: In relation to the car park, what is the final cost and how many cars will it hold? Several figures have been mentioned, and the last figure that I heard was between 800 and 1 200 cars.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is anticipated that the new car park will hold 1 200 cars. In relation to the cost, we will have to take that on notice.

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

Local Government, \$21 015 000

Chairman:

Mr Max Brown

Members:

Mr H. Becker
The Hon. B.C. Eastick
Mr D.M. Ferguson
Mr T.R. Groom
Mr G.A. Ingerson
Mr J.P. Trainer

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government and Minister of Youth Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

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

Mr E.M. Miller, State Librarian.

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

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

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Later this evening Mr Bob Lewis, from the Waste Management Committee, will join us.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Opposition appreciates the information on Mr Lewis and, with the concurrence of our colleagues opposite, would not seek to discuss any aspect of waste management until after the dinner break. We would endeavour, although it is by no means certain, to arrange to get through the Librarian's role perhaps before dinner, and that would release one officer to be replaced by another.

Before going on with the library aspects of the portfolio, I draw the Minister's attention to the general area of local government administration, more specifically to information given in the yellow book relative to the officers and the footnote which applies to the position of Deputy Director, Local Government Administration, such footnote being 'Subject to review'. Could the Minister indicate to the Committee what is the situation in relation to the administration of her department now that it has been placed in new hands and now that the original office occupied by the Minister of Local Government has been transferred to another site?

What is the overall position relative to local government review?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, it is not the Deputy Director of the Department of Local Government who is under review, but rather the services and the organisation of those services under the Deputy's control.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Will the Minister expand on what are those directions?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will ask the Director to expand on that.

Dr McPhail: We are conducting an internal organisational review of the local government aspects of the department. We have had a substantial review of the library operations and we are simply looking at those matters listed under 'Deputy Director' and 'projects' to ensure that they are rightfully located and that we avoid duplication in effort between officers and so that in terms of efficiency we are not carrying out activities that are now changed in nature.

It is simply an internal organisation review. We put that footnote there because when the review is completed there may be some differences in the listings under those two areas.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Has any change in Department of Local Government personnel been made, or is there any contemplation of change in relation to personnel? More specifically, is it intended that officers with local government field experience will remain in the department? Mr Lewis's name has been mentioned; there is Mr Carr, who was on secondment; and there are other people who have provided what might be termed 'hands on' advice and experience on local government matters. Can the Minister assure the Committee that that will continue? What precisely is the position with respect to personnel at the moment?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I can indicate that only one officer has left the Department of Local Government: that is David Williams, who has gone to take up the position of Town Clerk of the St Peters council. The department intends to replace Mr Williams with a person with local government experience. As the honourable member is probably aware, the department has followed that principle over a considerable time in order to ensure that personnel of the department have direct experience in the local government area.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to the general area of libraries, will the Minister provide an update on precisely what has taken place in relation to the major development of the Mortlock Library Australiana activity? Further, can the Minister give an indication of changes that are contemplated in respect of staffing levels in that facility?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I shall deal with the staffing question first. In the current budget allocation provision has been made for an extra five positions—three professional positions in the Mortlock Library, and two weekly paid positions, which will be filled during the course of this financial year. With respect to the Mortlock Library development, it is anticipated that the building will be ready by mid-November. The development is generally on target with the original plans for the project. It is intended that the Governor will open the new Mortlock Library sometime in mid-February 1986.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is any assistance required, perhaps involving the general population providing articles or materials for the exhibition, which will be an ongoing concern of this new initiative? This new initiative is supported by both sides of the House and has been lauded as something worth while from which the State can benefit. Has there been sufficient input by the public generally or is more help needed?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There has been an extensive fundraising campaign for the Mortlock Library, general

appeals have been made, and about \$200 000 has been raised already. I will ask Mr Miller to comment further on the development of the Mortlock Library in that regard.

Mr Miller: We have almost achieved our target in terms of what we expect to raise from the public toward getting the project completed. We are still following that campaign through, because there are areas where money will be useful in completing certain projects in the building. Regarding support for the Mortlock Library in terms of donations and material for display, we have been grateful to the *Advertiser* for running an article for us every six weeks on various aspects of the library in order to encourage the public to donate material to it. That has had a marked success. A tremendous amount of material has been given to us as a result of that continuing promotion.

In addition, a number of officers are employed under funds from the Jubilee 150 organisation. One of them specifically is a field officer who is employed for three years as part of the project of promoting the library and encouraging the donation of materials from organisations and individuals throughout the State. As part of the process, we are careful to ensure that the Mortlock Library is not seen to be grabbing everything that is available by way of local history material throughout the State.

We are concerned that there is a role to play in local areas with local historical societies and branches of the National Trust. We want to ensure that we collect only material that local people feel should be collected at State level because of its State importance or because of its value as a historical item to the community as a whole. We also desire to ensure that there are viable collections in local communities. Therefore, part of the work has been to stimulate local collecting as well as collecting for the Mortlock Library.

Mr FERGUSON: Will the Minister explain what sections, if any, will go out of the present library into the Mortlock Library and what reorganisation this will cause?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I ask Mr Miller to reply to that question.

Mr Miller: Two sections are going to the Mortlock Library. One is the South Australiana collection, which will become the basis of the Mortlock Library; that is the legal deposit collection—the material collected from publishers under the Libraries Act, where one copy of everything published in the State must be deposited with the State Library. The other major area of collecting is in the field of private archives. The Archives Branch of the State Library, which from today is to be known as the Public Records Office, has been split into two, and the private archives are being removed from that collection and will be included in the Mortlock Library. Basically, those two collections will form part of it.

In addition, all the South Australian newspapers, as well as an extensive range of non book materials, will go into the collection. Through a special bequest by Mr Somerville, we will establish our history collection in the library. That will be a new project starting up next year. We will interview people of note in the community to find out what life in South Australia was like in earlier times, and that will be recorded on tape with typed transcripts and put into the collection.

Mr FERGUSON: What has happened to the book conservation area at the library? Is that still within the command of the library and, if it is, where is it now?

Mr Miller: There are two aspects to that. First, restoration of book binding still continues in the library. We have set up a special unit in the library bindery, and are training staff to do special hand conservation work. All our most valuable material is being treated in that way. We have trained eight members of our staff in that work, and we are

training another six so that that work may continue. The general emphasis on binding in the State Library now is very much on hand binding and conservation of early materials and much less on production binding as it has been in the past.

The other area is the area of paper conservation. We had two officers in the library who were involved in that work. They had been transferred to the State Conservation Centre, which has been set up as part of the Museum redevelopment with officers from the Museum, Art Gallery, and History Trust. All our paper conservation work is now being conducted at the State Conservation Centre.

Mr FERGUSON: Where is that located?

Mr Miller: In the old Trades School off Kintore Avenue, behind the library. It is one of the wings of the new Museum of Natural Sciences.

Mr FERGUSON: At page 33 of the yellow book, under the heading 'Strategy', the following statement appears:

A second major review committee of the library system which will *inter alia* examine all methods of funds to permit the subsidised libraries program to develop at the best possible rate, while providing a flexible and effective community service.

Will the Minister explain what that means? We have already had a fairly far ranging review, so why do we need a second? What is its purpose?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This committee of review is being chaired by Mr Jim Crawford, who is also Chairman of the Libraries Board and who also chaired the original review of library services in South Australia. The current committee of review comprises the following members: Mr Miller (State Librarian); Mr Herrmann (Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Local Government); Mr Hullick (representing the Local Government Association); Ms Spooner (staff representative); Ms Allen (representing the Information Services Advisory Committee); Mr Dwyer (representing the Director-General of Education); Mr Galessi (representing the Minister of Ethnic Affairs); Ms Miller (a representative from the private sector); and Mr East (representing the Municipal Officers Association). The Executive Officer of that committee is Mr Talbot, of the State Library Reference Service. The purpose of the review is to ensure that library services are adapting to the modern day needs of people in our community. Its terms of reference are really extensive: in fact, it has 13 terms of reference.

They include such matters as examining the recommendations of the 1978 report, which I suppose we can expect to some extent will be now out of date in light of the developments that have occurred in the delivery of library services since that time. The committee has been asked also to review the balance of the development program and the additional library services yet to be established or services which require upgrading; to examine new trends in the provision of library services which might be appropriate in the development of additional services, or the improvement of existing services and the regional development of country services.

It has been asked also to examine the role of information services and the part that public libraries might play in the whole field of providing information to the general public, including the financial implications to local government and to the State Government. Further, it has been asked to review standards, including hours of opening applicable in the provision of library services, and to examine the role of video tapes and their place in library services. As members would be aware, that is a fairly new development in the field. Its terms of reference also included reviewing the ongoing financial support to public libraries and to make interstate comparisons; to review the service being offered by both the State Library and public libraries to ethnic groups; to examine the method by which services to industry

could be improved; to examine and recommend the funding of existing institute libraries following the completion of the current development program in 1986-87; to examine the use and subsidy of new technology for library systems; to examine the present local government contribution to the total costs of operating school community libraries; and to consider the development of further joint use libraries in the metropolitan area where appropriate.

I think it can be seen from those terms of reference that this review will be a very extensive one. We had hoped that the committee would be able to present its report to me by last month, but a number of factors prevented the committee from completing its review in that time. I now expect to receive that report in February 1986.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to the same subject matter, I notice that the Chairman of the review group has gone public concerning some changes that he would like to see take place in respect of library services. I trust that that is not going to militate against a review which will reflect the views of all members of the committee. If it is taken as a censure of Mr Crawford for having gone public before the committee has reported, then so be it, but I think it is a position that any person who is Chairman of such a review group has to take very seriously, because the likelihood of damage, even though slight, can be against the best interests of those involved.

In relation to reviews within the system (and this was reported on the occasion of the last committee deliberations) I notice also that there had been an attitudinal survey within the framework of the library system. I note on page 40 of the yellow book that that survey was completed and is being assessed. Is it possible to indicate what the results of that assessment have been and how those results are likely to impact upon the library service delivery for the balance of 1985-86, or what planning will take place in 1985-86 towards the institution of those changes for 1986 and beyond?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member has stated, a survey of users of the State Library was conducted in May of this year. Some 614 users were interviewed in order to try to determine user patterns of the State Library and, to some extent, user attitudes towards the library. The research methodology and the questionnaire used in the survey were developed in association with the Bureau of Statistics, so a reliable survey was conducted.

The survey looked at the level of use for each service and the degree of satisfaction library patrons felt towards the service. It sought also information on the demographic background of the users of the State Library. A more detailed analysis of the survey has yet to be undertaken, but we have some early indications of the results of that survey, and I think that they are very interesting indeed. First, the survey demonstrated that the State Library has a very regular group of users: 40 per cent of the respondents said that they used the library once a week and a further 32 per cent claimed that they used the library once a month, making a total of 72 per cent who were regular users of the library; only 1 per cent of library patrons used the library approximately once a year; and the final 26 per cent used the library intermittently. So, with this statistic in mind, it is important to remember that the survey examined people who, by their own actions, have already expressed some satisfaction in the services provided by the library.

On the whole, the survey does not examine people who, for whatever reasons, have been deterred from or have never used the State Library: rather, it examines people who find the services available in the State Library already acceptable. I can give further information on the questions asked by the survey. First, respondents were asked which service is used the most, and 47.7 per cent said that they used the adult lending service on a regular basis; 18.9 per

cent used the reference library on a regular basis; and 9.1 per cent used the youth lending service on a regular basis. All other services were used less than 9 per cent.

The second choice preferences revealed that 42.7 per cent used the reference library as their second choice, 35 per cent used the adult lending service, 31 per cent used the newspaper reading room, 26.3 per cent used the periodicals research collection, and 24.3 per cent used the lending service as their second choice. All other services were used less than 20 per cent.

People were asked about the frequency of loans from the library, and 33.2 per cent of users indicated that they borrow at least every month and 33.9 per cent borrow intermittently. These figures support the first observation that the State Library has a dedicated group of regular users. Respondents were asked also about their use of other libraries apart from the State Library and, in response to that question, 70 per cent said that they used at least one other library.

Interestingly, 22 per cent of State Library users also use the Barr Smith Library. This relates closely to a later finding in the survey indicating that 50 per cent of reference library users are students. Respondents were asked whether they had trouble finding materials in the State Library: 71.3 per cent of patrons indicated that they had trouble occasionally finding materials, only 27.9 per cent claiming that they never had difficulty locating material.

Considering the regularity of State Library users this can be seen to represent a problematic area for the State Library. When those people were asked in which sections the trouble occurred, of those who had trouble finding material 34 per cent claimed to have trouble finding material in the adult lending section, while 42 per cent of reference library users had trouble finding material. Also, 31 per cent of respondents expressed some level of dissatisfaction with library staff, while 68 per cent were never unhappy with the service they received from library staff.

Half of those who expressed some level of dissatisfaction indicated that they would like to be approached by staff if they looked as though they needed help. Similarly, a significant level of discontent towards staff on the issues desk was also expressed. That is obviously an area where the library will have to think some more about the sort of approach it adopts.

With respect to the sex of the users who were surveyed, 51.8 per cent were female and 47.9 per cent were male. The age of those surveyed showed that 13.4 per cent were under 18; 36 per cent were in the 18-30 age group; 28.3 per cent were in the 31-50 age group; 21.5 per cent were in the 51-65 group; and 8 per cent were 66 years or older.

With respect to the level of education of the respondents, the survey brought forward some interesting results also. It showed that patrons of the State Library have an extremely high level of tertiary qualification. Of the respondents surveyed, 28.3 per cent had tertiary qualifications; 26.3 per cent had some tertiary education; and 18.9 per cent had matriculation. The remainder—about 25 per cent—had high school or primary education only. So, according to those results 54.6 per cent of the people surveyed were educated beyond matriculation level.

In line with that, questions relating to occupation also indicated that a significant proportion of people surveyed were either students or people in professional or managerial positions. At the other end of the occupation scale, people who were unemployed, trades people or people engaged in primary industry rated very low on the list of people in particular occupation categories.

Looking at the areas of Adelaide from which some of those people came, the survey indicated that only 2.8 per cent of the users lived in central Adelaide. The largest single

group by dwelling area was in the eastern suburbs; that represented 31.9 per cent of users. It further showed that 22 per cent of people came from the southern districts; 17.9 per cent came from the western area; 16.6 per cent came from the north/north-eastern area; 4.1 per cent came from the country and interstate; and 2.8 per cent, as I said, came from the central Adelaide/North Adelaide area.

As one might expect also, with respect to information about country of birth we found that the vast majority of users of the library were people born in Australia; they represented 67.4 per cent of users. A further 16.8 per cent of people came from Great Britain and New Zealand; 6.5 per cent came from other European countries; 5.4 per cent were of Indo-Chinese origin; and 2.5 per cent came from other backgrounds. Of those surveyed, 30 per cent indicated that they read a language other than English. However, only 7.3 per cent of library patrons used the multi-cultural collection. So, that also was a fairly interesting piece of information which came from that survey.

With the growth of the public library network around the State, we have now discovered that the use of the lending services in the State Library has been declining—most markedly in the Children's Library. As a result of that, it is now proposed to merge all the lending functions and reduce the number of service points to provide a better service to the public.

It will also provide much needed space for the requirements of the reference service which, as the survey indicated, is used very extensively. We think that these arrangements will significantly improve the service delivery to clients and although this action being taken now with respect to relocation of services does not result directly from the survey results, the survey has confirmed that the decision taken with respect to the Children's Library relocation in particular is appropriate and that it should assist considerably in providing the sort of service for which regular users of the State Library are looking.

The survey results have now been referred to the Libraries Board, which will implement policies in other areas to overcome any of the problems that were highlighted by the survey. That will be done by the Libraries Board once a full analysis of the survey results has been completed.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Did the attitudinal survey seek to ascertain satisfaction with the lending services on the part of people in remoter areas? Can the Minister indicate total satisfaction that the lending services are functioning as well as they might? Those of us in rural electorates are hearing an increasing number of comments—not necessarily vigorous protests—that the lending service is not as good as it used to be, especially the service provided through mobile units.

They would be worse off if they had none. I am not critical of the fact that there is a mobile service that has brought opportunity to some communities. Nonetheless, with the changed circumstances and the cost there is that perception amongst a number of country people that the service is not as good as it used to be or as they might expect that it should be.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Only 4.1 per cent of the people who responded to that survey lived either in the country or interstate areas. So, we did not get a very good picture of the level of satisfaction amongst country residents with the services of the State Library, but this issue has been of considerable concern to the department and to the library.

Dr McPhail: There have been the sorts of complaints that the honourable member has raised. They refer to the concerns of some country borrowers that, when a public library is established in their district, they are no longer able to use the postal borrowing service that used to operate extensively through the State Library here. It was a very

expensive service. With the establishment of the public libraries, be they mobile or static, in their own locations, the postal service was discontinued for those patrons. Obviously, the local libraries and the mobiles do not have the same range of stock as the lending service on North Terrace.

I am sure that the State Librarian would add the fact, however, that we are trying to educate people in the use of the inter-library loan system because that is one of the features of the public library network that we stress: the borrower still has access to the entire book stock of the lending services through the inter-library loan, but some country borrowers, particularly those with very catholic tastes of reading, find that the available book stock of the smaller public library is not meeting their demands.

The Hon. B.C. Eastick interjecting:

Dr McPhail: It is probably cold comfort, but we are trying to do our best to overcome the hiccups in the inter-library system. Part of the problem has to do with the availability of the material, which may well be out to other lenders at the time of the request.

Mr FERGUSON: Further to the answer that you gave on the attitudinal survey, where you said that the services will merge, does this mean that the children's services will now be merged with the general lending section?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The service for children will still be retained within the State Library service, but it is now intended that there will be a single issuing desk to meet the demand that exists there.

Mr FERGUSON: What is the Public Libraries Automated Information Network (PLAIN), and what will the study investigate?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In November 1984 a one day meeting was held to consider the future automation needs of public libraries. This meeting, called the PLAIN forum, brought together representatives from local government, the Chief Librarians Association, the Libraries Board, the State Library and the Minister for Technology. That forum recognised that the community has an increasing need for information and requires more extensive information sources and services at the public library level.

The major outcome of the day was a unanimous agreement on priorities for automation. First, it was agreed that an Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN) based centralised cataloguing service, providing public libraries with a range of cataloguing products such as computer readable data tapes, microfiche catalogues and on-line access was a need in the area. Secondly, it was agreed that automation of the Public Library Branch based services was necessary in three areas and in the following priority order: first, circulation materials, both stock and inter-library loans, to public libraries; secondly, automation of the selection acquisition system; and, thirdly, provision of local circulation at library level, using a central computer system.

The third area of agreement concerned the establishment of information and cooperative networks, both between public libraries and between the public library system in South Australia and appropriate library and information services at State, national and international levels. It was agreed at that time that a firm of consultants should be engaged to conduct a feasibility study into the priorities for automation that I have just outlined. The Touche Ross company was selected to conduct that feasibility study. It is expected to take some 10 weeks, should be completed by the middle of November this year, and is estimated to cost around \$20 000.

Mr FERGUSON: In relation to the last question and also to the inquiry that is about to be published in relation to information systems, is consideration being given to digitally held information in a computer to be provided on

provision of a fee or something like that, similar to, say, Reuters or AAP? Is that what you meant by an information system?

Mr Miller: There are two things in relation to that. Digitally held material on optical disc is being experimented on now in America and we are waiting for optical discs to be released onto the Australian market. It has been promised that they would be available over the past two or three years, but these promises have never come good and we are still waiting for that sort of technology to be available to use in a public library sense. Certainly, the experiments that have taken place, particularly in the States, demonstrate that this is a very effective way of storing information electronically. It gives a very good picture; it is a very accurate way of storing information; it is very easy to access; and it has a long storage life, because it is very difficult to damage those discs.

Where some of this information is already stored overseas on digital format, through our system, which we call our on-line information system, we can dial up two data bases in the States and in Australia and get access to files via telephone lines to our computer. We are able to make that information available to the public. At this stage there is no facility in libraries in Australia to store that information, but we expect that to happen in the next few years.

Mr FERGUSON: Will there be a charge for the provision of this type of information? Has that been determined?

Mr Miller: We do not charge for that sort of material in South Australia. However, some of the tertiary institutions charge for access to information in that form. The Libraries Board believes that, no matter the format of the information, it should be provided free. The fact that it is a new form of technology does not necessarily mean that a charge should be attached to it. We do not allow direct public access to the terminals: the requests are handled by the staff, because they are in the best position to decide whether a manual search or a computer search should be made. The staff decide whether it is quicker to do it manually or by computer and whether the complexity of the search is such that it should be done by computer. It is certainly much cheaper in staff time to conduct searches, particularly complex searches, using the computer rather than on a manual basis.

Mr MEIER: What is the relationship between the public libraries and the school/community libraries in rural areas?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Effectively, they are a different version of the same thing. In some communities it is more convenient to set up a public library which is freestanding and separate; in other areas it is considered appropriate to set up a shared facility with local schools. I guess that is the case particularly in some of the smaller communities where shared facilities have been established. Around the State there are 35 shared school/community facilities now in existence. Both the freestanding public libraries and the shared school/community libraries are part of the one network and operate in a common way.

Mr MEIER: I refer to 'broad objectives/goals' on page 42 of the yellow book:

Maintaining the present institute libraries until they are replaced by public libraries.

What time scale is envisaged for the replacement of institute libraries?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In some ways it is a bit difficult to predict some of these things. If we look at what has already occurred and what we predict in the foreseeable future, as at 30 June 1983 there were 83 institute libraries; by 30 June 1984 that number had been reduced to 78; by 30 June 1985 the number had been reduced to 55. We anticipate that by 30 June 1986 there will be only 37; and by 30 June 1987 we expect that only 16 will be still in existence. Beyond that it is rather difficult to predict what

will happen. The reduction is taking place progressively and it is being made with the full cooperation of the Institutes Association. Everyone seems to be happy with the progress that is being made.

Mr MEIER: With the current replacement of institute libraries by public libraries, will some of the new institutions be school/community libraries, or will they be public libraries?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Again, there will be a mixture. As I said earlier, in some communities it is more appropriate—usually because of the size of the community—for the facility to be a school/community library; in other areas it is more appropriate for the institutions to be community libraries. It will really depend on the locality.

Mr MEIER: I refer to page 34 of the yellow book, where reference is made to the establishment of a further 14 libraries in 1985-86. Is it possible to identify which of the 14 new libraries will be located in country regions and, more specifically, will any of them be within the district of Goyder?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not familiar with the boundaries of the district of Goyder. However, I will read the list of country libraries, and the honourable member can assess whether any of them are within his district. The list includes Whyalla, Millicent, Light, Truro, Karcultaby, Crystal Brook, Morgan, Wallaroo, Kimba, Maitland/Clinton, Mannum, Cummins/Tumby Bay, and Tailem Bend. The remaining five new libraries are located in the metropolitan area.

Mr MEIER: In which Clinton will the new library be located? There is a Clinton centre and a Port Clinton in my district.

Mr Miller: The library will not be located at Clinton itself. We expect that the district council will provide a joint service with the District Council of Central Yorke Peninsula from Maitland, and we expect that there will be a depot at Ardrossan. The other residents of the District Council of Clinton will use the service from Maitland.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I refer to information provided on staff numbers (page 31 of the yellow book). As at 30 June 1985 there was a reduction to 345.8 full time staff positions, as opposed to 357 as at 30 June 1984 and 362.5 proposed for 1985-86. Other footnotes refer to 20.4 miscellaneous and externally funded positions and 4.8 casuals being included in those numbers. However, about halfway down the list of subprogram titles in a table provided on page 41 of the yellow book reference is made to the provision of a centralised reference service with a fairly marked increase in the sum of money involved, from an amount of \$2.996 million proposed in 1984-85 (with the actual outcome being \$3.717 million) to an amount proposed for 1985-86 of \$4.649 million.

For 1984-85 the proposed staffing was 92.5 persons (with the actual outcome being 130.9) and for 1985-86 it is expected that staffing will be at the level of 134.3. This suggests that a fairly major reorganisation of responsibility has occurred within the system. Will the Minister indicate when that reorganisation occurred, how effective it has been, and whether it has proved to be cost efficient in terms of actual delivery?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This is a very complicated question. I shall make a few preliminary remarks to clarify some of the points raised by the honourable member. I shall then ask Mr Herrmann to elaborate further. First, it should be remembered that the recorded figures relate to actual employees, and are expressed in full-time equivalents from 30 June 1984 to 30 June 1985. In relation to persons employed under the Public Service Act, the department experienced some difficulty with recruitment, particularly in the professional areas, I refer for example, to the positions

of Manager of the Mortlock Library, Manager of the Reference Services, and Manager of Public Libraries. Although those positions were advertised nationally early this year, appointments will be made in the latter part of this year. That is due to the difficulties to which I have referred.

The department was required to reduce by one the management services officer positions, and that occurred in April this year. In respect of weekly paid staff, the decrease in the weekly paid work force was purely a matter of timing. The resignations and retirements which took place towards the end of the financial year meant that those people were not there on the day the books were closed. It is departmental policy to fill attendant positions as soon as they fall vacant. Generally, those positions are not difficult to fill, so presumably the vacancies shown in the figures have been filled since 30 June.

With respect to the increase in employees as at 30 June 1986, we will have to look, first, at the additional positions and the savings that we are making to come to the figure which appears in the document. Regarding additions, as I said earlier, we have approval to employ three new people in the Mortlock Library, five in the Public Records Office, two in the Building Control Unit and two under the Manager of the Mortlock Library. That makes an additional 12 positions. However, savings have been effected in the lending services, where staff will be reduced by three positions: in the AO and EO range one person will go, and there are minor adjustments which amount to .3 of a position. That gives us a saving of 4.3, and leaves a net increase in positions of 7.7. In relation to weekly paid additions, the figures restore the staff level to that estimated in 1984, with an additional two positions being made available in the Mortlock Library. To expand on that and to indicate other things that have developed I now ask Mr Herrmann to elaborate.

Mr Herrmann: In relation to the honourable member's question relating to page 41 of the yellow book, during the year there was a revamp of the departmental programs and a reassessment of to where positions ought to be charged. It is better to look at the program provision of State Library facilities to the public and the establishment and operation of public libraries and institute services as two programs and to use their staff numbers in total as a means of comparison.

The number in relation to the provision for State Library services to the public was proposed as 117, with an outcome of 155.9. In relation to assistance towards establishment and operation of the institute library, the number proposed was 167.5, with an outcome of 135. Those two figures added together give a proposed figure of 284.5 and an outcome of 290—which is an increase. The reasons for that have been explained and relate to the last year.

The variation of the figures relates to the employment of casual people at the lending desk of the State Library, in relation to which we had a problem earlier in the financial year with repetitive strain injury; the people affected were on workers compensation for various periods of time. In addition, we were granted approval to employ an additional six people—two average full-time equivalents—to shift archival material to the new Netley complex, which was commissioned during the year.

Mr FERGUSON: Can the Minister explain to me what part the library will play, if any, in the Jubilee 150 celebrations?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I guess the first point that should be made is that the Mortlock Library itself is a Jubilee 150 project. In addition to that, the State Library is participating very actively in the preparation of genealogical records for various people in the State. It is playing a very important role in the compilation of various histories that are being written on various aspects of South Australia and

its development. Further, negotiations are currently being undertaken with the French Government to bring to Australia material relating to Baudin, and that will be a very interesting project as well.

Mr FERGUSON: My second question is supplementary to one asked previously by the member for Goyder about the 14 new libraries that are being established in the coming financial year. Can the Minister say how many councils would be left with the old institute library system? In other words, how many councils have not applied for the subsidy to build a library?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am told that 24 councils will be left and that 13 have decided to apply.

Mr FERGUSON: What has the Libraries Division achieved and what does it intend to achieve to foster the Government's program of cooperative service provisions?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Libraries Division has for some time been in the forefront of cooperative development. In 1977, a programme of joint use of libraries was established between the Libraries Board of South Australia, the Education Department and local government. Up to the present, 36 school community libraries have been established in rural areas, two joint use services with high schools in the metropolitan area, and 10 joint use services with TAFE. A further nine school community libraries are scheduled, and a number of other joint use proposals are currently being considered. These developments have saved considerable sums of public money, especially at local government level, compared to separate public libraries.

At the same time, they have enabled a much better standard of service to be provided in various communities, especially rural communities. Close cooperation also exists in the provision of community information, with joint planning and, in many cases, the provision of community information services in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Community Information Support Service of South Australia, and the Women's Information Switchboard has been effected.

In a third area, the Ministerial Advisory Committee (SALAC) has encouraged resource sharing among the major South Australian libraries with such schemes as depositories of the South Australian parliamentary and government publications, a proposed joint medical library service, tabulation and publication of collection strengths of individual libraries, and also a staff exchange program.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: At page 42 of the yellow book, in relation to the establishment and operation of local public libraries, under the heading '1984-85 specific targets and objectives', it is stated that about 361 000 new items were distributed to local libraries and that about 56 000 subject-title inquiries were handled during 1984-85, whereas in 1985-86 it is expected that about 370 000 new items will be distributed, an increase that would naturally be expected. However, it is stated that only about 50 000 subject-title inquiries will be handled during this financial year. Can the Minister offer an explanation for this? Is it the result of a guess that went astray? Why should there be an anticipated reduction in the number of subject-title inquiries expected to be received this year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I shall refer that question to Mr Miller.

Mr Miller: It is hard to estimate exactly the number of inquiries because most come from country libraries. At present, we are trying to make country libraries more self-sufficient by running programs for them and encouraging them to work together as groups. The honourable member has raised the question of some country borrowers being disturbed about how long it takes books to reach them. We have set up a number of regional groups throughout the State to try to make libraries share resources more than

they do at present and to become more self-supportive, so that, instead of having to come to Adelaide to get material, they might get it from a neighbouring library. So, on the basis of the establishment of regional groups and the self-sufficiency role, we expect the number of inquiries to drop. This may or may not happen, but we will establish that at the end of the year.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It will be a valuable plus if you can achieve it.

Mr Miller: Yes.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It is stated that provision is made for training courses involving 20 municipal librarians. Will this program be ongoing? How will the department determine who will be given the chance to attend such courses? Is there a commitment on the part of the library whence a librarian comes to meet the costs of such training?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The program referred to has been established for all new library staff. It will certainly be an ongoing program. As new libraries are established around the State, their staff are brought in to be trained.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I appreciate that that course of action would be followed, but I believe that a change of circumstances, such as the increased use of computers, will produce an ongoing need to upgrade the efficiency of those who have been employed in the system for some time. Is there provision to improve the capabilities of such officers and, if there is, on what basis is such a program conducted and who pays for it?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: After the initial training program for new library staff and after the establishment of a new library, meetings and seminars are held quarterly to deal with ongoing training needs to which the honourable member has referred. These involve advances in technology and library practice.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is that training conducted on a regional basis or centrally?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Most of these meetings are conducted centrally, but there are also periodical regional meetings that are conducted by the Industry Training Committee.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Regarding the subsidisation of local government in the provision of these services as a combined activity, is it planned to vary the present subsidisation? Local government has constantly sought sources of fresh income, including what might be termed 'handouts'. However, there is a limit to the degree of subsidisation that can occur. Is there an ongoing or a current view by the Government in this regard?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Government has been consistent in its approach to the subsidisation process. But the matter raised by the honourable member is currently being considered by the review committee to which I have referred and which is under the chairmanship of Mr Crawford. I expect that the committee will make recommendations on that matter when it submits its report in February.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is the maintenance of subsidies also a feature of that ongoing review? In the past, some councils have believed that they were being left to carry more of the load than they should be asked to carry when the service was being subsidised; for example, no help was given to clean the toilets or to undertake other of those important yet mundane activities.

Mr Miller: I think that Dr Eastick is referring to the situation at Kapunda, where at one stage we were not getting a dollar for dollar subsidy to a sufficient level for them to undertake the cleaning of the toilets—the librarian had to perform that task. Since then the situation has changed. The Government has continued to provide a dollar for dollar subsidy to libraries but, in places where there are very small libraries, a threshold applies and the subsidy

level does not drop below that threshold. That means that in small communities like Kapunda, where it has to have a certain level of staff to provide a service, if a dollar for dollar subsidy was applied on a per capita basis, it might not be able to provide the level of service that the community would expect. As a result, a threshold applies to overcome that problem and they are able to provide what the board considers to be a standard level of service with the money that is given to them.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Having regard to the most recent answers, one could infer from the statement on page 42 of the document that the major variations to recurrent expenditure arise from increased subsidies to local authorities, involving an increase in the total number of subsidies rather than an increase in percentages to individuals. I think that one can read it both ways and that the point should be made that there has been no change.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, the point that you have made is correct: it is an incremental increase.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to libraries, having regard to the cost of book stock and the grave difficulty, whether it be a school library or institutional library, of keeping up with the ever escalating costs, has an exercise been undertaken in Australia or overseas, to the knowledge of the staff involved which would suggest a means of supplying the necessary material at possibly a reduced cost to the organisation? I appreciate the difficulties relating to copyright, and so on, but it is a problem that exists in other countries as well as Australia and, if we do really have an interest in providing opportunities for educational material to be placed in the hands of those most needing it, I believe on a completely bipartisan basis that one should be looking at ways and means of providing that material at the best possible cost.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will ask Mr Miller to answer that question.

Mr Miller: In fact, this question is being looked at now by the PLAIN study, to which a question related earlier this afternoon. This is one of the things that they are being asked to specifically look at and that is our method of book supply and whether or not we can buy more cheaply than we are doing at present. Because we monitor this on a monthly basis, we believe that in South Australia we are buying better than most other State libraries in Australia due to the volume of buying that we are undertaking and the individual deals that we are doing with each supplier. Compared to the Education Department in South Australia, which also does a considerable amount of central buying particularly of textbook material, we found that we are able to buy considerably more cheaply. As I said, we are constantly monitoring this and from time to time we change suppliers if we feel that their performance does not meet the standards and the costs that others are able to meet in terms of both delivery and price.

There is some difficulty at present in relation to price because of the way the Australian dollar fluctuates. Over the past two years we have enjoyed a considerable benefit from that, and we have been able to pick up books much more cheaply than we had estimated, so for the past two years libraries have been able to obtain more books for the dollar than what we would consider to be the average. However, this year the situation has been reversed. Something like between 70 and 80 per cent of the books are bought overseas and we have suffered a considerable disadvantage because of that, so there will be a slight drop in the number of books that we will buy.

Mr MEIER: I do not believe that these two centres were mentioned in the Minister's earlier answer about future community libraries, and I ask this question on behalf of my colleague the member for Eyre. What is the current

situation with respect to the provision of community libraries for the centres of Orroroo and Jamestown?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Both those centres have had libraries for some time. Orroroo was opened in 1981 and Jamestown in 1983.

Mr MEIER: I refer to the move from institute libraries to school community libraries. Have we been able to ascertain how much extra it is costing the community since the inception of the community libraries? Obviously, the institute libraries were run on a very low cost basis: they were opened only for very few hours per week and were certainly providing a very efficient service, but at what cost?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is difficult to give an exact answer to that question. We can try to obtain that information and give a reply later, but in general terms the establishment of school community library facilities is a cost effective approach to the provision of library services. It is relatively cheap, because we are using facilities which are already established: that is, we are using school buildings, so as a way of establishing a community library it is a relatively cheap way of doing it. If you would like further information about the relative costs, we can make some estimates for you and bring back a reply later.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I would like to proceed to question on the item concerning preservation of the State heritage and suggest that Mr Miller be released if he is not required, subject to the Minister's response.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The matter of the conservation of printed material is very much the responsibility of the State Librarian.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: There is a particular program that has been identified to the Committee, and that is preservation of the State heritage. Its broad objectives and goals as indicated on page 45 are to ensure the physical survival and availability of the documentary records of South Australian history by selecting, organising, retaining, conserving and making them available to Government agencies and the public.

Recently, there was an advertisement for a person who is to be called either a preserver or archivist, and I note that agreement has been reached with the Australian Archives—the Commonwealth Government—to establish a joint intermediate records repository in relation to this matter. Can the Minister indicate to the Committee the degree of importance that the Government places on this new initiative, and can she provide some overview greater than that provided in the program document regarding what action is taking place in this area?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The establishment of a new Public Record Office—and I say Record rather than Records, because we have been advised that this is a more correct term—is a very high priority of the Government. As the honourable member is probably aware, in February this year we announced that we would establish that office parallel with the development of the Mortlock Library. As members would know, the public records are currently held by the South Australian Archives. The private records will be transferred to the Mortlock Library.

The Public Record Office will manage archival materials of a public records nature. It will also have semi-current records of public agencies and will contribute to programs of records management across the Public Service. Initially, the Public Record Office is being established administratively as from today as a separate division within the Department of Local Government. Legislation governing archives and public records is presently part of the Libraries Act 1982. The Commonwealth and South Australian Intergovernmental Working Party, which was established late in 1983 to examine the development and operation of public records management programs, is reviewing an earlier draft

of archives legislation to ensure that when a Bill is introduced in relation to this matter (probably in the autumn session of 1986) it will provide both a sound statutory basis for preservation of permanent public records of historic significance and efficient management of temporary public records.

The legislation to which I refer will also formally establish the Public Record Office. With regard to staffing of the Public Record Office, there will be an increase of five people in a full year. They will start at various stages during 1986: one on 1 January, another two on 1 April, and another two on 1 May.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to storage of additional materials, whether they be directly from the library or from archival material which is being amassed, I believe there was to have been a Commonwealth repository of which the South Australian Government was to obtain some part. Has that matter progressed further? It was to have been in a so-called safe area to prevent loss from earthquake or other major disaster. Can the Minister indicate what further arrangements have been made during the past 12 months?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This matter has been addressed. I ask the Director of the department to give us an update on the latest arrangements.

Dr McPhail: This State budget provides funding for the State's contribution to that joint facility. The Commonwealth Government has also approved its involvement in the joint facility. The Commonwealth property office and the State Department of Housing and Construction are scouring Adelaide to find suitable accommodation which can be converted into a repository and which will be large enough for the needs of both organisations and which also, of course, meets all standards of modern archival storage.

At this stage, they have not been successful in finding a suitable existing building. They are negotiating with a number of developers over the possibility of those developers constructing a purpose built facility, which would then be leased back to the Commonwealth and State over a period of years for that operation and to meet budget requirements. We are still hopeful of meeting a 30 June deadline to get into accommodation. Nevertheless, it has been very successful until now, with excellent cooperation from the Australian Archives.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It has been somewhat impossible this year to compare apples with apples and pears with pears, because of the change in programming style. I notice that, if we take the figures provided on page 192 of the Estimates, there is about a 10 per cent increase in overall funds available to local government, and that increase affects the library area. Can the Minister or the advisers indicate the relativity of that 10 per cent increase across the board as between traditional local government activities and library activities? I notice that an additional \$1 million is available for subsidisation of libraries.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I share the honourable member's confusion about the changeover in presentation of figures for the Department of Local Government. To come back to the general point that the honourable member made, almost the entire amount can be accounted for through developments taking place in the Libraries Division. Such developments as the Bastian Wing and the establishment of the Public Record Office and Public Libraries development program really account for the major part of the increase this year.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Moving on to the various aspects of the overall funding for local government and the information provided, I notice that, although the total figure for the Department of Local Government is \$21.015 million, in the yellow book we are advised of a much greater

sum relating to some \$46 million that has been made available by the Commonwealth for distribution to local government through the shared personal income tax line.

I am not in any way decrying the fact that that \$46 million is there: it helps one to appreciate what a massive budget is really at the fingertips of local government, albeit through its agencies, the agency being the Grants Commission. Have the handling of the budget and the allocation of the Commonwealth funds in this way in any way advantaged the sum of money eventually available to local government? Has there been any dilution of the Commonwealth funds by passing through other hands in the past (that no longer applies), and does a better advantage exist for local government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: With respect to the amounts of money that are made available by the Commonwealth Government for distribution to local government, we derive no benefit from that at all. All those funds go directly to local government on the recommendation of the Local Government Advisory Commission, but, as rightly pointed out, the system that is adopted for use with the yellow book requires all funds to be recorded. We record in there all Commonwealth funds received, all trust funds received and all bequest funds.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I take it that there never has been any loss of the funds coming from the Commonwealth by the handling of any Government agency? I refer to the sorts of difficulties that some departments now have through working through the State's funding mechanism whereby they pay a service charge for the benefit of having their funds handled by the central authority.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That sounds very much like an historical question, so I will ask an historian.

Dr McPhail: In terms of the personal income tax sharing funds, the Commonwealth Act is explicit: the money must go 100 per cent to individual councils, and the States bear the full cost of the operation of Grants Commissions without any capacity to offset that against the funds.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: That has been unchanged?

Dr McPhail: That has been unchanged. In the Self inquiry that is going on at the moment, there has been no suggestion that that be changed. We, however, have operated as the clearing house for the Commonwealth Department of Local Government and Administrative Services local government development plan—they called it a local government community development program last year. That has been cleared through an interdepartmental committee, but again there has been no use of any of those funds to pay for the administration costs: it has simply been a direct transfer. The department has, however, itself won some programs, so that has benefited the department indirectly because we have had temporary staff. For instance, the community awareness program was funded through the local government community development program of the federal department. We simply won that as a contender. The Department of Local Government is not involved in any Commonwealth funds where any percentages are removed for administration and handling.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Referring to page 406 of the Auditor-General's Report, there is a brief summary of the activities of the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission. The last paragraph picks up the point that payments from the Consolidated Account during 1984-85 for the expenses of the commission totalled \$101 000 as opposed to \$83 000 in 1983-84. That included salaries, related payments and members' fees, being a total of \$76 000. The increase is not of tremendous proportions, but there is an \$18 000 additional cost there. Does that relate directly to an increase in salaries, or are there other reasons for that greater cost of distribution?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The increase in this amount largely relates to operating expenses for the Grants Commission. Since the composition of the Grants Commission has changed, we now have a number of expenses that must be taken into account. Previously, when the Director of the department was a member of that commission, there were all sorts of allowances.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Cost benefits?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, that is right—travelling expenses and other allowances that we did not need to pay. We now do, because we have a person on the commission who is not a public servant. All those expenses increases can be attributed to those increased operating expenses.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: What is the sum paid to the Commissioners?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Chairman of the commission, Mr Johnson, receives \$7 823 per annum and the two members of the commission each receive \$5 848 per annum.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Plus travelling and overnight expenses?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am aware that the distribution of the grants for 1985-86 has been on a somewhat different basis from that which applied previously and that the relativity that existed between some councils in the past no longer exists. Warning had been given that there was to be a greater effort by individual councils and that as of right they were not necessarily to get an increase in the future. I have been supportive of that. Can the Minister give us an overview of the results of the commission's determinations for 1985-86?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In very general terms, the new way of allocating funds has resulted in a move towards advantaging provincial and outer metropolitan councils and a marginal reduction in the amount received by some rural councils. I understand that some dissatisfaction has been expressed by some councils in the south of the State but, generally speaking, the new methods adopted have been broadly supported.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Do you believe that a great number of these councils currently expressing great concern are so doing because they have been publicly and personally assured by Senator Maguire that they would all get a 19 per cent to 20 per cent increase for 1985-86.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I cannot answer that question without consulting individual councils as to their reasons for making their public statements.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I assure the Minister that there was an expectation publicly promoted by the said Senator in moving around the countryside.

Membership:

Mr Mayes substituted for Mr Trainer.

Mr MEIER: I refer to page 47 of the yellow book under the heading '1984-85 Specific Targets/Objectives'. It states that the Local Government Act revision is proceeding. Is the Minister able to indicate what areas of the Local Government Act are still scheduled for revision and at what time frame we are looking? I was under the impression that we had virtually completed the revision of the Act, but obviously we had not.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, in fact we still have a long way to go. As the honourable member would be aware, the legislation introduced into the Parliament in 1984 really covered only one large umbrella area of matters under the Local Government Act. They related largely to the constitution of council areas and procedures for changes to council areas and matters relating to electoral franchise elections, polls, council meetings, administration, and also members,

officers, and employees of councils. The second stage of the review of the Local Government Act will relate largely to rating and financial matters. Research is currently being undertaken on the use and effects of various aspects of the rating system in South Australia and it is expected that discussion papers will be prepared by the Department of Local Government in the coming months and will be ready to be released to members of the community, councils and other interested parties by the end of this year, perhaps early next year. There will then be an extensive consultation with interested parties in South Australia in the months which follow with a view to introducing into the Parliament towards the end of 1986 legislation to cover those matters.

Mr MEIER: The last point under the same heading states that a review of the control of cats was undertaken and that the recommendations of the report are under consideration. Can the Minister release any details on that inquiry into the control of cats?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member would be aware, this is a very vexed question which exercises the minds of many South Australians. Most members of Parliament at one time or another would have received numerous complaints from people in the community about the problems of stray cats. As a result of the complaints which come so regularly not only to members of Parliament but particularly to local councils, the Minister of Health contacted the Minister of Local Government requesting that a committee of interested parties be formed to investigate what sort of action could be taken to overcome this nuisance. That occurred in April of last year, and it was considered that the formation of a committee would probably be premature and perhaps would raise expectations, because very little information was available to us about stray cats.

To help overcome this lack of information, councils and other interested organisations were asked to comment on the problems that had been identified and on what possible solutions there might be. Most concern that has been expressed was about unwanted strays rather than pet cats straying, and also about feral cats in rural areas rather than urban stray cats. Councils have indicated that they are very much against the idea of registration of cats and they also believe that legislation similar to the Dog Control Act would be very difficult to enforce. Cat organisations, on the other hand, tend to be very much in favour of strong legislation.

A great number of the organisations surveyed on that matter pointed out the value of desexing cats, and indicated that it would not only reduce the number of unwanted strays but also eliminate the problem of nuisance behaviour of cats in various areas. However, compulsory desexing would also be a fairly unpopular issue with owners as such operations are expensive and it would be difficult to enforce. Education about the benefits of desexing, however, is obviously highly desirable and other responsibilities that cat owners have should be brought to the attention of those people. However, that is difficult to achieve in the absence of registration fees, which is the way these things are able to be achieved with respect to dogs.

The Dog Advisory Committee has recommended the approval of a grant of some \$400 to the Animal Welfare League for the production of a brochure on the desexing of dogs and cats. When that is made available I am sure that it will be a very useful addition to the information available in the field for various people. Although councils do not want a Cat Control Act, a number of them have indicated that they would like to be able to limit the number of cats that people are able to keep on a property, and it has been suggested that perhaps this could be done by amending the Local Government Act to allow councils to pass bylaws for that purpose. Many councils are prepared to destroy stray cats. The major problem in the past has been the ability to

establish whether a cat is a genuine stray or a pet cat wandering.

The RSPCA and the Animal Welfare League have in the past provided considerable assistance, but they generally require some payment. The RSPCA has recently established a cattery and is attempting to extend its cat control service to the public. So, measures are being taken and a question of whether or not we can legislate in one way or another to give local councils more control over the number of cats that are able to roam our streets is a matter currently under consideration.

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

Membership:

Mr Plunkett substituted for Mr Ferguson.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr R.G. Lewis, Chairman, South Australian Waste Management Commission.

Mr M.R. Harvey, Acting Director, South Australian Waste Management Commission.

Mr MEIER: I thank the Minister for her response to my question relating to the review of the control of cats. I suppose that my cat, which is desexed, will be pleased to know that steps are being taken to perhaps consider limiting the number of strays. About a year ago we had four stray cats around our house and it was a jolly nuisance when we wanted to go away. The only thing that the Minister did not say was when the recommendations of the report would be considered. Will the report be released soon?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I have not yet decided whether or not the report will be released publicly. As I indicated earlier, the matters that we discussed earlier are still being considered by the committee. I will decide later whether or not the report will be released publicly.

Mr MAYES: I refer to the Waste Management Commission and the Hard Waste Management Report, which was tabled early this year. What is the status of the 10 year waste management plan?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The draft first 10 year plan for the Waste Management Commission was publicly released in August 1984. Many honourable members would be aware that members of the public were invited to submit comments on the plan, and they were to be received by 31 October 1984. A series of consultative meetings were then held between the commission, local government, representatives of the waste industry, trade unions, and conservation groups. A total of 51 submissions were received from individuals and organisations which had views on the 10 year plan. The draft was then reviewed in the light of the comments made by the various groups and individuals.

Following several submissions to the then Minister of Local Government that the amended plan should be subject to a further period of public review, the then Minister agreed to release the plan for a further period of one month for further comment and consultation. On that occasion, written submissions were asked to be forwarded by 31 May 1985. On that occasion a further 15 submissions were received. Where appropriate, there were further consultations to resolve outstanding issues which were identified as a result of that consultative process. The comments have now been considered by the commission and a final draft has been prepared. The final draft is currently under consideration by Cabinet.

Mr MAYES: When will the final draft be completed and available for public, and particularly local government, consumption?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: At this stage I cannot indicate when that will occur.

Mr MAYES: In relation to the waste management report, something that is of vital interest to me is the southern transfer station. What progress has been reached in relation to the development of the southern regional waste management station?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member probably knows, the first 10 year plan for solid waste management for the metropolitan Adelaide district prepared by the South Australian Waste Management Commission indicates the need for a major regional type solid waste transfer depot to serve the solid waste producers in the council areas (wholly or partly) of Brighton, Marion, Unley, Mitcham, Happy Valley, and possibly Glenelg. All waste material from these areas will have to be transported to existing or proposed outlying regional land fill depots to the north or south of Adelaide. The cost of such transport can be quite high, depending on the travel time and distance from the point of waste generation and collection to the point of final disposal.

The overall cost of transport can be reduced in some circumstances by interposing a waste transfer and bulk haul facility. The commission identified three parcels of land in the southern suburbs which may have met the more important criteria identified as important. Three of those would be: first, a minimum area required; secondly, suitability with regard to land use zoning, present use, traffic and access, and physical attributes such as slope and drainage; and, finally, availability. Due to difficulties with cost and availability of two of the options, the commission is focusing its attention on one site. The Valuer-General is currently negotiating on the Commissioner's behalf with the private owners of that land for its purchase. An investigation into the feasibility of developing the site as a transfer station has been initiated.

Discussions are now being opened with councils that may be affected by this proposal, and I can say that the commission would not establish the proposed facility unless it had the complete acceptance of and would be utilised willingly by the waste industry itself.

Mr MAYES: At what stage have discussions reached with the Unley council? Perhaps this question might be directed to Mr Lewis, who has been directly involved.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, I think that would be appropriate.

Mr Lewis: The principal discussions so far have been with the officers of the councils concerned as to the suitability of the general site for a land transfer station. I have no doubt in my mind that there will be savings to councils in that general area because of the long haulage distance.

The commission itself is proceeding with all haste to develop a feasibility study. Until we know for certain the site of the land and the size of the land available, the final costing of the facility cannot be established. The discussions with local councils and with private operators are continuing in the meantime, lineball with the examination of the site of the land. The purpose of that is to make sure that, if a site is selected and a proposal is brought forward to commission a site, it will be used by the people of the surrounding area. The Unley district and the Marion district and parts of Mitcham are probably the areas that will benefit most from such a scheme.

Mr MAYES: In relation to those discussions, have you had extensive detailed discussions with the Unley council with regard to its current development for its depot and waste transfer facilities?

Mr Lewis: It has been a part of the general discussion and, in particular, the proposed site, being looked at is the one that will probably benefit Unley most.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out to the honourable member that questions seeking information must be directed to the Minister. If the Minister wishes her officers to answer, that is quite all right. However, the Minister must receive the question.

Mr BECKER: In relation to the waste management, certain allegations have been made to me, although I do not profess to be an expert on waste management: is it correct that the Wingfield dump or a dump at Wingfield has been burning for some two years because of combustion underground? Is it a risk in these types of dumps that they can catch alight and continue to burn or smoulder underground for long periods of time?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not an expert on waste management or the things that are happening at Wingfield, either, so I will ask Mr Lewis to answer that question.

Mr Lewis: To my knowledge there is no tip site currently at Wingfield which is, or has been, burning for some considerable time. The site previously run by Mr Paul some two years ago, perhaps longer now, was noted for burning continually. However, that is now a well-managed and well conducted site, and to my knowledge there has not been a fire on the site for at least 18 months.

Mr BECKER: There is no burning at that dump, and any fires have been totally extinguished. Is that so?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I presume that that is the answer.

Mr BECKER: Allegations were made to me that one large company, Cleanaway, has the monopoly on waste disposal. Are there any contractors, or has the Waste Management Commission sublet contracts to a private company, whether it be Cleanaway or someone else? Is Cleanaway a subsidiary of Brambles, in relation to collecting and dumping rubbish in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The answer to that question is 'No', but I will ask Mr Lewis to expand on it.

Mr Lewis: Cleanaway is, as far as the Commission is aware, an associated company of Brambles. What the direct relationship is I am not aware. Cleanaway is the contractor which operates the Wingfield site on behalf of the Adelaide City Council. Their contract is with the Adelaide City Council, not with the commission. That site receives, if my memory serves me correctly, approximately 45 to 50 per cent of the waste in the metropolitan area. So, in terms of volume they could be handling most of the waste in the metropolitan area.

Mr BECKER: Coming closer to home, Mr Lewis would know that for many, years I have been waging a long campaign over the condition of the Patawalonga. I wonder about the commission's public awareness campaign. I must in this respect rely on the Auditor-General's Report at page 445, notes to and forming part of the financial statement No. 7, where it says:

Public awareness campaign: the commission in conjunction with KESAB the Waste Disposal Association, the United Trades and Labor Council and local councils introduced an educational campaign on public awareness on household waste. The campaign was launched in 1984.

Has the effectiveness of that campaign been measured in any way? My observations as a local resident are that the Patawalonga is still a final repository of rubbish coming through the drains, whether it be from Unley or the eastern suburbs. We get the impression that the eastern suburbs dump all their rubbish on us, and it comes down through the drains into the Sturt Creek or Brownhill Creek. Particularly after reasonably heavy showers of rain for, say, an hour or two, one can look down the Patawalonga Lake and its backwaters into the West Beach Trust area and it is just full of rubbish: milk cartons, papers, the odd can—anything and everything from free prunings to all sorts of things. On

occasions, bream in the Patawalonga have died, and the Fisheries Department has advised me that this has occurred as a result of poisons used on spraying trees.

At present, the Patawalonga Lake and its upper reaches are the worst I have ever seen. The rubbish along the banks is colossal. The West Beach Trust cannot afford to clean it up: it has not got the resources or the money. I wonder whether KESAB's program is working and, bearing in mind that the Minister is also the Minister of Tourism, and that we will have many thousands of people in that area in late October or early November for the Grand Prix, whether, through her good offices and the Waste Management Commission, something can be done to have that area cleaned up now.

I do not know how much it will cost, but it is a blight on the local community. So, I return to the question whether any survey has been taken on this type of public awareness campaign, because my observations are that it is simply not working.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: My information is different from that. I am informed that the campaign has been successful, although at this stage the results of the campaign are still under review. However, the points that the honourable member raises are important, and I am sure that Mr Lewis will have further comments to make about the survey, the KESAB campaign that the honourable member is talking about, and the problems that he has addressed in general.

Mr Lewis: The KESAB campaign last year, which was run in conjunction with the Waste Management Commission and certain councils (locally known as the 'Gus the garbo' campaign) was aimed principally at trying to reduce the incidence of workers compensation among garbage collectors. Information available to us at the moment (the program is still being assessed) indicates that there has been a substantial reduction in workers compensation claims this year. That is a direct impact of the campaign.

Brownhill and Patawalonga Creeks and the airport drain, all of which are open to public access, are largely responsible for the debris that collects in the Patawalonga Basin. In fact, Brownhill Creek abuts private properties for many miles of its length. We are well aware of people who indiscriminately dump their waste over the back fence into the Brownhill Creek. Problems in this regard need to be addressed. It is a longstanding problem that the South-Western Drainage Authority addressed years ago with a public awareness campaign, informing people whose properties abut those creeks about their responsibilities. Perhaps we can liaise with the councils concerned and attempt to have the debris cleaned up prior to the Grand Prix in November.

Mr BECKER: I, too, would be grateful to the Minister for that. Unfortunately, the West Beach Trust must generate its own income, which is pretty well stretched. The Glenelg council has enough problems, too, and I do not know whether sufficient funds are available to help. The Department of Correctional Services was using work orders for juvenile offenders, but I was not aware of that at the time when I went to the local council tip to dump some rubbish on a Saturday morning. Incidentally, I had to pay \$1.50 for a boot-load, which I was a bit cross about. However, a van carting a trailer pulled up in front of me and cut me off. I wondered who the person with a Government vehicle was who had beaten me to the tip on a Saturday morning. It turned out to be a correctional services vehicle which was there for the purpose of dumping rubbish at the tip. That is fair enough, and I agreed with that when it was explained to me.

I am wondering why that scheme was cut out, because it was most effective. It is not the nicest of jobs, but we need

something ongoing. Periodically, after summer rains the Glenelg council flushes the Patawalonga and a lot of filthy brown muck is deposited on the beaches from Glenelg North through to West Beach. If the Jubilee Point project goes ahead, at that site rubbish will settle in the boat marina, and so problems in that regard must be addressed. I will be grateful for anything that the Waste Management Commission can do to clean up the areas concerned before the anticipated large influx of tourists. The West Beach Trust can cater for some 4 000 people, through the caravan park, the chalets and on-site caravans. I believe that all facilities are booked out for the Grand Prix week. It would be a pity if the surrounding areas were not up to a reasonable standard.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I undertake to have further discussions with Mr Lewis about this matter to see what we can do prior to the Grand Prix. Wearing my Minister of Tourism hat, I certainly agree that it is important to present Adelaide in the best possible light in the coming weeks. The point raised by the honourable member is a good one, and we shall certainly look at the matter.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I note that the operating loss of the Waste Management Commission increased by about 400 per cent over the previous year, the Auditor-General's Report indicating that the operating loss was \$48 000, as against \$10 000 for the previous year. The Auditor-General also identifies an increase in staff from eight to 13 people, plus two other casual workers. There has been a net increase in salary payments of 62 per cent. Further, two or three CEP projects have impacted on the Waste Management Commission's activities. Can the Minister say what action has been taken to improve the viability of the commission? Will there be a fee increase and, if so, when will that occur? If not, will there be a decrease in the number of staff? What general direction will the commission take in the next 12 months?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Government is concerned about the \$48 000 loss for the past 12 months. Fees have not been increased for some time, and that is probably a contributing factor to the loss which has occurred. As a result of this, we have established a review of the funding arrangements for the Waste Management Commission. That will also include a review of the current fee structure. Decisions will be made on these issues and, hopefully, when the review has been completed, we will then be able to indicate the direction that should be taken with respect to financial arrangements for the Waste Management Commission.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The member for Unley referred to the impact that a new transfer station site in the southern area would have on Unley in relation to accessibility. Will the Minister or an officer present, indicate whether, in the overview of waste management control and in looking at the cost of the service to local government bodies, it is considered that an integral part of an efficient service includes the maintenance and creation of transfer stations so that larger and more effective loads, rather than a number of small loads, can be taken to a central point?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The answer is 'Yes', as I have already indicated in my response to the member for Unley. Any transfer station or operational arm of the commission must be self-funding. That is an important consideration. I ask Mr Lewis to comment on this matter.

Mr Lewis: I simply emphasise that a transfer station in the southern area, if established by the commission, will not necessarily be managed by the commission: it may be managed by private enterprise or by one of the councils concerned.

The whole exercise would need to be divorced from the commission's general financial arrangements and would need to be self-funding.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Any external action taken to disrupt a council in providing an adequately serviced transfer station is a slap in the face for that council and therefore an additional cost to the community it serves.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The policy being pursued in this area is that no transfer stations are being established unless it is with local government agreement.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: So that the Minister would be in full accord with a council looking after its ratepayers by developing a well balanced and well managed transfer station?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, and in fact we encourage that to occur.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Have you remonstrated with your colleague the Minister for Environment and Planning, who has refused the Unley council the opportunity to incorporate and work a suitable transfer station?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, I have not remonstrated with my colleague. The matter that the honourable member is referring to is a planning issue about a planning location question, and that is rightfully the Minister for Environment and Planning's responsibility and a reasonable area of concern for him to pursue.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister would not agree that it is a political issue?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It may very well have political overtones of one kind or another, but I think that the essential questions here relate to issues of good management principles and planning.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Which the Unley council has shown it is prepared to undertake but for which the Minister has refused it the right?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think that perhaps this is a line of questioning that should be pursued with the Minister for Environment and Planning rather than with me.

Mr PLUNKETT: Last year I had the opportunity to visit Coober Pedy and, after touring the town, the water situation was explained to me, including the fact that a pipeline was to be installed. I refer to page 30 of the yellow book. Originally, the Coober Pedy Progress and Miners' Association installed a portable water supply system for the town. I understand that the association is concerned that it has insufficient power to regulate and control the system. Could the Minister explain that?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, a Bill to amend the Coober Pedy Local Government Extension Act has been drafted to ensure that the association will have the power to impose conditions similar to those now found in the Waterworks Act regulations to control and regulate the water supply system. Those changes are necessary following the installation of the portable water supply system in Coober Pedy. In the near future it is my intention to introduce the Bill to cover these points.

Mr PLUNKETT: Still referring to page 30 of the yellow book, what will happen to the Coober Pedy Progress and Miners' Association when the present legislation expires on 31 December 1986?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member is probably aware, there is a sunset clause in the legislation which has already been enacted, and it will be necessary for me to take a decision some time fairly soon as to whether the existing Act, with some minor amendments, is to be continued after that date, or whether Coober Pedy should become simply another local government authority in the State's system of local government.

Although the existing legislation was established by means of a report from a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, of which I was a member, the department has been led to believe that it is not necessary to pursue this course of action to review the present legislation as to conversion

or extension and, therefore, how I intend to proceed on this matter is a decision which I have yet to address. I will need to take further advice on that matter before I make up my mind.

Mr PLUNKETT: People who live in my electorate visit Coober Pedy to undertake opal mining and, besides my own interest, that is the reason for the questions. Turning to page 29 of the yellow book, I refer to the West Beach Trust. It is located in the member for Hanson's electorate, but I am interested in it because the member for Hanson is aware that, through my involvement with public works, we visited the area only a week ago in order to look at some of the extensions. Can the Minister elaborate on the development of the West Beach recreation reserve and future plans for this area? I ask this question, because I think that a lot of people were wrongly informed about some of the developments that are going to take place. However, since the Public Works Committee visited the area and heard some explanation, it is a little clearer and I think that people are a little happier about it.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the honourable member would know (I think he was there on occasions when I visited the West Beach Trust site), some fairly exciting developments are taking place at the West Beach recreation reserve. Indeed, I think it is true to say that the reserve is at a very exciting stage of its development. At the moment a number of projects are under way, and there are also plans for future activity. First, with respect to the West Beach caravan park, which has been a focus for interstate and intrastate holiday makers for a number of years, the park has been foremost in setting trends and has been the mainstay of the reserve's activities, allowing sufficient funds for other developments in the reserve area.

In recent years it has been noted that a major revamp will be required of facilities in the caravan park to maintain its attractiveness to visitors. Accordingly, the trust has set aside \$219 636 in its capital budget for this financial year to upgrade toilet block facilities and a laundry and also to install new clothes driers and other equipment that will make the caravan park a more attractive place for people to stay.

The trust is also introducing a new concept in South Australian caravan parks of *en suite* units. Six of these will be introduced on a trial basis. For those members who are not aware of what this concept is about, the idea is to provide a central facilities block around which caravans are sited. This not only provides for an economical use of space, it is also a very cost effective way of providing the sorts of facilities that are required in caravan parks. So, it will be interesting to see how they are viewed by members of the public when they are introduced as a trial. Secondly, the West Beach Trust is establishing a new par 3 golf course.

Mr BECKER: That is wrong. It is partially par 4. Do not mislead the Committee by saying it is par 3. It has several holes that are par 4.

Mr PLUNKETT: It is open for argument.

Mr BECKER: It is not open for argument, because I have seen the holes on the course plan. It is in my area, and—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I hope the Minister ignores that outburst and that we do not get it again.

Mr BECKER: Let us get down to the truth of the matter.

Mr PLUNKETT: My question—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no question of a point of order or anything else. The Minister is supplying information, and the Chair is not interested in whose area it is. The question has been asked. Will the Minister finish her reply?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. I repeat that the West Beach Trust is establishing a par 3 golf course on land being leased from the Commonwealth Government. I point out

that this is a method of terminology, a description of the kind of golf course that exists there. I wonder why the honourable member is so excited about the issue.

However, the golf course that is planned will replace the existing par 3 golf course, which is now required for the new fisheries research station to be located in that area. I am informed that the new golf course will be of a much higher standard. Generally speaking, reaction to the plan by existing patrons of the par 3 course has been very good.

Development of the course is under way and drainage works have already been completed. The landscaping and planting required will allow the course to receive patrons in March or April next year. The trust has set aside \$700 000 to develop this new facility. It will be very popular, despite the things we have heard here tonight. An advantage of the development of the new course is that it will allow rationalisation of the trust's maintenance operations at one location and, more importantly, it will enable the present golf club facilities to provide a focus and centre for a wide range of golfing activities which are available to the public. That will be a very useful adjunct to development at West Beach.

The third proposal that the trust has under way is to carry out a capital expenditure of \$1.2 million during this financial year. The majority of this money will be from funds available from the trust's own operations and borrowings. It is important to emphasise here that the trust is particularly independent in its financial operations. Members of the trust have been very responsible over the years in the way in which they have conducted their affairs and have been able to maintain that independence.

With respect to future plans, I note first that my colleague the Minister of Recreation and Sport has recently announced creation of a large sporting centre on part of the Glenelg sewage treatment reserve. It is expected that this development will have a large impact on the south-western corner of the West Beach recreation reserve. It will allow for better utilisation of a valuable public access point to the beach, with improved safer roads and car parking facilities.

Secondly, in 1984-85, following suggestions from the South Australian Planning Commission and Minister for Environment and Planning, a major study of the recreation reserve was undertaken by a firm of consultants. That study has produced a development plan for the trust which will be dealt with as a supplement to the State Development Plan. That study also made certain suggestions on the tourist composition and management of the trust. I think the survey (the results of that consultant's report) will be very important for the trust in providing some fairly clear directions about future developments in the West Beach area.

To some extent, some of the problems that the trust might have experienced in the past with respect to development on the land of which it has control has resulted from a lack of information about the potential for use of the land by visitors—what kinds of facilities would be of interest to visitors to that part of Adelaide. Now that the consultant's report is available, it will provide a very useful framework in which the trust can work.

Mr BECKER: One thing you must learn early in your political career, Minister, is not to believe your own propaganda, because the executive golf course being built at West Beach Trust is for 18 holes and contains several par 4 holes. It is not a par 3 golf course. I will challenge anybody to refute the plans of that golf course. It is pure propaganda that has been put up by the West Beach Trust, because it found out that some 3 000 people who use the existing par 3 golf course objected, as I did, to closing that course.

The original plan was to close it for about six months while the new course was being built. Why these projects could not have been coordinated, the new course built and the old course closed and immediately transferred across

the road to the airport land, I do not know. It seems that it was difficult. Whether it is a typical example of bureaucratic bungling, I do not know. But, it makes me cross when I think of the people who enjoy recreation—particularly elderly people who need it for their own rehabilitation. Many people who use the existing par 3 golf course have suffered heart attacks, had bypass operations or have other disabilities. They appreciate the facilities provided by the West Beach Trust under private management, but for some unknown reason the trust cannot coordinate anything in that area.

As your own staff would know, Minister, over many years the development of the West Beach Trust area has left much to be desired, simply because it was left to local councils to administer for years and then it would come under ministerial control. It turned full cycle. We find that under ministerial control that Minister is now Chairman of the West Beach Trust. He has not improved facilities there at all. If one looks at the West Beach Trust one finds that last year it recorded a loss of \$600 000 (or thereabouts), because of building some chalets, which are environmentally an absolute eyesore.

They have been nominated for some Logie award, but they are a disgrace to the area. When one considers that the taxpayers' money has been pumped into that area to the detriment of the local tourist industry, it leaves a lot to be desired, but there is a need for the caravan park, which enjoys a high reputation, thanks to the staff, who work jolly hard to keep it up to its high level. The chalet and the on-site caravans have also proved popular. One has to provide facilities, but I make it very clear to this Committee, the Parliament and everyone else that it is an executive golf course, consisting of 18 holes, including several par 4 holes. Therefore, it is totally untrue to say that it is a par 3 golf course.

At this stage, I was under the impression that we were on the Waste Management Commission and not local government generally, so it makes me wonder what is happening at the moment. How many private dumps have been closed since the incorporation of the Waste Management Commission? Was there a dump known as the Roy Amer dump at Dry Creek, and why was it not licensed by the Waste Management Commission?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Coming back to the points that the honourable member raised earlier, it is not reasonable that some of those issues should go unanswered. Before I do that, I thank the honourable member for his patronising advice about the future of my political career. I stand by the things that I said about the West Beach Trust and the way that it does business. The honourable member should check some of the alleged facts that he has presented to the Committee about the West Beach Trust. For example, he indicated during his tirade that there is a waste of taxpayers' funds with respect to the development of the area at West Beach, but there are no taxpayers' funds going into that development: the trust is an independently run, self-supporting body.

With respect to the changeover from the old golf course to the new, I am informed that the period during which patrons will be inconvenienced is very short. The facility that they will have at their disposal following the changeover will make it all worthwhile because the golf course that they will have then will be much better than the one they were able to play on previously. Coming back to the Waste Management Commission, I ask Mr Lewis to address the question of private dumps and how many have been closed in recent times.

Mr Lewis: I shall deal with the Roy Amer site first.

Mr BECKER: It is known as the Roy Amer site?

Mr Lewis: A few years ago it was known as the Roy Amer site. Its use was discontinued because it was on South Australian Railways owned land and the SAR repossessed the land and refused to allow it to be continued as a waste disposal site: that decision was made by the railways and nobody else.

As regards the closure of other sites, I can recall only two or three. There is a small one in Virginia owned by the Shirley family, which was closed because the site was full. Another site is at Sutton Road, Waterloo Corner, which will probably close in the next six months because its total capacity has been filled. The other one that comes to mind is the site at the West Beach Trust itself which was closed because the land was required for other purposes. Another one at Heathfield is still going. I am working from memory, but that is all that I can recall.

Mr BECKER: Before I ask the Minister what recycling is being carried out in South Australia and where, I draw her attention to pages 490-492 in regard to the West Beach Trust. The West Beach Trust had 30 fully serviced villas constructed at a cost of \$1.9 million, financed by the Commonwealth job creation scheme. That was \$934 000, and the balance was \$964 000 provided by the trust. The Valuer-General determined a valuation for the villas of \$1.2 million, so there is a difference of some \$700 000.

I accept that on the job creation schemes one cannot expect to get 100 per cent value for one's money because one is training people and giving them work experience, but one can look at it in one or two ways. I accept work experience for what it is: it is a costly program. Other people would look at it very coldly in balance sheet terms and say that \$700 000 is just written off. There is a component of \$934 000 of taxpayers' money, because that is how the Commonwealth job creation schemes were created.

Be that as it may, there is a lot of argument for and against that. People involved in the tourist industry and some of the people the Minister represents under tourism were not happy with that project because they claimed that it was unfair competition to their trying to develop motels and other accommodation when a statutory authority could undercut them. It can be because the rental of these units is very attractive. They are not a bad unit in the interior: they look terrible outside, but inside they look quite good. So, one gets a conflict when one looks at both sides of the coin. What recycling is being carried out, authorised by the Waste Management Commission, and what type of recycling? What are we managing to save and recycle?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I shall ask Mr Harvey to reply, and then I shall come back to the issue relating to the West Beach Trust. This is not a way to pursue this line of questioning. We are dealing either with the Waste Management Commission or with other matters, but not two different lines of questioning at once.

Mr Harvey: I could not give any figures off the top of my head, but if one goes through the list quite a few commodities are being recycled and reused at the moment: waste oils, solvents, paper, scrap metal—ferrous and non-ferrous—a certain amount of plastic, bottles, and cans. We have done some fairly comprehensive surveys of industrial waste generation around Adelaide. In the figures that we have in regard to waste oil, we have not struck a service station yet that is not selling it. The going rate for waste oil at the moment is 6 cents to 8 cents a litre, so there is quite an incentive for people to reuse it.

Some years ago solvent disposal in Adelaide left a fair bit to be desired. Because of action by the commission and because of the economic incentives with regard to energy costs and the like, a growing amount of solvent is being recycled by a local company called Industrial Distillation at Wingfield. There is also a considerable market interstate.

Solvents are being transported to Melbourne, Albury and Sydney for recycling, some of it for marketing elsewhere.

For example, one company sends the solvent to Sydney, gets it back and reuses it. We have paper, which is being accepted by Cellulose involving a network of collectors, and so on. I cannot give any figures in relation to that. The bottles and cans market is fairly well understood. Not a lot of plastic is being recycled. Goodwill is probably the major organisation involved in that area and, again, I cannot supply any figures. I think that Goodwill collects newspaper wrappers and bread wrappers which are compacted by a sheltered workshop and then sent across to Melbourne for reuse. There is also scrap metal, which again is a fairly well understood market.

The commission has been looking for some time at the possibility of an industrial waste exchange where people are brought together to try to exchange waste. We have now reached a situation where we could do that. It is interesting that in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and even Western Australia I think, there is a tendency to move away from the waste exchange concept. It is probably fair to say that that concept has not been as successful as some people would have liked. In our comprehensive survey of the industry, there were questions about recycling. There was a minimal response, which is a pity. The other point in relation to waste exchange is that a few years ago the Chamber of Commerce tried to institute waste exchange, but the proposal fell on deaf ears. There is a considerable degree of waste recycling around Adelaide in this area.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I return to the points made by the honourable member with respect to the West Beach Trust, because I do not think I can let those comments pass. It is quite unfair for the honourable member to raise CEP grants and CEP programs as examples of taxpayer funding of the work of the West Beach Trust. In fact, the West Beach Trust has developed something of a reputation as being an excellent manager of labour with regard to the trust's CEP programs in developing some of the facilities at West Beach. The statements made by the honourable member were really quite unfair.

In relation to the low cost of accommodation currently provided by the trust, rather than criticising that I would have thought that someone like the honourable member would be applauding it. Certainly, it is a Government objective to encourage the provision of low cost holiday accommodation throughout this State. That is certainly an objective of the Department of Tourism, because it is highly desirable to provide a range of accommodation for people throughout this State so that all people, including those on low incomes, can enjoy holidays. The work of the West Beach Trust in this respect should be highly applauded by all sections of the community, and particularly by the honourable member.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I refer to the project undertaken on hazardous waste. How effective has the research been in determining both the destinations and origins of hazardous waste? Has a particular program or particular line of attack on hazardous waste been determined by the commission? If not, when can that be expected? Can the Minister identify what that aspect of waste management is costing us at the moment? I saw difficulties associated with hazardous waste in Los Angeles, where, because of rather repressive and changing legislative procedures undertaken by the Legislature, hazardous waste is now being taken 180 miles for the purpose of disposal. It has not been accepted even in those areas where its disposal is licensed.

Thirty years down the track organisations which took in hazardous waste and disposed of it according to the law of the day are now being charged with the responsibility for leachants and the other hazards developing in those disposal sites. I suspect that that is one of the greatest long-term

difficulties for waste management commissions. It is on that basis that I am interested to know of the effectiveness of the research that has been undertaken in this area.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I certainly agree with the last remark made by the honourable member, namely, that this is a very important issue for all of us to address in this modern age. The question of how we should dispose of hazardous waste has certainly been exercising the minds of all sorts of people in the South Australian community, including the waste industry, environmentalists and, of course, the South Australian Waste Management Commission. Mr Lewis will comment on the detail of the Waste Management Commission's deliberations on this issue.

Mr Lewis: The research undertaken by the commission, particularly during the past 12 months, has been designed primarily to locate the sites where hazardous wastes are produced. That has been a very time consuming exercise involving the writing of thousands of letters to organisations and companies to determine what hazardous wastes are being produced and in what quantities, and where they are presently being disposed of. The research has proven that waste is being produced and I do not think that anyone is sure in some instances where it is being disposed of. Therefore, we need to develop a system to ensure that when waste is produced it is properly transported, stored and disposed of.

The Waste Management Commission in its past two or three meetings has been going through the process of developing a manifest system to control the production of hazardous wastes. It will involve a fairly simple docketing system whereby the producer of waste, the transporter of waste and the person to whom the waste is taken for final disposal are required to sign a manifest document, a copy of which goes to the commission and is matched up with the copy lodged at the final disposal site. It is simply a means of control, and this system is being used extensively by the New South Wales Waste Management Authority.

The commission in South Australia has chosen to take the same course of action. It will attempt to be simplistic in its operation; rather than containing detailed information and requiring the filling out of forms, it will be a matter of ticking boxes. Its main purpose is control, to make sure that the hazardous waste is disposed of at a site where it does not have a detrimental environmental impact on the rest of the community. There may be some increase in cost, but that will be because at the moment hazardous waste is disposed of in a manner unknown to the commission and probably unsatisfactory to the community. That cost will not be known until the manifest system is fully operational.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is it a project of priority for the commission?

Mr Lewis: Yes.

Mr BECKER: I notice in the Auditor-General's Report that there are four asbestos storage locations in the metropolitan area and one in the country. Is that number considered adequate in view of the continuing program of removal of asbestos from various commercial premises?

How safe are those storage areas and what is the life of those areas?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Mr. Harvey will be able to respond to that question.

Mr. Harvey: I think we have four storage depots: BHAS has one, too, and I think that is the one in the country. They are licensed depots, and the commission requires that any asbestos stored there must be removed within three months.

It is suggested that they have a quick turnover so that we do not get to the stage where we have gross accumulations. That waste is stored according to our conditions of licence; when the asbestos is removed from a building it is put into

plastic bags. Those bags are then put into approved containers. These can either be wooden container crates or 44 gallon drums.

Given that sort of containment and that the asbestos is wet when it goes into the bags, I think it is generally considered that the risks involved in any exposure would have to be minimal. Certainly, as far as we are concerned, the sites of those storage depots are quite adequate.

Mr BECKER: But where is it finally dumped?

Mr Harvey: Either at Wingfield or Pedler Creek under the supervision of officers from the commission.

Mr BECKER: The other aspect that has worried me for many, many years is radioactive waste, particularly some waste from our hospitals. It would be interesting to know just how much it is and whether that amount is increasing. Where is that dumped and how safe is the disposal of this radioactive waste?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This does not come under the control of the Waste Management Commission. The disposal of radioactive wastes comes under an Act the name of which escapes me at the moment, but which is under the Minister of Health. So, I am not able to provide the information that the honourable member seeks.

Mr BECKER: That is fair enough.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: An issue referred to under the Department of Local Government 'Agency Overview' (page 33 of the yellow book) is the 'modification and the view of the need for existing legislation and the implementation of new legislation to meet the changing needs of local government'. Everyone would be aware of the activities that have occurred in relation to the rewrite of the legislation. Does this objective seek to embrace other aspects of local government and, if so, what are they?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A number of minor matters need to be addressed by legislation at some stage. These changes will involve housekeeping amendments to the legislation rather than anything else. I think it is desirable to deal with these minor amendments separately from the major second stage of the rewrite of the Local Government Act which will take place next year. In relation to the minor amendments, I will probably be able to introduce an amending Bill in Parliament in the near future.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to this matter we have been advised that there is a need to co-ordinate and liaise with other Government departments whose operations may have an impact on local councils. That viewpoint, or something very similar, is evident in three different places in the document. Can the Minister explain this inter-departmental activity, and in what regard is the Department of Local Government specifically intervening on behalf of local government bodies and Government departments?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This objective is considered to be of major importance to the department. It is very important that the local government perspective on issues being dealt with by Government departments should be taken into account. Unless there is some inbuilt means by which local government views can form part of the discussion process undertaken within a department, very often the views of local government authorities can be overlooked. Instances of that have been evident in the past. This sort of liaison is quite crucial in relation to a range of issues. The major ones relate to environmental questions and health and planning issues, as well as the delivery of human services, which is certainly an area that has gathered momentum in local government and State Government priority.

In discussing human services questions, clearly an enormous range of disciplines, departments and policy areas is involved. Appropriate liaison in relation to these activities is an important aspect of the work undertaken by the department. I am pleased to report that during the time I have

been Minister there seems to be a new awareness growing in other departments that it is necessary to consult with the Department of Local Government and local government authorities on questions on which views have not been sought in the past.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: A new broom!

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I was not trying to imply that these things have occurred as a result of my becoming Minister but rather that, since I have become closer to the centres of power and decision making, it seems clear to me that the willingness to consult and co-ordinate is certainly better than I thought it was in the past. But I think some real improvements could yet be made. Therefore, we will be working strongly to ensure that local government viewpoints are taken into account when other departments are looking at their programs.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: An achievement specified for 1984-85 is that a summary was prepared on all State Government financial assistance to local government. Obviously this exercise was undertaken for a reason: was it entirely related to the Self inquiry, or a follow through of that inquiry? Will the document be made publicly available or available to the Committee? A major difficulty that members of Parliament have is in satisfactorily answering questions constantly asked by people in the electorate about assistance that is available through the local government, community welfare and health areas, etc.

I think I am correct in saying that the Department of Recreation and Sport sought to identify and give something of a critique of the funds available. Is it the Minister's intention to allow these various sources of funds to be made known to all members, or is it something which is more of an internal or a functional and administrative document?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, one of the major reasons for commissioning the report was to be able to make a submission on behalf of the State Government to the Self inquiry into local government finances. But there was a second reason for being involved in that report, and that was to review the procedures which exist for State Governments to make funds available to councils. With respect to information on funds available to councils, there are already directories available that give organisations and individuals information on available Government assistance. However, the Department of Local Government is currently preparing a financial directory which it is hoped will be of considerable value to local councils. I think it is currently being proof read, so it is fairly close to completion, and I should be able to release that document within a few weeks.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to the draft legislation for the next phase of the local government rewrite in connection with rating, assessments, and so forth, I recognise that it is not a matter which has been the subject of general consultation or of the rather major discussion that I believe it will engender. Is the Minister able to indicate to the Committee the Government's attitude to minimum or service rates, or to comment upon the relatively aggressive role that a number of local governing bodies have taken over the past two or three years to extract the last bite from the people they serve. For example, it may be by considering holiday flats all as individual units, at least at minimum rating, compared to the next door motel, which is viewed in a different way. I also refer to the type of attitude taken by the Adelaide City Council, which extracts not only a hiring fee but also local government rates from the barrows in Rundle Mall. Generally, is there a Government attitude to those matters?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: At this stage it would be perhaps inappropriate for me to express a view about the minimum rate because, as the honourable member has pointed out, it will be one of the issues under review next year in the lead-

up to the second phase of the rewriting of the Local Government Act. For the time being I would see the existing arrangements continuing until that review and assessment takes place. However, I am aware that the issue of the minimum rate is a very important one in local government, and in some areas (I think particularly in the Enfield council area and Barmera) there have been a number of complaints about the minimum rate imposed by councils. I am aware that it is a hot issue in local government and that it will be a very important issue that will have to be addressed next year in the review of rating and financial matters leading up to the introduction of amendments to the Local Government Act.

Mr MAYES: I would like to direct the Minister's attention to the program description at page 47 which refers to 'Specific targets/objectives for 1984-85': one of the items listed under that heading is that the Parking Regulations Review Committee has almost completed its task and will submit a report. As the Minister is probably aware of the area I am particularly concentrating on, it is somewhat of concern to me. What action is proposed to improve the operation of the Private Parking Areas Act?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Were you talking about private parking, or parking regulations?

Mr MAYES: I am talking about parking on private property, and particularly local government regulations in controlling that intrusion or obstruction of traffic.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This is a matter that was brought to my attention by the member for Brighton very early in my days as Minister. I know that it is a matter of considerable concern in many local government areas and particularly, I think, in those areas that have large shopping centres. As I understand it, the problem is that owners of those private parking areas have difficulty in trying to enforce the Private Parking Areas Act. Now that these matters have been brought to the attention of the department (and I must say that they were brought to the attention of the department prior to my becoming Minister), the department has been working on a set of proposals which it is hoped will deal with these questions.

The proposals being looked at at the moment are, first, to allow councils, by agreement with the owners of a private parking area, to enforce the Act; secondly, where councils are enforcing the Act, to allow a person to expiate an offence by paying a prescribed penalty rather than having the matter dealt with by a court; thirdly, introducing what are commonly termed owner onus provisions to overcome the present problem of having to identify the driver of the vehicle before being able to take action; and, finally, to make it an offence to park contrary to a sign erected for the purpose of regulating or controlling the parking or standing of vehicles.

It is considered by officers of the Department of Local Government that a set of proposals along those lines would overcome the sort of problems that have been identified by many people who are concerned about this Act. I should point out that the Act is actually one that is under the responsibility of the Minister of Transport but, because of the involvement of local government in this area, my department has been the one that has worked on it.

In addition to the matters I have outlined that have formed part of the proposal, there will need to be some discussion about some form of identification perhaps for disabled people who want to use those parking spaces, so that it is possible to identify who are the legitimate people using the spaces and who are not. That is a matter that I presume will have to be taken up by the Minister of Transport with the Motor Registration Division. I do not see that as an insurmountable problem and we should be able to find some sort of solution to it. Working with those ideas,

it should be possible for the Government to introduce some amendments to the Private Parking Areas Act in the fairly near future.

Mr MEIER: The Minister would recognise that, because of the size of the local government budget, if money can be saved in any area that is to the advantage of the Government and taxpayers of South Australia. Is the Minister aware of the ongoing saga that has occurred with respect to the possibility of the Local Government Association's having to use a 25 millimetre metered water hydrant for use on roadworks, rather than the current 50 millimetre unmetered hydrant?

This issue goes back to January 1984, when a directive was issued from both the Local Government Association and the E&WS that the change I have just mentioned would occur from July this year. Due to pressure from various quarters, that has now been delayed to 1 January next year. Although I recognise that it comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Water Resources, it seems that local government is missing out at this stage in the argument. Figures which I have had compiled and which were read into *Hansard* last year I will make available to the Minister if she does not have access to them. They show that the filling time for a road construction project would go from about the current eight loads per day down to two loads per day, if the new proposal for a 25 millimetre water hydrant came in.

According to my calculations that would mean a cost increase of something like 450 per cent in the water component. I am aware that beside my own approaches—and the last one goes back to February this year, when I took the matter up with the Minister of Water Resources and as yet, despite reminders, I have not received an answer—the President of the Local Government Association (Councillor Des Ross) has taken it up for more than a year now. I quote from a letter dated 28 March 1985 from Councillor Ross to the Minister of Water Resources in which Councillor Ross thanks the Minister for a previous meeting. Then he says that one of the proposals would be the choice of the 50 millimetre or 25 millimetre metered water hydrant, and that would be at council level. In the follow-up letter from the Minister (dated 26 June 1985), the Minister said:

I am not prepared to alter the proposed policy to permit the hydrants to be issued on request.

In a more recent letter from the President of the Local Government Association, Councillor Des Ross says:

I regret that you are unable to relax the proposed policy to ensure that councils can engage in road watering practices without the undue time constraints imposed by the enforced use of 25 millimetre metered hydrants.

I ask the Minister, because of the consequences of such increased costs to local government, whether she has been aware of this ongoing problem and, secondly, if not, whether she is prepared to take up the case with the Minister of Water Resources so that something can be resolved before 1 January 1986.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am aware of the problem that the honourable member has raised. I first became aware of it within weeks of becoming Minister, when I attended the Mid-North Local Government Association meeting at which it was an issue discussed in a very spirited way by a number of people. So, I am aware that it is of considerable concern to many councils, particularly of course councils in rural areas.

Since that meeting I have informed myself about the issue and the two sides of the argument. I am certainly very sympathetic to the arguments which are being put by the councils, but at the same time I understand the arguments put forward by the E&WS Department about the need to maintain water pressure. So, it is obviously not a matter

that will be easily resolved. With respect to action that has been or might be taken, I understand that my predecessor did raise with the Minister of Water Resources the concerns which have been expressed to him by councils.

Since I have been Minister I recall only one letter which has come to me raising this issue. But, if it was considered necessary then I could also add my voice to the concerns expressed already by the former Minister of Local Government. However, I am not sure that that will really achieve very much, because the position is fairly clear. It is now a matter for negotiation between the people with the two different points of view about how to resolve it. However, I will maintain an interest in the issue and will monitor developments. If I believe that I can make a significant contribution to the discussion, I will certainly do so by way of correspondence or meeting with my colleague the Minister of Water Resources.

Mr MEIER: I thank you, Minister, for giving that assurance. I think that everyone realises the time perhaps is ticking away. There have been so many other issues before both your department and the E&WS Department that perhaps some councils have forgotten about.

Concerning the impact that the proposed fringe benefits tax will have on local government in South Australia, when it was brought down by the Hawke Government some 1½ weeks ago the Chairman of a local council contacted me and said that it would have a significant impact on local council employees. I was surprised, because I did not realise that they had fringe benefits. He told me that several council vehicles can be used by employees for commuting from home and other use. Council employees also gain other benefits that are not generally recognised or noted by the public at large.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Some Clerks have houses.

Mr MEIER: As the member for Light points out some Clerks have houses provided to them. The Chairman of this council said that it will have a significant impact on his council and will mean that rates will have to go up to pay the costs that it will impose. Seeing that it is 1½ weeks since those proposals were announced, has the Minister had time to evaluate the possible impact that the proposals will have on local government generally in South Australia?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: At this stage, this matter has not been analysed by my department. However, my department will work very closely with the Local Government Association in assessing any impact that the new tax arrangements will have on people involved with local government. If I can make an assessment based on nothing much more than a guess, I anticipate that the effects for people involved in local government would be fairly modest, if there are effects. However, as I said, the department will work with the Local Government Association in reviewing the package and any implications that it may have for people in local government.

Mr MEIER: Have councils had any problems in policing the regulations under the Clean Air Act? Does the Minister think that councils are able to police the regulations, particularly as they apply to burning between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in household incinerators?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, the Clean Air Act is the responsibility of the Minister for Environment and Planning, although it is operated through local government. As I understand it, there have been some problems with regard to the Clean Air Act, particularly in metropolitan areas, but they have arisen more as a result of disagreements and disputes between neighbours than through any fault of the provisions of the Clean Air Act itself. The sort of disputes that have arisen about the Clean Air Act are similar to the sorts of disputes that we would all be familiar with in respect of fencing and other matters that neighbours tend to argue

about. I am not aware of any problems that have arisen in rural areas, however, but the honourable member may be able to supply me with information.

Mr MEIER: Before the Act came into operation, some councils in rural areas gave the impression that they would not be bothered implementing the regulations. They wondered why they should be the police with the incinerator burning. Has any feedback come to you as Minister?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No feedback has come to me from rural councils, but I am aware that at the time the Clean Air Bill was passed by the Parliament some rural councils considered that it was really not applicable or ought not be applicable to them, and that it would be ridiculous for them to have to police its provisions. As the result of a number of complaints that were made with regard to that, I understand that the Minister for Environment and Planning wrote to rural councils, suggesting that they should use commonsense in policing the Clean Air Act and to use whatever—

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In other words, not comply with the law.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, the idea was that the councils should act on complaint rather than go out and seek to police the provisions of the Clean Air Act. As far as I am aware, that approach has been successful, because, as I said earlier, I have not been made aware of any complaints from rural councils about the operations of the Act.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am sure that the Minister's staff have provided her with a considerable amount of statistical material on the amounts of money given to the various councils for their libraries, effluent drainage and other such material.

I ask that such material as has been prepared be made available for the *Hansard* record in conformity with action taken over previous years. It is useful information for comparison purposes, and I am sure that the Minister will be able to comply. More generally, I draw attention to page 54, under the heading 'Intra Agency Support Services'. The first of the 1984-85 specific targets and objectives stated:

As part of a pilot scheme under the Guerin Report, new delegations in the Public Service Board were introduced and are operating at the branch head level.

Under '1985-86 Specific Targets/Objectives' it points out that it is intended to apply further delegations under the Public Service Act. Could the Minister or a member of her staff indicate precisely what that pilot trial was and what action has been taken in that regard? The last of the requirements for 1985-86 targets is to redefine the role of the Management Services Branch. It may be possible to include in the answer some information relative to that intent.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: With respect to the first request that the statistical information prepared be supplied, I am happy to comply with that. As to the second and third questions relating to the new delegations as part of the pilot scheme under the Guerin Report and the redefinition of the role of the Management Services Branch, I will ask the Director to report.

Dr McPhail: Under the Guerin proposals, the Department of Local Government was selected as one of the first pilot departments to implement some of the delegations proposed during the development of that report. It happened prior to the finalisation of the report and was done, I understand, deliberately to see what would happen if certain delegations were made. The Public Service Board delegated to me, as head of the department, some 44 delegations (of which 22 have been further delegated to branch managers) in addition to the seven or eight that I held before as permanent head. Some were fairly powerful such as calculating war service leave entitlements and that sort of thing. These 22 delegations now cover all matters relating

(subject of course to Government approval) to the creation and abolition of offices and departmental organisation—all those delegations that are essential to the shape and management of the department. I then initially delegated the bulk of them through to branch head level, and my Deputy and State Librarian also act as my delegate in a number of major ones.

On 25 October we are then shifting more of those delegations (not all of them) down from the branch head level to the section head level, where there is a person supervising. Each of the delegations have been shifted down in such a way that not only the immediate supervisor but also the branch head and, in due course, the head of the department are also aware of the general conditions of operation of the department. We are putting responsibility down the line over the giving of leave, granting of special leave and ensuring that branch heads take responsibility for the fulfilment of their productivity requirements with the remaining staff.

This has proved to be an extremely successful experiment. It has had the outcome of producing in branch heads, and we hope further down the line, a greater sense of responsibility in the management of the organisation. It has also stopped them from the traditional Public Service approach of saying that someone else will make a decision—in other words, passing the decision back up the line. It is very convenient.

I no longer complain to the Public Service Board, which was always a very convenient way of handling difficult staff issues. That responsibility is now sheeted home quite strongly to me. We are also coupling that with financial delegations and are developing a variety of other approaches such as an equal opportunity management plan right through the department. We believe that it is developing a revitalised approach to departmental management.

The management services branch issue relates to another leg of the Guerin Report. The Government has adopted this and is reducing the size of management services branches within all departments. Our department has already taken a reduction of one management services officer in a unit of initially three or four. So, we have had an effective reduction of 25 per cent in the management services area, on the basis that much of the work that management services branches used to do (the filling of vacancies and the like) should be done by branch heads and not by management personnel. Management services personnel should be looking at issues of staff development, training and that type of professional extension, which is much more creative and a much more useful approach. That is an indication of the redefinition of management services.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It would be prudent to incorporate in the record details of the 22 delegations in order to give some idea of the breadth of the pilot study. However, I will leave it for the Minister to decide whether or not that is prudent. The report has already identified many of them, but those remaining would be an interesting chronicle of what has taken place. The Minister and others would appreciate that this overall new approach to management is bipartisan, although there is some variation in some areas of management. Will the Minister indicate how close we are to a consolidated or revitalised Building Act in relation to the difficult footings problem, which is more for the housing area but which impacts on local government because of the joining of local government in court cases? I suggest that the most recent High Court decisions suggest that local government is probably not as involved as the original Casarella case would suggest. The Sutherland Shire decision of the High Court leads me to believe that local government is virtually indemnified from a number of the beliefs that had previously been held against it.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In relation to the request that the 22 delegations be incorporated, I am happy to comply. They are as follows:

DELEGATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

1. Recommend Appointment of a Person to a Classified Office—Section 40 or 42 (2), Public Service Act.
2. Nomination of Officer to a Classified Office—Section 47 (2) and (3), Public Service Act.
3. Fix Salary on Appointment to a Classified Office—Public Service Regulation 84 (1).
4. Accelerated Increment Date—Section 34, Public Service Act.
5. Permanent Filling of a Base Grade Office.
6. Appointment to Base Grade Office—Section 40 or 42 (2), Public Service Act.
7. Salary on Appointment to Base Grade Office—Public Service Regulation 84.
8. Confirmation of Base Grade Probationary Appointment—Section 40 (3) (a), Public Service Act.
9. Permanent Appointment of Temporary Officer—Section 40 or 42 (2), Public Service Act.
10. Extra Assistance (Base Grade Level)—Sections 108 (1) and 110, Public Service Act.
11. Extension of Temporary Extra Assistance—Sections 108 (1) and 109, Public Service Act.
12. Engagement of Over-age Persons—Section 112, Public Service Act.
13. Dispense with the Services of a Temporary Officer—Section 108 (2), Public Service Act.
14. Temporary Filling of Base Grade Office—Sections 108 (1) and 110, Public Service Act.
15. Extended Employment of a Temporary Officer (Base Grade Office)—Sections 108 (1) and 109, Public Service Act.
16. Transfer of Temporary Officer to Higher Classification—Sections 108 and 110, Public Service Act.
17. Acceptance of Qualification—Section 39 (1), Public Service Act and Public Service Regulation 20.
18. Continuity of Service—Section 99 (1), Public Service Act.
19. Temporary Transfer of Officer (Base Grade Level)—Section 35 (1), Public Service Act.
20. Temporary Transfer of Officer (Classified Level)—Sections 35 (1) and 35 (2), Public Service Act.
21. Reclassify Vacant Office to Base Grade Level—Section 31 (1) (a) and (b), Public Service Act.
22. Reclassify Office in Title only—Section 31 (1) (b), Public Service Act.
23. Variations in Hours of Duty—Public Service Regulation 5 (2).
24. Overtime—Public Service Regulation 72-76B.
25. Payment in Lieu of Pro-rata Recreation Leave—Section 83 (3), Public Service Act.
26. Recreation Leave in Advance—Section 84, Public Service Act.
27. Postponement of Recreation Leave—Section 84, Public Service Act.
28. Special Leave With Pay—Section 98, Public Service Act.
29. Leave Without Pay—Section 98 (a), Public Service Act.
30. Long Service Leave—Sections 90, 91 (1) (a), (b), (c), (d), (da), (db), 92 (1), (2), 92 (a), 97, Public Service Act, Public Service Regulation 65.
31. War Service Sickness—Section 98 (1) (b), Public Service Act.
32. Excess Travelling Expenses—Section 36, Public Service Act.
33. Outside Employment—Section 119, Public Service Act.
34. Authority to approve temporary reductions in hours of duty of an officer, Section 96, Public Service Act.
35. Prescribed salary progression (as attached).
36. Recommend Appointment of an Officer to a Vacant Classified Office.
37. Recommend Confirmation of Probationary Classified Appointments.
38. Confirmation of Temporary Transfers/Permanent Transfers at the Base Grade Level.
39. Temporary Employment at the Classified Level—Public Service Act, Sections 108 and 110.
40. Determine the classification and description of offices, fixing special payments or allowances for any special circumstances, determining conditions in respect to entitlements to increments—Section 31 (1), Public Service Act.
41. Approve changes in Departmental organisation structure—Section 19 (1), Public Service Act.
42. Recommend the creation and abolition of offices—Section 29 (1), Public Service Act.
43. Authorise Job and Person Specifications.
44. Permanent Filling of a Classified Office and circularisation on the Public Service Board Weekly Notice—Regulation 26 (1 and 2).

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In relation to the consolidation of the building regulations, as the honourable member is probably aware a number of working parties were established to look at various questions involved in this area. Those working parties have now reported to the steering committee, and those reports are currently being assessed and processed by the Building Control Unit for the Building Advisory Committee.

I will give a progress report on some of the details of those questions. First, on the issue of public buildings, such as places of public entertainment, licensed premises and institutional buildings, in October 1984 the Director of Building Control in Victoria advised the department that Victoria was engaging in a consolidation of regulations for class 9 buildings and requested cooperation in the preparation of such requirements.

The long-term view was to develop regulations which could be submitted to the Australian Uniform Building Regulations Coordinating Council for ultimate inclusion in the Australian Model Uniform Building Code and thereafter adoption by all States and Territories in Australia. This was agreed to in principle, and circulation of the proposed amendments was held back in order to achieve requirements which were reasonably uniform.

A draft for public comment has now been circulated in both States, and comments closed in South Australia on 1 September. Work is now being undertaken in the Building Control Unit of the Department of Local Government to assess the replies which have been received. However, the shortage of staff in that area continues to be a problem in proceeding quickly with that effort. On the question of other buildings (residential buildings, commercial and industrial buildings and food premises) action is being taken to assess the reports, and consideration will be taken of the Victorian views in such assessments along similar lines to the process adopted for public buildings.

Further discussion of the working parties and the steering committee will be necessary to finalise detailed inclusions and exclusions and the proposed priorities which I will be able to outline in a moment. Again, this process is a fairly slow one, but the future program and priorities will be as follows: for places of public entertainment, licensed premises and institutional buildings, I can say that, since these buildings are the subject of the document circulated for comment, these form the first priority.

The items omitted from the document will now be proceeded with and will be the subject of further circulation. For commercial and industrial buildings, since these buildings have the most requirements from change, it seems logical to deal with those as soon as possible after places of public entertainment have been dealt with, and next will come food premises. It is anticipated that these buildings will involve a lot of registration considerations. However, they do not appear to require high priority and, therefore, will be dealt with after or concurrently with commercial and industrial buildings.

Last to be dealt with will be residential buildings, which will follow the ones I have already outlined. With respect to the question of foundations and footings, as the honourable member would be aware, this has been also a fairly long saga, and to outline the progress on that matter I should probably start from the beginning.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I suggest that to save time the Minister have the remainder of this information inserted in *Hansard* without reading it.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Very well. The information is as follows:

In October 1984, engineers engaged in the design and construction of house footings proposed to introduce an 'agreement' between the owner and the engineer in an attempt to limit the liability of an engineer in the event of a footing failure. The 'agreement' also advised the owner of the possibility of some cracking of walls and floors occurring and required the owners acceptance of such cracking.

This was done because the engineers concerned considered that otherwise they would always be vulnerable to litigation.

An increase in charges was also introduced to cover additional work to ensure that they would be seen to have taken all possible precautions against failure and this was coupled with increased insurance premiums.

This proposal, however, resulted in some councils considering that they could not knowingly accept a design which, in their opinion, did not satisfy the requirements of the building regulations. As a consequence they considered that they would be vulnerable to litigation if they accepted such an application and refused to approve them.

Having become aware of this problem, the Building Advisory Committee established a Working Party, made up of representatives from the design professions, and the building industry, to address the problem and make recommendations to the Government.

The Working Party recommended:

1. The immediate amendment of the regulations to alleviate the problem of councils.

2. The development of provisions in the regulations which if satisfied would be 'deemed-to-comply' with the regulations. These provisions to be based on the Standards Association of Australia Code.

3. The introduction of 'deemed-to-comply' provisions for extensions and small buildings where the cost of footings was disproportionate to the cost of the buildings.

The Government took action to implement these recommendations and the first item was incorporated in an amendment to the regulations which took effect on 1 February 1985.

A consultant was engaged to produce 'deemed-to-comply' provisions for extensions and small buildings and a proposed amendment based on these provisions has been circulated for public comment. It is expected that an amendment will be made in November.

The development of 'deemed-to-comply' provisions for new and large buildings is awaiting the introduction of the Code being produced by the Standards Association of Australia. This Code should be available early in 1986.

With the further development of acceptable design procedures by the Institution of Engineers and the soils engineers, footing costs for new and large buildings are expected to return to the level applying before Christmas 1984.

To calculate the likely savings, Bureau of Statistics figures reveal that in 1983-84, there were 2 800 applications for extensions and alterations worth more than \$10 000, and 7 500 odd for extensions and alterations of less than \$10 000. It is thought that about \$400 can be saved for those applications in the first category alone, which would be a saving to the community of at least \$1 million per annum.

Mr BECKER: Has any consideration been given by the department at any stage, whether it involves the policy division or another section, to the formation of a committee to oversee the operation of local government similar to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee? I refer to an article, published in the *Guardian* newspaper of 25 September, headed 'Square project costs soaring', which stated:

In a heated debate at last week's meeting, councillors asked for the project's consultant engineers Kinhill Stearns to report on nearly \$95 000 worth of variations in addition to the \$985 000 contract price. . . extra costs include \$1 018 for the installation of two drinking fountains.

A councillor was quoted as saying:

That's unbelievable. Who authorised that? Do we need it?

The article continues:

Other variation costs include six additional seats at a total cost of \$2 502 and three litter bins costing \$346 each.

From time to time allegations have been made in relation to whether local government projects are cost effective, whether they are viable, and about just what is happening to ratepayers' money. I am wondering whether it would be possible to set up some watchdog committee, an independent committee, to which ratepayers could make representations. The appointment of, say, five people of sound

repute and versed in various aspects of local government, including accounting, could be made by the Minister to the department.

This would be a committee to which ratepayers could go, and it could look at projects and evaluate whether ratepayers were getting value for money in relation to programs undertaken by local councils. Ratepayers must be able to approach an independent authority to pursue such matters. The Ombudsman is of little help—it is certainly not the role of the Ombudsman anyway. We need some kind of committee for local government along the lines of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: With respect to the Moseley Square development, I am not sufficiently informed on that matter to be able to make a judgment one way or the other about whether or not the proposed cost overruns are reasonable. Regarding the general matter about the need for a body similar to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, I point out that the thrust of local government legislation, and certainly the thrust of the present Government's policy on local government (and I would have thought that of the Liberal Party as well) is that as far as possible local government should be independent.

Therefore, in relation to financial matters, and any other issue with which local government has to deal, I would have thought that councils should be accountable to their electors on financial matters. That is not a bad sort of watchdog to have on the business of local government authorities. I have never thought of this idea before, and I am not in a position to make a judgment as to whether the suggestion made by the honourable member is good or bad in theory. However, as a general philosophical question I must say that I do not really like the idea. I think that the independence that we have been trying to encourage at the local government level would certainly be interfered with under the sort of proposal suggested by the honourable member.

Mr BECKER: It is a little late now to go into the arguments of it, because I still think that ratepayers need somewhere to go in relation to checking on the spending of their councils. Finally, will you advise the Committee of the number of motor vehicles attached to the Department of Local Government and whether the department uses the central Government car pool and, if so, what savings have been achieved by using that system within the past 12 months?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Four vehicles are hired by the Department of Local Government. The other cars which the department uses come from the car pool. Those which are on hire are used by the Director, the Deputy Director of the department, the State Librarian and the engineer of the Building Control Unit, who is on call to attend any fires that occur anywhere at any time. The cars that are driven by the Director, the Deputy Director and the State Librarian, when not being used by those people are available for use by other members of the department. The cars which are used by the department and which come from the car pool are made available as and when required.

Mr BECKER: Have you any idea what benefit that has had on the department since the inception of the car pool system?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Unfortunately, it has not been calculated, but the department estimates that there have been considerable savings.

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

Works and Services—Department of Local Government,
\$2 018 000—Examination declared completed.

The CHAIRMAN: As to the next matter, I am only going to allow it on the basis that there is a motion moved and that it is noted. I point out to the Committee that there is no line as such as far as the Youth Affairs Bureau is concerned and that, in my opinion, it would be a very narrow area in respect to seeking information, but I will accept the motion.

Mr MAYES: I move:

That this Committee notes the transfer of responsibility for the Youth Affairs Bureau from the Minister of Labour to the Minister of Youth Affairs.

Motion carried.

Chairman:

Mr Max Brown

Members:

Mr H. Becker
The Hon. B.C. Eastick
Mr D.M. Ferguson
Mr T.R. Groom
Mr G.A. Ingerson
Mr J.P. Trainer

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government and Minister of Youth Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr H. Bachmann, Director, Department of Labour.
Mr M. O'Neil, Chief Project Officer, Youth Bureau, Department of Labour.
Mr B.J. Bartlett, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Labour.

Mr BECKER: Today I received in the post a letter from the Minister of Youth Affairs enclosing two documents, one 'The youth proposals' and the other one 'The youth profile'. In the short time that I have had the opportunity to look at them, I found them most interesting reading. I hope that the information provided will be of benefit to the Government and to all major political Parties and, also, anybody interested in assisting the young people in our community.

Many years ago we looked at a youth policy within my own Party. At that stage we felt it could perhaps be covered and incorporated in every area of policy rather than to segregate youth, ethnic affairs, the disabled and women's issues: in other words, to totally outlaw discrimination. Unfortunately, it does not work. It is easy to say and easy to believe it, but there are times when we have to have some set guidelines.

Of course, the health area is one in which I have an interest, having been involved in helping youth who have disabilities and neurological disorders. It is very hard and very frustrating. I notice in the report 'Youth Proposals' a recommendation at page 27, which reads:

The responsibility of implementing these priority actions is the responsibility of the Health Commission and those priority actions are actions to identify young people's health information needs and to develop creative methods of ensuring access to this information for all young people, the design, initiation and establishment of comprehensive health care strategies and programs based on

concepts of prevention, the establishment of health training programs to assist those working with young people in a variety of contexts, including education, health and general youth work.

What approaches will be made to the various voluntary agencies that assist in this area? How will those agencies be identified?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In the health area?

Mr BECKER: Yes, agencies such as the Diabetic Association, the Asthma Foundation, the Brain Foundation, the Epilepsy Association and the Crippled Children's Association.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: If we had more time I would very much like to have been able to make a statement about my responsibility as Minister of Youth Affairs, because my role is essentially one of overseeing the work of the various Ministers who are responsible for delivery of services in the field of youth affairs. As Minister of Youth Affairs, having responsibility for the Youth Bureau, it is not my responsibility to be involved with actual delivery of services. That rests with the individual members who have responsibility for the programs, some of which the honourable member has referred to.

I am aware, in a broad sense, of the general thrust of the Minister of Health's approach to the question of health and adolescent health issues. However, I am not able to discuss in any detail the general policy that he is pursuing. That is really for the Minister of Health to answer for himself, but a number of health services have been established for young people—both centrally and regionally. Information about those programs will be found in various documents which have been produced by the Minister of Health.

Mr BECKER: I accept the position that the Minister will be the coordinator and that someone has to act as a central receiving point for suggestions and ideas. I hope that that is what it will be.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Certainly.

Mr BECKER: It has been put to me that under the hairdressers legislation at the moment it is quite tight as far as employment in professional hairdressing is concerned and that about 400 jobs could be created if registered hairdressers were allowed to engage assistants to shampoo and do general preparation work prior to the hairdresser's taking over. If people go to have their hair done they generally have a shampoo first. General cleaning and other duties could be performed in hairdressing salons.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Minister is to reply, I point out the time.

Mr BECKER: Could that area be looked at as a possibility for creating employment for youth?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Briefly, this is again a matter for another Minister. Details of apprenticeship schemes are under the control of the Minister of Labour, but I will certainly pass on the honourable member's comments. I ask whether I can table the statement I intended making about my responsibility as Minister of Youth Affairs. It may be of some assistance to members of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister does not have to formally seek leave. If she makes the statement available to *Hansard*, it will be incorporated.

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS
OPENING STATEMENT
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 1985-86

The Minister of Labour in his opening comments to the Estimates Committee noted the importance of the issue of employment and unemployment for young people. He indicated that the establishment of two new portfolios of the Minister of Employment and Minister of Youth Affairs was a recognition of the priority the Government placed upon this issue for young people.

To ensure that young people continue to be a priority, the Minister of Youth Affairs, as has been noted elsewhere, has been provided with policy responsibility for Youth Affairs through the Youth Bureau and for International Youth Year. Again, it has been noted elsewhere that the administrative arrangements of current program lines reside in the Department of Labour.

The corporate objective of the Ministry of Youth Affairs is the coordination of policies and strategies of Government agencies providing services to youth and encouragement of cooperation between Government and non-government agencies in youth service provision, and the development and provision of information and programs for youth that develop their skills and opportunities to participate fully in society and the workforce. Having regard to the above, I have direct responsibility for the Youth Bureau, its coordinating functions and International Youth Year. Specifically, the roles of the Youth Bureau are to act as a source of policy advice to Government in Youth Affairs; alert the Government to the changing needs of young people as they arise; provide statistical and research back-up for Government initiatives in Youth Affairs; provide assistance to youth workers and non-government agencies concerned with Youth Affairs; encourage Government and non-government agencies to work together in the area; and operate or assist in the development of experimental programs for young people.

With regard to International Youth Year, I have direct responsibility to ensure that the aims and themes of International Youth Year are addressed in South Australia. The three themes of International Youth Year as designated by the United Nations are Participation, Development and Peace, and these have been promoted throughout the year. In addition, the following aims have been adopted for International Youth Year in South Australia: to improve the quality of life for young South Australians; to give young people opportunities to develop and use skills in decision making and management; to promote long-term gains for young people; and to develop existing Youth Affairs structures throughout South Australia.

In building on the initiatives commenced in the first half of International Youth Year, the Government has allocated additional funding for youth and youth organisations. In the 1984-85 financial year, 55 Grants to Young People were made and in 1985-86 some \$42 000 has been provided for the third call of International Youth Year Grants to Young People. In addition, there are 32 Government department projects currently being run for International Youth Year and in 1985-86 \$100 000 has been provided. To involve young people in their local communities, 23 local committees have been established and supported with \$1 000 for each committee. In 1985-86 to further develop the involvement of youth organisations throughout South Australia, some \$50 000 has been provided for grants to those organisations working directly with young people. Each of these initiatives are intended to involve young people, promote long-term gains for them, develop structures relevant to them and assist in the teaching of decision making and management skills. The establishment of a State wide association of secondary school students is a very good example of an initiative that has developed in International Youth Year which in the long term will involve young people,

enhance their skills and develop their immediate environment, in this case their school.

The Youth Bureau, as the coordinating unit for Youth Affairs in the South Australian Government, is heavily involved in joint Commonwealth/State liaison and obviously is involved through a range of committees and decision making structures with other State Government departments. At the Commonwealth/State level, the Bureau is a participant in the Youth Affairs Conference, which is a meeting of Commonwealth, State and non-government Youth Affairs officials and of course provides support to the Youth Ministers Council, which is a meeting of Ministers from each State/Territory and the Commonwealth, who have direct responsibility for Youth Affairs. Within the State Government, a Standing Committee on Youth Affairs was established with representatives of the heads of Government departments and the membership of this committee includes Community Welfare, Labour, Education, Further Education, Police, Housing, Recreation and Sport, Women's Adviser to the Premier and the Chairman of the Tertiary Education Authority of South Australia.

In the exercise of this policy responsibility, the Government has recently released three reports entitled Youth Proposals, Youth Profile and Youth Participation. These reports, when related back to the specific role of the Bureau, indicate how it acts as a source of policy advice to Government, provides statistical and research information, and encourages the important aspect of youth participation within the South Australian community.

The Minister of Youth Affairs, is also responsible for financial support to the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia and in 1985-86 has provided \$69 000 to assist the work of the Council. In addition, in International Youth Year an amount of \$24 000 has been provided for the period July 1985 to March 1986, which builds on the \$32 000 provided in the 1984-85 financial year for an International Youth Year officer to co-ordinate activities in the non-government youth affairs sector.

Under the Youth Proposals Discussion Paper prepared within the Youth Bureau, the major issues identified by young people are discussed. These include the issues of education, training, income support, employment and unemployment, housing, health, recreation and sport, information and participation and the family.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the officers and the Minister very much for their cooperation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday 2 October at 11 a.m.