

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 1 October 1986

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Chairman:

Mr D.M. Ferguson

Members:

Mr H. Becker
 Mr M.R. De Laine
 The Hon. B.C. Eastick
 Mr K.C. Hamilton
 Mr P.B. Tyler
 The Hon. D.C. Wotton

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

Local Government, \$22 936 000

The CHAIRMAN: If the Minister undertakes to supply information, the latest date for it to be provided is Friday 31 October. I will allow the lead speaker for the Opposition and the Minister to make a statement if they desire. The proceedings will be relatively informal, and I understand that there has been some agreement on the timetable.

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts.

Departmental Advisers:

Ms A.M. Dunn, Director, Department of Local Government.
 Mr M.A. Lennon, Acting Deputy Director.
 Mr M.A. Herrmann, Manager, Support Services.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I would like to take the opportunity to make a few opening remarks. A few changes have taken place in the local government area in the past 12 months, and some of them are worth commenting on. The past few months have seen significant changes in the staffing of the department. In February 1986, Dr Ian McPhail left the Department of Local Government to take up the position of Director-General of the Department of Environment and Planning. In March 1986 following a period of absence on sick leave Mr Bob Lewis, then Deputy Director of the department, announced his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the very significant contribution that was made by both of these officers in the development of local government in South Australia.

The departure of such senior staff inevitably allows an opportunity to refocus attention on the manner in which the responsibilities are administered. As a consequence, following the appointment of Anne Dunn as Director of Local Government, a reassessment of the organisation of the department in its local government responsibilities has been initiated.

It is intended that all local government responsibilities be brought together in a single division within the department to be headed by the Deputy Director. This is intended to give a clear identity to the local government area and also to establish greater cohesiveness in providing services and

a basis for forward planning. The documentation before us reflects this change in that three previous programs have now been brought together in a single program, 'Development and support to the local government system'. The structure of the department reflecting this change is shown at page 642 of the documentation.

Following the appointment of the Deputy Director to head the Local Government Division (which I anticipate being made in the next few weeks), it is my confident expectation that the department's key role in acting as a conduit between State and local government in a wide range of areas will be further developed and enhanced. Priorities for the division lie overall in the following areas. First, in continuing efforts to upgrade the quality of legislation under which local government operates, revision of the Local Government Act and other legislation will be maintained.

Additionally, following the decision of the Adelaide City Council to withdraw the availability of a consolidated Local Government Act, it is my intention that the department should provide consolidated legislation in a number of areas for use by council officers. This legislative service will, of course, complement the long established and respected advisory services provided by the division to local government.

Secondly, in the development of services within local government, I anticipate that the work of the Human Services Task Force will provide guidance on measures which the Government can take in developing local government's role in human services consistent with our existing responsibilities in the areas of libraries, community information, and the assistance we provide for various community based activities through the Local Government Assistance Fund. Additionally, specific service areas catered for under common effluent drainage and public parks programs will continue.

The education and training of council members and staff is a further area to which I intend to give priority. A survey of elected members' training and education needs is being conducted with assistance from the Local Government Development Program grant under the auspices of the University of Adelaide. At the same time, the qualifications of local government officers monitored through the Local Government Qualifications Committee will be reassessed following the Industry Training Committee's Human Resources Planning Study.

In the important area of public participation it is my intention to step up efforts designed to increase public awareness of local government structure and functions leading to a repeat of the highly successful 1985 'Have-A-say' campaign to be conducted for the May 1987 elections. I am confident that following a short period of transition after the departure of senior staff, a new and exciting basis for the administration of local government responsibilities is now assembled. It will be of particular benefit not only to the State Government as a whole but to members and officers of councils throughout the State, and I look forward with great enthusiasm to the period ahead.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I accept that to maximise the proper deployment of staff an agreement has been reached that local government aspects alone will be dealt with this morning, and after lunch we shall look at waste management, libraries, youth affairs, and conclude somewhere around 3.15 p.m., to allow tourism to take over after the coffee break. I assure the Minister that the Opposition will stick to the questioning in that area and no doubt members on the Government benches will do so as well.

I turn first to the statement by the Minister about the rearrangement of her department. I will concentrate on the general staffing, which will have an element of the other

areas of operations. I refer particularly to pages 643 and 644 of the yellow book which relate to the cost associated with the Director and other staffing. Without intruding into the libraries aspect, and referring particularly to page 644, we find that overall there is a total expenditure prediction of an increase from \$72 754 000 to \$78 710 000, which equates to 8.2 per cent, which happens to be the benefit gained by the State from the Commonwealth distribution through the Grants Commission. Obviously there has been an increase of approximately the same amount from the State coffers to allow that 8.2 per cent to relate. More particularly, I want to draw attention to the staffing that appears immediately under that figure. It shows that for 1985-86 the actual deployment on an average full-time basis was 357.3 but at 30 June 1986 it was 372.3 staff on a full-time equivalent basis.

The proposal for 1986-87 is 377.3, but reducing at 30 June 1987 to 371.8. If we then quickly refer to page 648, which deals with youth affairs (without going into that area), we find that there will be 12.5 staff equivalents in that area of operation, notwithstanding that in the department whence it came (the Department of Labour and Industry) it rated at 34.8 and 36.8 equivalent staff. There has been a massive reduction in staffing directly related with youth in relation to the transfer, or so it appears.

Why is there to be a reduction in overall staffing by 30 June 1987? What is reflected in the greater number that was on staff at 30 June 1986, that is, the 372.3, against an annual average of 357.3, and an overall average of 377.3, which is anticipated for the whole of 1986-87 but reducing, as I have indicated, to the lesser figure as at 30 June 1987? What occurred late in 1985-86, and what will move people out of the department by the end of 1986-87?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I will provide figures for the various sections of the department. For this year we have only a minor variation, mainly from recruitment delays that will take place in filling some of our positions. For this year we have an increased employment level of 20. They will be in the Youth Bureau area, which is being transferred from the Department of Labour to the Department of Local Government. That will be a complement of 12.5. In fact, the number of people transferred from the Department of Labour to the Department of Local Government for the Youth Bureau was actually 9.5 rather than the figure mentioned by the member. I do not know whether the member wants to go into that now or later when we deal with the youth area.

As I have said, a staff of 9.5 transferred from the Department of Labour to Local Government for the Youth Bureau. Since then, I have been able to increase the level of staffing for the bureau to fulfil the new functions of the youth ministry, so for this year we have 12.5 for the Youth Bureau. There is an increase of 3.9 for the Public Record Office. There has been a transfer of 0.8 of a staff member, that is, the Assistant Director, Resources from the Department of Housing and Construction. We have a 0.5 field officer who will work in the Mortlock Library on the collection of materials. There will be an allocation of 2.3 for the filling of long-term vacancies. I will now ask the Director to add more in relation to the changes that will occur during the 12 months.

Ms Dunn: The over staffing at the end of 30 June involves largely numbers related to double counting of people on long service leave and workers compensation so that if at 30 June you have replacement people in positions where the person is already counted, the actual employment number comes in over, and that is the case in the department. The under staffing or the reduction of numbers at the end

of the next financial year has two major causes: firstly, there are people on short-term contracts or appointments, such as the Mortlock field officer who has been funded for only this year, and there are a number of other positions where the funding will run out by 30 June next year. Secondly, there is a reduction of staffing in the lending service; this is a direct result of our reducing the hours there as part of the budget cuts this year. It is anticipated that by the end of this financial year we will have reduced staff.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: From where does this additional staff come? Is it redeployment from the Public Service Board or the equivalent?

Ms Dunn: Yes, or secondment from another department.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Their presence will be reflected in a reduction in those other departments?

Ms Dunn: I cannot comment on what happens in another department.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Turning to local government generally, does the Minister agree that it is a philosophy of her Government that local government is recognised as a partner in government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Certainly, that view applies in the Party that I represent, yet I find that a number of the statements that appear in the backup material to the Estimates are rather paternalistic, intimidatory or even dictatorial towards local government in the course of action that the Minister has outlined as the program for the next 12 months. I refer to phrases such as 'Local government will respond to the priorities of State Government,' and that the Government will encourage a greater participation in local government areas. That involves taking a high role, from a Government point of view, in local government affairs, whether or not local government has asked for it.

At page 654 of the yellow book I see the words '...which will ensure that the Government's policies and objectives are being achieved'. While I can accept the Government's laying down policies and general directions, to say it as blatantly as is said on page 654 seems to support my view. Under 'Broad objectives', this statement is made:

To monitor the performance of local government to ensure the Government's policies and objectives are being achieved and that local government is having due regard to its responsibilities and obligations in performing its functions.

I can accept that the latter part would be a coordinating role, but more specifically we are told that local government will be followed and checked out to see whether it has achieved the Government's directives and policies. Again, relating to overall delivery of services, we find a requirement that there be compliance by local government. The first point made under 'Broad objectives' is to ensure compliance with local government policy and legislation and assist local authorities in carrying out statutory and discretionary functions. I have no problems with assistance but I suggest that to ensure compliance is really a Big Brother type of attitude.

A little further on, we find where we will intrude into the boundary situation by talking of 'Government inspired action to bring about boundary changes'. Whilst wards are indicated and the necessary tidying up of arrangements between councils is mentioned, it also goes so far as to indicate Government inspired amalgamations. We find also on page 655, for example, that the Local Government Advisory Commission is now responsible for both Government and council initiatives for the amalgamation and adjustments to council areas and ward boundaries. I can accept their being responsive to requests from local government, but it is the Government intrusion part which would suggest that there is no longer a consultation approach within the depart-

ment, or that one of the directions being taken in local government activities is hardly one involving a partnership role.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The quotes that the honourable member has made all relate to programs from last year rather than this year, except for the quotes on page 654. I must say I object quite strongly to the implication that he makes that the policy of this Government is to act as a big brother in the area of local government. I think that this Government, more than any other in this State in recent times, has demonstrated by its actions a commitment to developing this sort of partnership arrangement to which the honourable member says his Party is committed. My Party is not only committed to it but it actually puts it into practice with the sorts of policies that we have developed in the area of local government. I think his comments also demonstrate a lack of understanding of the relative responsibilities of State and local government in this State, in the sense that local government is created by State Government legislation. It operates under an Act of Parliament, and it is my responsibility as the Minister of Local Government to see that that Act of Parliament is adhered to with respect to the way local government conducts its functions under that legislation.

To that extent, we do play a monitoring role over the activities of local government, but as far as possible we are moving to a situation where local government has much greater independence and autonomy in the way it performs its duties in the South Australian community. I think that has been evidenced by the various changes that have occurred so far in the revision of the Local Government Act. The first stage of the revision which dealt with electoral procedures and other matters was a step in that direction of providing greater independence for local government. This second revision which is currently under way, and for which I hope I will be able to introduce a Bill during November dealing with rating and financial provisions for local government, I think you will find is another indication, another demonstration, once we have finalised the terms of that Bill, that this Government is committed to providing independence and autonomy for local government as far as it is possible.

Mr Becker interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will have a chance to ask questions in due course.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: To answer that rather silly interjection, it is pretty clear, if anybody bothered to read the Local Government Act, that financial arrangements for local government and methods for rating are set down by legislation which is the responsibility of this Parliament. The second revision Bill that is to be introduced deals with those parts of the Act which relate to these matters. One of the reasons why we are revising that part of the Act is that it has been much too restrictive for local government: local government has not had sufficient flexibility through the provisions of the Act to have proper control over its own financial affairs. We have certainly received numerous representations over a very long time from many councils around South Australia regarding the provision of flexibility to enable them to have more control over their own affairs, and that is what I am trying to achieve with the second revision Bill.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The strategies relative to the local government approach for 1986-87 are shown at page 643 of the yellow book. It is stated (and this has already been alluded to):

provide financial assistance, advice and encouragement to local government in order to develop activity in those local community services seen as a priority by the State Government.

If one takes that at face value, one sees that only those undertakings that are seen by the State Government as being within its priorities will be assisted financially. Is that brief comment taken out of context from some wider aim or does it truly reflect the Government's intention to impose its own priorities upon local government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The State Government certainly has a range of policy priorities in terms of the way we would like to see, for example, the development of the provision of human services throughout South Australia. We are certainly encouraging local government to take more interest in the delivery of human services and play a bigger part in providing a range of such services.

Already in this State there is considerable commitment by councils to doing just that. The sort of thing we are talking about is stepping up that program. Many local government authorities are already in the business of delivery of human services. Many councils have community arts officers, aged care workers, and youth workers, and have entered into joint venture housing arrangements with the Housing Trust to provide accommodation for aged persons. The development of the libraries program is part of the human services role in which local government has played an important part. We believe that local government in a much broader sense should be involved.

The performance of local government in this area is very patchy in the sense that some councils more than others have become more interested in those questions. We want to achieve a situation where all councils in the State are aware of the available opportunities for perhaps joint funding arrangements to set up programs that might assist members of their communities or perhaps to enter areas of human service delivery in which they have not played a role in the past. Certainly, we will influence councils in areas of the State where we believe there is a priority need. I do not think there is anything wrong with that at all.

Mr HAMILTON: The previous Minister issued a handbook called *Elected Members Guide*, which I found very informative, and read with a great deal of interest. It has been my experience over seven years that a large number of my constituents and ratepayers do not discern clearly the responsibilities of either State or Federal members of Parliament or local councillors. Has consideration been given to the education of ratepayers in terms of what is available from local government? On a number of occasions constituents have telephoned me and I have said, 'That is the responsibility of local government.' It is not unusual for people to say, 'You are a typical politician—you push us aside.' Conversely, I have been told in the past by members of local councils in relation to local government issues, 'That is nothing to do with you. Butt out of it.' In the interests of harmony between the State and Federal Governments and local government, what can be done to educate the public as to the responsibilities of local government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I agree with the honourable member that it is very important for members of the public to be aware of the importance of local government and the role that it plays in local communities: that has certainly been a concern of this Government for some time. I think that the lack of interest in our community is demonstrated by the small percentage of people who turn out for local government elections. If local government in this State is to respond to community needs and work effectively in its own community, it must have the support and the interest of the people it represents.

For that reason, during this financial year (which also happens to coincide with the next council election period) through the Department of Local Government we will pur-

sue three initiatives designed to increase community awareness of the role of local government and participation, particularly when election time comes, of citizens in the voting process. First, we will once again conduct a Statewide 'Have a say' campaign in conjunction with the Local Government Association. The 'Have a say' campaign that was conducted in 1985 prior to council elections was very successful, and we believe that we can do something at least as good this time. Hopefully, we will increase the percentage of people who turn out for the 1987 council elections.

In addition, we are pursuing a program to increase the information that is available to the public on local government functions, services and structure through the production of various handouts and a series of open days. A guide to public relations for councils will be produced. This project is being funded through the local government development program and it will be linked very closely to the 'Have a say' campaign. The project will be two pronged: it will encourage councils to become better at their own public relations functions, and it will encourage citizens to become more aware and informed about the functions of local government.

In addition, also through the local government development program, a research project is being carried out this year to develop proposals to strengthen the information, support and training needs of elected members of councils. This, too, is an important aspect, because very often we find, and local councillors admit, that they jump in at the deep end and do not really know very much about their responsibilities when they are elected.

We would like to try to provide training opportunities for people involved in local government so that they can perform their roles more adequately. The elected members guide to which the honourable member for Albert Park referred, was produced last year and that is still in circulation and has been well received in local government circles. These three initiatives, which we shall be pursuing during the 1986-87 financial year, are a second round in the program that we are developing to increase both public and local government awareness of the responsibilities that they have.

Mr HAMILTON: I am pleased to hear that, because it will assist members of Parliament as well. I look forward to that information and those programs. My second question is on a matter that concerns the community, and particularly local government circles, within which there appear to be the view that the State Government is imposing costs upon local government. What action is the Minister taking to deal with such concerns?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am aware that that is a view in local government and it concerns me. The feeling has developed in the past few months, since two or three decisions were taken by the State Government to begin charging local government for functions that have been performed by the State Government in various areas. Perhaps the most public of these has been the decision, which I took, to ask country councils to pay their share of waste management fees. They have been exempted from that in the past six years. Although they have received certain benefits from the Waste Management Commission, they have not been participating in the fee structure and metropolitan councils have been left to carry the burden.

In addition, the Valuer-General has recently passed on costs to local government. This has come about because we are in a tight financial situation. We have had to prepare a difficult budget, and all Government departments and agencies have been looking for ways to make savings or cut responsibilities that they previously performed, to find ways

of redistributing the money that they have, or to recover costs in some areas where they have been performing services for various agencies or members of the public, to try to make the money go further.

Through the Department of Local Government we have been undertaking work in this general area of costs and relative responsibilities between State and local government and the question of financial transfers. Two things that have happened recently are important in this respect. First, we have produced a booklet called 'State Funding for Local Government' which gives advice to councils on the range of financial programs that are available to State Government so that they can maximise the funding available to them through other sources and can provide programs that are important to the communities that they serve.

Secondly, I have been so concerned about the *ad hoc* nature of some of the decisions that have been taken and may be taken in the future in respect of the recovery of costs, that I recently took a submission to Cabinet to have established a committee, which will have on it representatives such as the Director of the Department of Local Government, and people from Treasury, and Department of the Premier and Cabinet, to look at the question of State charges. During the next few months, this committee will be meeting first to identify which charges are being levied by the State Government on local government (and we have a clear picture of what is already happening), to identify what proposals there might be around to levy charges in the future, to consider and recommend any charges (including new variations of existing charges) that may be contemplated in the future, and to try to bring some order into the process. We shall be consulting with the Local Government Association while we do that.

It is important that we should have a coherent framework within which we work when talking about charges and the various responsibilities of State and local government. If it is necessary in future to recover costs or ask local government to participate in the payment of particular services that are provided through State Government resources it should be done at least in a planned way so that local government can have proper notice of what is likely to occur. As far as possible, we should try to minimise the impact on local government.

Mr HAMILTON: What is the present situation in relation to the review of local government boundaries?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There is quite a lot of movement in South Australia on the question of boundaries, much of it brought about by the financial and economic climate in which we find ourselves. Many councils in South Australia are finding it difficult to continue because they are small, their economies of scale are not good, and they are finding it hard to survive as times get tougher. For that reason a number of proposals for amalgamation have recently been made to me, and I have referred them to the Local Government Advisory Commission for investigation.

Most of these proposals have come from the Mid North region of the State and anybody who knows anything about local government in this State will recognise that perhaps some of the smallest councils in South Australia exist in that region. We are looking for solutions to the economic problems facing councils in those areas. We have received proposals to amalgamate the district councils of Crystal Brook, Redhill and Georgetown, to amalgamate the district councils of Blyth, Snowtown and Clare and to amalgamate the district councils of Blyth and Snowtown. There are proposals to sever the hundreds of Kingston, Mongolata, Rees and part of the hundred of Ayers from the district council of Burra Burra and annex them to the district

council of Hallett. Another proposal is to amalgamate the corporation of Jamestown, the district councils of Gladstone, Jamestown and Laura and portions of the district councils of Hallett and Spalding. They are all in the Mid North region, which covers about the whole of the Mid North local government area.

The Local Government Advisory Commission is currently investigating these proposals for amalgamation, and hopes to reach a conclusion on the proposals by the end of the year, which means that it will be doing quite a lot of work during the next few months. It certainly considers that it is important to try to finalise these matters as quickly as possible because, inevitably when there are proposals for amalgamation, it causes community concern and dislocation. I think the commission is concerned to clear up those issues as quickly as it can in the interests of the local community.

In addition, there is also a proposal for the South-East to amalgamate the corporation and the district council of Naracoorte. These are the movements that are currently taking place. In addition, I think for the past few years a number of metropolitan councils have been considering amalgamation. Inevitably, with movements as large as some of those that have been discussed during the past few years, it takes some time. I think probably considerable courage on the part of councillors and councils is required to actually make the decision to prepare a proposal and send it to the Minister.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Of the areas in the Mid North that the Minister spoke of as being members of the Mid North local government group only Spalding, Snowtown, Blythe, Clare and Burra are part of that group, which comprises 19 councils. There are 13 or 14 other councils, which is the major proportion of the Mid North area, which are not involved in the amalgamation activity. That apart, can the Minister indicate what specific action her department will take this year to contain costs to local government? I ask that against a background where the Minister would be aware that a considerable number of editorial articles and a large number of letters have been forwarded by ratepayers to various members of Parliament and to the Minister and to her department saying that the rating system has got out of hand and that the level of rating is beyond the means of many people, not only those in rural areas but those in townships.

I am not referring to actions that will take place in the rewrite of the Local Government Act which is recognised as a bipartisan approach to a necessary problem. What specific Government actions will be taken to assist local government to contain its costs against the background of the 'user pay' issues that have been placed on local government in recent times? The Minister mentioned waste management. There has also been the move (later retracted) by the Commissioner of the Electoral Department to require electoral rolls to be paid for. There is an increasing figure associated with the provision of valuations from the Valuer-General's Department. The Minister would be equally aware—although it is not in her specific portfolio area, it impacts very heavily on local government—of the added requirement of councils to provide for Country Fire Services. There are also other areas of cost increases.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We can take a number of approaches to assist local government in making decisions which may enable it to contain costs. With respect to the provisions of the Bill mentioned earlier, which is a revision of the Local Government Act and the rating and financial provisions, I do not think we can look at that in isolation from the questions asked by the honourable member.

Depending on where we end up with the Bill when it comes before Parliament, I think there is significant scope in the rating and financial provisions of the Local Government Act to assist local government in containing its costs by providing greater legislative flexibility for it to make its own financial decisions about how it pursues particular programs and projects.

The provisions of the last Local Government Act Amendment Bill enable councils to pursue financial schemes which are not otherwise contained within the Act and to provide flexibility for councils to finance those schemes. I think that is a considerable step in the direction mentioned by the honourable member. It means that we are taking away some of the restrictions that have existed in the past about the kinds of projects that can be developed locally and how they can be funded or financed. Through the department we also provide a very considerable information and advisory service on council management; and we also advise on comparative performance between councils. So it is possible for officers of my department to perhaps assist a particular council that may not be handling its budget very well or is not aware of a particular course of action that could be taken with respect to one scheme or another that might assist in saving money overall. Those measures, coupled with the steps that I am taking to try to create an overview of where the State Government is heading with fees and charges that may be handed on to local government by creating a small committee to monitor what is happening in the Public Service, I think will ensure that we are in a position to assist. Many of the things that I have mentioned are not tangible. I cannot quantify them, but they can make a significant impact on local government and whether or not it is able to contain its costs.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister indicated to the member for Albert Park, in relation to the delivery of human services, that the activities of a number of councils were 'patchy'. A little later the Minister indicated that there was a need to set certain priorities for the benefit of the community. Does the Minister agree that what happens in a local government area should be a reflection of what the local community believes it can afford? In other words, to be dictating to or directing local government areas to undertake projects which may be beneficial to the community but which are beyond its immediate financial ability to deliver will do more to destroy local government than to advance the cause of the people who are governed by local governing authorities.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It would be quite counterproductive for the State Government to be dictating or directing local government to become involved in particular human services programs, and it is not the intention of this Government to do that at all. We are trying through the task force which I have established and which is looking at human services, to develop a coherent State Government policy on the delivery of human services at the local level so that we have a State Government view—about what we are trying to achieve with respect to the delivery of various human services. In this way we can establish in our minds what we believe the role of local government is in either participating in the delivery of those services or acting as a facilitator within a local community to encourage other organisations to provide those services at the local level.

Finally, we must ascertain what funding arrangements would be appropriate for the delivery of various services so that, for example, if the State Government believes that it is important to have a youth centre in every region of the metropolitan area and if we would like particular local government authorities to pay heed to that idea, we would

be able to go to local government with a funding package arrangement that they may or may not choose to take up. We are trying to achieve, first, a coherent view about what sort of human services we think it is important to deliver at the local level and, secondly, how local government can be involved in it. This is not a one sided argument.

As a State Government we are not saying to local government that we want it to get involved in an area in which it has never been involved before or in which it does not wish to become involved. As I said, local government has already been involved extensively in various ways in the delivery of various human services, and it is certainly the policy of the Local Government Association, which reflects the views of local government in this State, that it is desirable for local government to be involved in human services delivery. Local government is in the process of developing its own policy on these issues, and we have asked the association to participate in the work of the task force that is currently establishing a State Government position on the issue as well. Hopefully, by the end of this year, we will have reached a point where both the State Government and local government have a common view on just what is desirable and how we might be able to achieve it.

I stress that it is not the Government's intention to force councils to deliver services which they believe are inappropriate for their own circumstances or districts or which they believe they are unable to afford. Obviously, it is impossible to get blood out of a stone and, if a council is too poor to be able to participate in particular programs, there would not be much point in pushing it. Councils are responsible for making their own financial decisions. What I hope the State Government might achieve is a situation where in some areas we could make it attractive for local government to take up opportunities to deliver services that they believe are desirable for groups of people in their own communities.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister indicated that if councils had a project taken to them they might not elect to take up the project. I hope that if they elect not to take up a project they will not be criticised for giving patchy service, as can be related to the Minister's earlier suggestion that some councils are not providing all that their communities might want. It all reflects upon the financial ability.

The Minister indicated that the task force was undertaking a review of human services, and that is commendable. Anything that advances an understanding of what might be achieved is important. How representative is the working party of total local government understanding on this matter? I would like to give a brief indication about this: in the material that was forwarded by the department—the position papers on financing—a review of the results or returns from the various councils would indicate that unanimity exists on only three or four of the 21 questions posed. Basically, there is unanimity of thought only in those three or four, and, if one runs through the totality of the answers, one can see that there are quite major differences of opinion, depending on where the council fits into the scheme of things—be it a city, a corporation, a municipality, inside rural or outside rural.

I am asking the Minister whether, with the representation coming from local government to this task force, it is representative of the major facets of local government delivery in the State, or whether only one or two persons are speaking for local government collectively and, therefore, not necessarily reflecting the overall aspects or views of local government.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The job of that task force is to establish major State Government policy on the issue. The

task force is made up of representatives from each of the State Government departments or agencies with responsibility for the delivery of human services. It is made up of State Government members and, in addition, we asked the association to nominate a member of the task force to assist the State Government—

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is that one person?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, let me finish—in determining its policy on this area. I am pleased that the association decided to nominate its most senior person: it nominated the association's President, Mr Des Ross, who has played an important role in the task force in putting forward a local government prospective to Government officers who are determining the State Government's position.

We are planning, as the second stage of the development of our policies, to consult. Once the report of the task force has come to me, I plan to initiate a broad consultation with the community, and primarily that would mean councils around the State and also other non-government agencies that have an interest in the matter. I presume it would include organisations like the South Australian Council of Social Service, which would have a keen interest in the policy developments in this area. So, the sort of thing about which the honourable member is talking with respect to having a representative view from local government is part of the second stage of the development of the Government's position on the delivery of human services.

I expect that at that time we will get a very wide range of views from various local government authorities about which direction we should take. There is no doubt that there is a real diversity of views on whether or not local government should be involved in human services delivery at all. I think there is confusion in some council areas about what it means. Some councils have taken a very strong position in opposition to the development of human services which are already involved in one way or another. They just do not categorise it in that way. They do not identify it as being human services delivery. Rather, they identify it as a service that they are performing on behalf of a particular group of people in their district. So, a certain amount of discussion needs to take place within the local government community to develop a full appreciation of exactly what is meant by local government involvement in the delivery of human services.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Supplementary to that answer, is the Minister able to indicate whether there will be an adequate period of time for that wider consultation to take place?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Government has not set a timetable for the development of our policy on human services, but I certainly anticipate that there will be sufficient time for that. Unless we consult widely and get a representative view from the community, I do not think the policy that we want to implement will be a very successful one. It is our aim to have in place a policy which works.

Mr TYLER: I am very interested to hear the Minister's comments on the delivery of human services. As the Minister and members of her department would appreciate, the delivery of human services in my electorate is a very big issue. The Happy Valley council fully supports the development of human services and, along with the State Government, there is considerable pressure on them. When will the human services task force be made known, and has the task force been visiting council regions consulting with local government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The task force was actually due to report to me a while ago, but it asked to have the deadline extended until the end of September. I understand that the report has been prepared, although I have not yet seen it. It is my intention, once I have the report and have had a chance to look at it, to take it to a meeting of the Cabinet human services subcommittee, which has a very keen interest in the work of the task force. Through the Cabinet subcommittee we will then make appropriate decisions about where we move from here in developing the second stage of the policy. The task force has been visiting councils to look at the work of councils that have embarked on all sorts of human services programs. I might ask Anne Dunn, the Director of the department, who has been chairing the task force, to indicate exactly what they have looked at and perhaps the reaction of members of the task force to the things that they have seen.

Ms Dunn: The member probably knows that we went on a field trip which began at Happy Valley. It is probably true to say that the other State Government members of that task force had a very limited understanding of the extent to which local government was involved in human services delivery. That is why we went on the field trip. We looked at the range of services that are being provided at Happy Valley. We also went to Tea Tree Gully and looked at youth services. We went to Prospect and looked at aged services, and to Thebarton to look at services to people of non-English speaking background. We visited these areas in one day. It was very illuminating and also very exciting. We made two major findings from that day: most State Government people said that they were enormously impressed with the extent to which local government was involved in that area. We took Richard Llewellyn, the Disability Adviser to the Premier, with us and discovered that there are major access questions to be dealt with.

Mr TYLER: My next question is supplementary to that asked by the member for Albert Park. I assume from the Minister's answer that the 'Have-a-say' campaign will again be operating for the next council elections. Can the Minister give a breakdown of how much is likely to be spent on the campaign and what portion of the money will come from the Local Government Association? Also, has the department or the Local Government Association undertaken some research into where the local government community is at at the moment so that it can pitch its campaign accordingly?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, on the funds issue, at this stage we are not aware of how much the Local Government Association is planning to contribute to the campaign. The State Government, through the Department of Local Government, will provide a \$65 000 cash contribution to the development of the 'Have-a-say' campaign. In addition, we will give a lot of in-kind support to the development of the campaign in terms of staff time, advice and other information that will be helpful in the development of the campaign. The member for Fisher would know quite a lot about the development of the 1985 campaign, having at that time been an employee of the previous Minister of Local Government. The cooperation between the Government and the local government organisations through the Local Government Association was excellent, and the 'Have-a-say' campaign was very successful in raising community awareness of the issues and the need to be involved in council elections. I will ask the Acting Deputy Director of the department to talk a little about research and the things on which we might be basing the 'Have-a-say' campaign.

Mr Lennon: In terms of how we are devising a strategy for any future campaign, more specifically for the campaign for the 1987 elections, we conducted a fairly thorough eval-

uation of the 1985 campaign in conjunction with the public relations consultants whom we employed at the time. It did two things: first, it isolated the sorts of activities which are more successful in engendering an interest amongst people and a willingness to vote and, secondly, it isolated the target groups amongst whom interest was particularly low. As a consequence of that, whilst we have not finalised completely the strategy at this point, we intend to concentrate on the mass media, as opposed to a variety of other outlets, with printed information in the next campaign. It is also our intention to assist councils in a much more thorough way with their own local efforts to stimulate interest. Those were the two broad conclusions that were arrived at in that evaluation. In terms of the target groups that were identified, clearly youth, women and people of non-English speaking backgrounds were highlighted in that evaluation.

Mr TYLER: What was the involvement of the mass media in the 'Have a say' campaign? Will the media contribute community service space for advertisements?

Mr Lennon: During the last campaign a number of media organisations, such as the Messenger Press and some television stations, were able to offer space and air time along with standard community service arrangements for the campaign. We have had initial discussions with some of those media interests, and to date the feedback has been very encouraging. We anticipate that they will be similarly supportive during the 1987 campaign.

Mr TYLER: Will the 'Have a say' jingle and slogan be used again?

Mr Lennon: That has not been decided. The 'Have a say' jingle was enormously successful, but variations, such as 'Have you a say?' or 'Have my say' have been suggested within local government circles. However, the details have not been finalised at this stage.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I suggest that the slogan 'Use your vote' could be used because 'Have a say' does not really mean 'Get into the voting box and do something about it', and that is the general thrust. In relation to financial assistance for local government authorities, the provision of funds for effluent drainage for public parks has always been an ongoing program, and it has been supported by Governments of different persuasions. Will the Minister provide a list of the anticipated distributions for 1986-87? How effective is the effluent drainage program and how has it been monitored in terms of completion?

I refer to a situation that has arisen at Hamley Bridge, where an effluent drainage program has gone on and on but not been completed (although it might have been completed by now, but only because an alternative contractor was brought in to complete the work). Notwithstanding the difficulties that the District Council of Wakefield Plains was experiencing in relation to that contractor, who was not able to complete the work within cost or on time, further contracts were tendered to the same contractor in other areas. That contractor has now gone bankrupt and a project in at least one other area (which I understand is Echunga) is in jeopardy. There is no argument about support for the scheme: it has been of tremendous value to the amenity of the district and the health of the residents. However, I suspect that someone should be in a position to monitor delivery of service once funds have been made available.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This is one of these autonomy areas in the sense that councils tender for common effluent drainage projects in their own area and the State Government provides a subsidy.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It is subject to ministerial approval.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Certainly, but the council is the tenderer and it is the council's responsibility to monitor the program. The council chooses which company will do the work, within the guidelines that are established, and it is not essential for the council to choose the lowest tender if there are good reasons why another tender would be preferable. In cases such as the one referred to, where a contractor subsequently proves to be not as good as he should be, it is possible for councils to cite this as a reason not to accept his tender should it be the lowest put forward. Mr Lennon will comment on the monitoring of moneys that we provide as subsidy.

Mr Lennon: The question of who is finally awarded a contract for a common effluent drainage scheme is for the council, rather than the department or the Minister to determine. It is true that when the scheme is approved and funds are provided the Government's position has always been that the lowest tender should be accepted unless there is good reason why that practice should be departed from. In the case referred to, while there were suggestions from time to time about the quality of work being done by the contractor, there were very serious considerations involved in any change about the rules of natural justice applying to the contractor. There is also the issue of public liability about the basis of a decision not to allow a tender agreed to by a council to be followed through.

Since the Hamley Bridge issue was first raised the department has been closely involved in providing advice and assistance to the council on how the matter should be handled, and indeed we provided the same assistance to another council that was similarly affected. In general terms in regard to the monitoring of the schemes as they develop through the design stage to the full works being undertaken, our involvement is, in a sense limited to ensuring that the legislative provisions are complied with and that the scheme is being administered properly. In terms of the technical specifications of schemes as they are initially designed and as they have been constructed, the technical staff of the South Australian Health Commission are involved in quite a detailed way with the individual councils affected.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: They make the decisions about which schemes should have priority for establishment.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: So the warning went out.

The Hon. D.C. Wotton: The effect of added responsibility being given to local government by the State Government was referred to earlier. In some cases, extra costs for local government are involved. I refer to a situation that has been discussed more frequently in recent years as further responsibility has been delegated as a result of amendments to legislation. I recall, for example, prior to coming into government, that requests were made by local government on numerous occasions for more say in planning, and very soon responsibility was delegated under the Planning Act. Considerable concern was expressed by local government about extra responsibilities and the effect on administration. Further, I understand that some councils, certainly the councils for which I am responsible, are still expressing concern about the costs of and difficulties in administering the Clean Air Act.

This is a broad question, but I would like the Minister to comment on that, recognising that I would think that it would be a continuing move on the part of the State Government to provide responsibility for local government wherever that is possible. I would like her either to recognise that that is a problem or to say whether councils need to get their own priorities in order. There has been some confrontation over the Heritage Act involving actions taken in recent months—I refer to one at Parkside and another

in my electorate at Mount Barker—where there has been total confusion as to who has responsibility for protecting local buildings—whether it be the Minister for Environment and Planning or the council.

I know, as a result of the Minister for Environment and Planning bringing down a ministerial statement, that it is the intention of that Minister and the Government to issue a discussion paper on the subject to determine whether councils should have more control than they have at present over the preservation of certain buildings. It has been suggested that the matter of demolition should be taken from the Building Act and placed under the Planning Act, to make it a form of development. There are two questions for the Minister. First, is the Minister of Local Government aware of the concerns expressed by local government about the added responsibility that they are given through legislation? Secondly, what are the responsibilities that local government should or should not have in regard to heritage and the protection of historical buildings at a local level?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Many of the issues raised by the honourable member relate to the responsibilities of my colleague the Minister for Environment and Planning and it would be inappropriate for me to comment too much on those. As to the question of responsibility that local government might have for planning matters and other issues which are brought about as a result of State Government legislation, there will always be problems for local government associated with some of those issues. I suppose that the only way in which we shall resolve some of the questions that arise from time to time is by pursuing ongoing discussions between the two levels of government about how we achieve the ends that both levels of government want to achieve.

Inevitably, there is a conflict within local government circles about having control over things that happen within each area and what that means to the council with respect to the added responsibility and delivery of the service for which it is looking. It is sometimes difficult to separate the added responsibility that comes from having the power to exercise some control. We cannot escape the fact that that sometimes happens. In some cases it will be necessary for local government, if it wishes to have more control and more power over certain activities, to accept that it must also take greater responsibility and increase staff to perform the functions.

As to how we can solve some of the issues involved, it is a matter of just continuing the ongoing dialogue between various State Government departments and local government authorities to see how best we can provide services for the community at the lowest cost for both levels of government.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I know that there has been discussion in the Minister's department on the matter of heritage and the responsibility given to councils. Is she able to comment on that?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There have been discussions between officers of my department and officers of the Department of Environment and Planning as to what might be a solution to the problem. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on those matters until the Government has decided on a course of action.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Your colleague the Minister for Environment and Planning thought that it would be inappropriate for him to take the matter further and that it was something that I might ask of the Minister of Local Government when I had the opportunity to do so. Somebody needs to get their act together because this is a major problem and until somebody accepts responsibility, and it

rests either with the Minister for Environment and Planning or the Minister of Local Government—that is where the discussion has been with your department—we shall continue to have some of the nasty scenes that we have recently seen.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I can only say that the matter rests with the Minister for Environment and Planning, and until the Cabinet decides otherwise it would be inappropriate for me to comment on his legislation.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Page 654 refers to establishing review standards for buildings in bushfire prone areas: how does that relate to the SDP in that area? Are we looking at reviewing that SDP or are we saying that local government and the Minister's department have responsibility to establish and review standards in bushfire prone areas? What action will she take?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have not taken any action yet. A working party has been looking at the issue of building standards in bushfire prone areas so we can establish in which direction we should be heading. That committee is still in the process of discussing what the best options might be. Until we have a comprehensive report from that committee as to exactly what is the best route to take to establish appropriate guidelines, I am not in a position to comment in any more depth about that. I know that the Acting Deputy Director has had great contact with this committee and the deliberations that are taking place, so he might have some comment.

Mr Lennon: In July 1984 the Government established an interdepartmental committee on bushfire research and coordination and that committee has been working on a variety of issues designed to limit bushfire risk and provide greater controls in a range of areas within Government to protect the public safety. In April 1986, a supplementary development plan for the Mount Lofty Ranges bushfire prone areas was released for public comment. There are two points on this: one is to designate areas prone to bushfires; and the other to establish increased measures in building standards for structures developed in those areas.

Following public comment, it has been decided that those kinds of controls should be more properly located within building legislation regulations in line with various other standards designated for the construction of buildings. It is intended that probably by about February 1987, following the designation of those areas, the building regulations will be amended to provide those controls: specifically, I think it is in the provision of shutters on windows and different kinds of guttering. For additional areas which have a higher fire risk, mandatory liaison will be built in between the CFS and the council when considering certain forms of development. It is intended that the technical capacity of the CFS should be utilised to increase public safety in those areas. In summary, it is intended that increased controls will be located within building regulations. Those controls will be linked through a nexus with areas designated under the Planning Act as bushfire prone.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: The Minister has said much today about the importance of appropriate consultation between her, her department and local councils. The total lack of consultation that occurred in regard to the monstrosity on Mount Lofty (which we may well not see) is, I suggest, a very serious example of lack of Government consultation with local government. I seek the Minister's comments in regard to that specific matter of lack of consultation in regard to the St Michael's development.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not sure that it is appropriate for discussion on this matter to take place here. It seems to me that it should occur in relation to environment

and planning or tourism. However, since I know of the matter as Minister of Tourism I may be able to make one or two comments, if you think that is appropriate, Mr Chairman.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I repeat that my question relates to consultation with local government, and I believe that is what this Committee is dealing with today. I point out that a similar question was asked of the Minister's colleague yesterday, and it was felt that the matter should be dealt with by the Minister of Local Government in relation to consultation. My question is not directed to the Minister in relation to tourism; I am referring to a total lack of consultation with local government by the State Government.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Hamilton): Perhaps the Minister can answer the question in relation to how it affects local government.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The matter of the St Michael's development has been dealt with by the Minister for Environment and Planning. However, I understand that there was consultation with the local council about the development prior to the release of the favoured proposals for development at the St Michael's site. Following selection of the favoured proposal there has been an opportunity for extensive consultation not only with local councils but with any member of the community wishing to have some input. The Government intended to choose, from the organisations that registered an interest in developing the site, one that appeared to best meet the requirements sought by the Government in relation to the development; and then to explore with the successful proposer the details of the development proposal and to then pursue the environmental impact statement procedure. It is during the EIS process that local councils and anyone else who has an interest in the matter can make comment. I think that local councils are in a fine position to have their views heard with respect to the St Michael's development.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to the motor vehicle parking section of the Local Government Act. Can the Minister say whether it is proposed to amend the Local Government Act to prevent the imprisonment of a driver of a motor vehicle who is not driving that vehicle when a parking infringement occurs?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, I can. First, a person is not imprisoned under the Local Government Act for a parking offence; imprisonment can occur only under provisions of the Justices Act if a person fails to pay a fine imposed on conviction for an offence. A person cannot be gaoled merely for committing a parking offence. The onus provisions of the Local Government Act have been a matter of some concern to many people, including myself. In fact, I think I can recall a number of public statements that have been made by you, Mr Chairman, expressing your concern about the current provisions. As a result of expressions of concern and the inquiries that I have received from people like yourself, Mr Chairman, I have had drafted regulations which will provide a defence for the owner of a vehicle who, after being served with an expiation notice for a parking fine, can execute a statutory declaration stating that someone else was driving the vehicle when the offence occurred; so the other driver mentioned in the statutory declaration becomes the person pursued by the law for the parking offence. I have just introduced in the Legislative Council the Private Parking Areas Act Amendment Bill and that contains similar provisions for parking offences.

Mr De LAINE: Can the Minister provide any information on the present situation in relation to the Thebarton

council? Does she see any need for intervention by her department in regard to the council's problems?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I guess the council's problems are well known to most people because they have become very public over the past few months in particular. It is my view at the moment that things within the council are fairly stable, particularly since the appointment of Mr Merv Jenkins as the acting Chief Executive Officer. I think Mr Jenkins has managed to deal with a number of issues that have been outstanding for some time, and he has managed to get council and staff members to address some of the issues that were a source of considerable conflict within the council. In addition, I understand that the issues surrounding the dismissal of the former Chief Executive Officer are being taken up.

I understand that some negotiation is under way at present between the solicitors of both the former Chief Executive Officer and the council, hopefully with a view to reaching some sort of settlement. In the meantime, a grievance committee has been established to deal with some of the issues that members of staff were most concerned about. That grievance committee, made up of representatives of the council and the Municipal Officers Association, is slowly working through some of the staff issues that have been a problem for many months. As I said, things at Thebarton council are reasonably stable and certainly I do not see any need for either my department or me to intervene.

Mr De LAINE: What progress has been made with the consolidation of building legislation in recent times?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This matter, too, has been under consideration for some time. We have received many queries and complaints from people within the building industry, particularly through the Construction Industry Conference, about the duplication and overlap in existing controls which make their task so much more difficult. Therefore, we are now conducting a project with the aim of incorporating the controls over building standards, as far as possible, in one area, the Building Act and its regulations. A steering committee, chaired by an officer of my department and serviced by the Building Control Unit, has been overseeing that project. The first stage which deals with the class 9 buildings (industrial and commercial buildings) is now nearing completion, and I recently sent a draft of consolidated controls to various Ministers who are responsible for other pieces of legislation that relate to this area. I have asked them for their comments.

I hope that we can bring about changes to come into effect early next year. Meanwhile the steering committee is proceeding to address controls on other classes of buildings, and I hope that we will be able to bring about some action in those areas as well, making it much easier for people who have to have regard to various building controls now under numerous pieces of legislation.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The overview of the Dog Control Act is within the province of the Minister. I am interested to know what variations are contemplated to that Act and when that is likely. I refer to page 35 of the Ombudsman's Report, which was handed down in Parliament last week, where the Ombudsman states:

I took the matter up with the Department of Local Government in order to determine whether any further means of identification had been, or should be, considered in respect of guard dogs.

The Ombudsman is referring to an action that commenced in the Salisbury District Council area. He continues:

I was informed by the Department that the Dog Control Act Review Committee had proposed certain recommendations relating to the identification of guard dogs and that these recommendations would be pursued with the Minister of Local Government.

Whilst the question is specific to guard dogs, I am interested in other changes that may be contemplated. Is the Minister satisfied with the activities of the workings of the Act at present?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Dog Act Review Committee has recently provided a report to me recommending various amendments to the Act. Most of the amendments recommended so far relate to administrative matters, but some other issues raised with me warrant specific attention. Perhaps the most important of these involved repeated stock attacks by dogs and what we may be able to do about them. The committee believes that in such circumstances control should be placed on the owner of the dogs. That is something I am currently considering.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: How do you marry dogs and owners without positive identification?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That is one of the problems, and that is why it is a difficult problem to solve. That other issue they are concerned about is the current exemption that exists for working dogs, and the committee believes that those provisions should be reviewed as well. The third matter of concern to the committee is that stockowners should be given greater flexibility in determining dogs that are guilty of stock attacks. I am not sure how one achieves that, either. These are some of the issues that are currently exercising my mind, but I hope that we might be able to determine a position on some of these issues and have a Bill drafted during the remainder of this year with the aim of introducing amending legislation in the first session of Parliament next year.

Mr BECKER: At page 646 there is a line 'Establishing and advising local authorities in enforcing building and fire safety standards' with a proposed allocation of \$332 000. The proposed FTE is 10 staff. I take it that that is the first time this matter has been entered in the Minister's portfolio area, because I cannot see reference to it elsewhere. Is the Minister setting up an authority to discuss, with local government, building and fire safety standards? I was also under the impression that places of public entertainment, for example, came under the auspices of the Fire Brigade and there has been or there are reports somewhere expressing concern about fire safety standards in some places of public entertainment, especially places where there are discos, Adelaide's so-called nightclubs and some of our hotels that have large entertainment areas.

I do not know about any licensed club premises. In relation to enforcing building safety standards, I also wonder how far that goes. I am particularly concerned about fire safety standards in areas or places of entertainment that attract large numbers of people, bearing in mind that soon we will have a huge influx of interstate and overseas people visiting Adelaide for the Grand Prix. No doubt Hindley Street will be closed off again for a huge mardi gras type of function. Then people will disperse and go to other places of entertainment. Is this the area about which the Minister is concerned and which she will look at, and has she any information that some of our buildings and major entertainment areas are substandard and could pose a fire safety threat?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, this is not the first time that this line has appeared in the Department of Local Government lines. It will be found last year on page 647.

Mr BECKER: I am only going on recurrent expenditure. For 1985-86, proposed and actual were nil: this year the figure is \$382 000.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That is because the 1985-86 figures are shown on page 647. We have changed around some of these programs, and some of them are a bit difficult

to follow. If the member looks at page 647, he will see that last year the corresponding figures for proposed and actual were \$262 000 and \$269 000. With respect to the issues that the member is talking about, standards in buildings are usually determined by local fire safety committees which are established under the Building Act and comprise a member of the CFS, the local building inspector for a particular council area and a member of the Department of Local Government. They give appropriate advice on what sort of fire safety standards should be adhered to in buildings in a council area.

Mr BECKER: Has the Minister not received any information about buildings, particularly places of entertainment, which are considered substandard or which could be possible fire traps?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I personally do not recall receiving correspondence relating to issues like that. Is the Acting Deputy Director aware of any complaints that have been received through the department?

Mr Lennon: As the Minister said, the building fire safety committees for each local council area comprise a representative of the fire brigade and the council building surveyor and are chaired by an officer of our department. They undertake a regular review of buildings in each area and enter into discussions with the owners of those buildings about upgrading standards. In the final analysis, they have the power to issue orders requiring certain work to be undertaken. I am not aware of any immediate issues about certain buildings of State-wide significance relating to entertainment facilities, but each of those committees goes through a regular program of nominating buildings in its area that it thinks requires upgrading.

Mr BECKER: Could the Minister follow that up with all those authorities to find out if there are any such major entertainment areas, be they discos, nightclubs or whatever? One has merely to look down Hindley Street and some side streets in Adelaide to see some of these places. Quite frankly, you see a little 'fire/exit' sign, and it would be interesting to know if it worked. I have been advised that some of them are suspect. I ask this question because about two years ago the Apollo stadium was required to remove about 700 seats initially to increase the number of fire safety exits. At one stage, Apollo could seat about 4 000 people in a full seating concert, whereas for basketball it could cater for about 3 000 people. Those numbers had to be reduced. At one stage it posed a threat to the viability of the stadium. A certain amount of alterations have been undertaken.

We have this organisation, and I wonder how effective and efficient it really is. It would be great to know, wearing your other hat as Minister of Tourism, for your own peace of mind, that all entertainment centres in this State meet what are pretty strict standards of fire safety, so that we do not have any problems in case (and I hope there never is) a situation arises where people must vacate premises in a hurry.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We certainly do not think there is any problem in relation to the standards themselves. Those standards are in place in the legislation and are there to be met. As to the question whether or not they are being enforced adequately, I cannot make a judgment. I will refer the matter to the Building Advisory Committee and see if they can shed any further light on it.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Does the Minister concur in the statement by Mr Hullick of the Local Government Association reported in the *Advertiser* on Saturday 2 August 'that the State Government should stand aside and allow local government along with Federal Government to be the Government of the Commonwealth'?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Not at this stage.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask that the Minister perhaps consider that question over lunch.

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

Additional Departmental Advisers:

Mr E.M. Miller, State Librarian.

Mr P. Bayly, Manager, Youth Bureau.

Ms V. Siebert, Manager of Public Records.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare this session open. The Minister was to consider a question over lunch, and I now give her the opportunity to reply.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I assumed that the question was asked in jest.

The CHAIRMAN: I am happy then. Has the local government section now been completed?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Other than for capital expenditure, to which we shall refer later.

The CHAIRMAN: Then has the member for Light the first question?

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: With the time available it will be difficult to spend a long period on libraries but, by agreement, waste management will not come on until 2.50 p.m. at the earliest. Youth services is a relatively new involvement for the Minister, as it was added to her portfolio after last year's election. I recognise that it is an extremely important part of a Government strategy and an involvement that Parliament generally supports. However, the document presented to us in respect of youth services (at page 650 of the yellow book) is really a collection of motherhood statements and, in saying that, I do not wish to be in any way derogatory, although the statement may appear to be. However, the document indicates a number of things that the Government hopes to achieve, but it does not indicate what has been achieved or when certain things will be achieved. Accepting that the document was prepared some time ago with details of the general thrust of what the Minister had in mind concerning the youth portfolio, what has happened since the general thrust of the department was created to bring to fruition some of the motherhood pledges in the document? The document states:

There is still an urgent need to continue coordinating the views of young people and youth organisations in policy formation for youth affairs.

I agree with that, but what has happened? The document further states:

Need to assist voluntary agencies and other groups in establishing better data bases . . .

I agree with that, too, but what has happened? I am putting it in context, recognising the direction in which the Government wishes to go, when I ask, 'What has happened?' Are there tangible results or what is the schedule for the delivery of some benefits to youth?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The budget papers are not a policy document: they concern the financial aspects of the Government's program and it is not possible in such a document to pursue in great depth the policies and programs that the Government might be pursuing or might want to pursue in order to implement its policy on young people.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Money is being appropriated for those purposes.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, to clarify my role of Minister of Youth Affairs, I am responsible for the Youth Bureau within the State Government service, which was formerly attached to the Department of Labour. The role of the Youth Bureau and my role as Minister of Youth Affairs are primarily to coordinate Government activity in

the area of youth. So, my first action as Minister was to put into effect that desire to coordinate in a much better way our policy and the work that we do for young people. I have approached that objective in two ways.

First, I have received Cabinet approval to revise the role of the Youth Bureau in the light of the new responsibilities, so it now has a new set of objectives. I also asked that the staffing of the Youth Bureau be upgraded, and that has also been done. When the bureau was transferred from the Department of Labour to the Department of Local Government, its staffing complement was 9.5, whereas it is now 12.5. The position of Chief Project Officer of the Youth Bureau has now been changed.

The person in charge of the Youth Bureau will be called Director of the Youth Bureau, and the position has been upgraded to a senior administrative position in the Public Service. It is important that we have in that role someone with sufficient experience and standing so that we can achieve our objectives for young people. The way by which we are planning to bring about better coordination between the various Government agencies is to set up a committee that will be known as the Youth Affairs Reference Group. That has not been established yet, but I have written to each of the Ministers responsible for Government departments and agencies that have some impact on young people and policies for young people and I have asked them to nominate suitable officers to form that group.

That group will be chaired by the Director of the Youth Bureau and by that means I hope to achieve much better coordination of youth policies across Government agencies, so that we have a coherent and unified strategy for developing youth services, so that we do not have duplication and overlapping of effort with individual agencies going off and doing their own thing, and so that we have a coherent policy that has been determined by all those people in the Public Service who have a role to play in respect of youth policies and programs.

In addition, I want the members of the Youth Bureau to have a much higher profile as an advisory agency within Government service and out in the community in the non-government sector. Within the Youth Bureau we shall be able to build up a team of officers who have specific and useful knowledge and expertise in youth affairs, so that they will be ideally placed to act as an advisory agency for Government departments that are developing youth policies. They will also be useful in helping non-government agencies to develop their own programs.

Examples of the things that we have achieved during the past 12 months include the efforts that have been made in both Whyalla and Elizabeth to develop youth centres. From both those areas we received a call from local people who needed some sort of youth facility in their area, so I assigned representatives of the Youth Bureau to work with community organisations and Government agencies in developing a proposal in each of those two centres for a multi-disciplinary youth centre, which will provide a range of services that specifically meet the needs of those communities.

In addition, the representatives of the Youth Bureau have been working with the Youth Affairs Council in South Australia in its reorganisation of activities. We are trying to work in a cooperative and complementary way with the Youth Affairs Council and various other groups in the community. That is the direction in which we are heading with the Youth Bureau. As I said, in the few months we have had to work on that strategy there have already been significant successes and, with the advent of the Youth Affairs Reference Group, which will draw together people

from all agencies within the Government service, we will see a much better approach to the development of youth services and programs within the State Government.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: One of the specific targets and objectives for 1986-87 is the establishment of parameters for a Commonwealth/State agreement on youth service funding. What degree of success has there been, what is the general thrust of this initiative, and what information can the Minister share with the Committee? If the Minister can identify the groups that have been invited to participate in the general youth supportive committee (to which the Minister referred), that information may be inserted in *Hansard* as a guide to the areas that are being approached to undertake that role.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will be quite happy to insert in *Hansard* a list of the various Government agencies that will be represented on the Youth Affairs Reference Group: Youth Affairs Reference Group:

In July 1986, Cabinet approved the establishment of a Youth Affairs Reference Group (YARG). The YARG will comprise senior officers from the following departments:

Office of Employment and Training
Education Department
TAFE
Department for Community Welfare
Police Department
Recreation and Sport
Office of Housing
Office of Women's Adviser to Premier
Health Commission
Local Government
Department of Agriculture
Department for the Arts

- The YARG will be responsible for the oversight of youth policy development and services coordination.
- The YARG will report directly to the Minister of Youth Affairs, and through the Minister to Cabinet.
- The YARG will address the following issues through short-term working parties aimed at generating specific outcome objectives:
 - Young women's access to services
 - Youth income support
 - Adolescent health
 - Multi-disciplinary youth services policy.

The idea of a Commonwealth/State agreement arose from State and Commonwealth Government efforts surrounding International Youth Year last year. There was a significant financial effort by Governments to develop a series of projects and opportunities for young people to participate in matters of interest to them. In November last year, when Youth Ministers from around Australia met in Perth and were reflecting on the success of International Youth Year in achieving greater participation of young people in various ways, we explored the possibility of some sort of ongoing financial assistance being made available so that we might keep the effort running for longer and that we might initiate a national strategy for developing youth services.

The Federal Government went away to consider ways of funding a three-year program that would take us to the bicentennial year. There have been various meetings in the past six months or so between officers from both the National Office of Youth Affairs and the numerous State bureaux to try to work out some means by which a national program and a suitable Commonwealth/State funding arrangement could be agreed. However, since the Federal budget was brought down and the new financial situation in which we all find ourselves emerged, the future of a Commonwealth/State program is in grave doubt. At this stage we are not sure what the Federal Government is interested in pursuing. It seems to be withdrawing to some extent from the original plans that were discussed.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: A broken promise?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is not a broken promise: no promise was made to anyone and there was no election promise. The idea of exploring a joint agreement came from a Youth Ministers meeting, and at that stage no-one committed themselves to any future scheme. Rather, we all agreed that something like this would be desirable, if it could be achieved, but it was determined that we would have to work much more closely on the detail.

It would seem that at this stage the National Office of Youth Affairs is undergoing a review, and it would also appear that the Federal Government now prefers the Office of Youth Affairs to become much more policy oriented, a body which is much more concerned about the coordination of youth policy and program development within the national Government framework, much the same as we have developed our own Youth Bureau at the State level. I believe that the idea is that the Office of Youth Affairs should be involved in service delivery. Until we have more information from the Federal Government as to the direction in which it is heading, we cannot pursue this possible Commonwealth/State agreement any further.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In discussing the activities of the libraries, the Minister points out (page 651 of the yellow book) that there was an increase in the use of the Mortlock Library in South Australia because of the influence of the Jubilee 150 and the bicentennial year. What is likely to happen in the future? Is the initiative created by those two events likely to run down, or does the Government envisage that the thrust which has been developed will be maintained?

Further, under '1985-86 Specific targets/objectives', the Minister highlights that the library services review, which took longer than anticipated because of the large number of submissions, has been received. Under '1986-87 Specific targets/objectives', it is indicated that there will be a review of the library services report. When will that report be thoroughly evaluated so that the community will benefit from the review? Is that review generally available for perusal, or will it be available to the Opposition? What is the general area of activity envisaged within the library system?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I was starting to wonder whether the libraries review would ever end. There have been a number of delays. In fact, the committee received an unprecedented number of submissions, certainly well beyond the number that it expected to receive. It is heartening to know that there is so much interest in our library services that people have taken the trouble to put their ideas on paper or to appear before the review committee. It has taken longer to process the submissions than the review committee anticipated. In addition, the issues with which it dealt are very complex, so there have been some delays.

However, I am informed that the review is now complete and that it will be in my hands very shortly. Once I have that report and the committee's recommendations, I intend to circulate it widely in the community for comment, because I am sure that people will be very interested to read the wide ranging recommendations made by the committee. I will consider any comments that I receive following that public consultation before I make recommendations to the Government as to how we might proceed to implement some of the recommendations of the review.

I have been informed, although as I have said I have not seen it, that the review committee's report is a lengthy document and it will be difficult to circulate in its entirety, so we are planning to produce a shorter, easier to read publication that we will be able to circulate to local authorities and other organisations that may be interested in it. I

hope that we will be able to make copies of the full report available to people if they need it.

There has been unprecedented interest in depositing material in the Mortlock Library. Probably much of it is associated with the Jubilee 150 activities and people's heightened awareness of history and such things. We have been inundated with material. For that reason I was able to seek and gain funding to extend the period of time for the employment of a field officer until the end of this year. That person is working out in the field on the collection of various information so that we at least have it within the library even if we will have problems in processing and dealing with the materials that we have available to us.

Because there is so much material it has been decided that we should try to establish some priorities for processing the future collection. Two priorities have been determined by the library staff. The first will be given to ethnic groups and examples of business types rather than collecting all that is offered to the Mortlock Library. The second will be that encouragement will be given to depositing material locally with public libraries, historical societies, museums or National Trust branches, if that course is deemed more appropriate. I am told that, after the 1936 centenary celebrations, interest in matters historical dropped off, so if the same sort of thing happens this time after the sesquicentenary celebrations, we might have a breathing space to deal with the vast quantities of material that are being collected by the library.

Mr HAMILTON: Page 653 of the yellow book refers to the security of documents. Does the Public Record Office have adequate security protection to ensure that valuable and unique documents in its custody are protected? When will there be legislation separate from the Libraries Act to cover the functions and responsibilities of the Public Record Office?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Public Record Office has material in a number of places. I presume that the honourable member is primarily referring to the public reading room when he asks about security protection. The reading room is situated in the headquarters of the Public Record Office, which is in the State Library, and that building is covered by the security service run by the Department of Housing and Construction. Some of the other premises to which the PRO has access are also covered by the Department of Housing and Construction or private security firms, which I understand do a good job in protecting property.

Within the public area of the PRO, and the adjacent stack and office areas, there are security devices for after hours monitoring as well and during the hours that the PRO is open there are generally two desk staff who sit adjacent to the reading room and who can keep an eye on what is happening in there. A system has been instituted whereby readers are given tickets and records are kept, whether original documents or copies are used. They are entered into a register and checked in and out from the researchers by the PRO staff.

None of the original material is available to members of the public without staff being present. In addition, people who use the Public Record Office are not able to take bags into the library, which is a common practice in most public libraries. That helps us to police what is happening there, and there are strict procedures relating to records released for exhibition or sent for copying or photographs. The staff carry identity cards so that they are easily identifiable, and the stack area is restricted so that we can keep a close eye on movements there. The security arrangements for the Public Record Office are good, and as far as I am aware they are working efficiently.

At the moment, the Public Record Office operates under legislation contained in the Libraries Act, but it may be useful for the PRO to have legislation that is directly pertinent to it. With that in mind, a Bill was drafted late last year and circulated for comment to various relevant groups with an interest in this matter, including the Australian Society of Archivists, the Friends of the Public Record Office of South Australia and the members of the joint State Federal working party on the Public Record Management Program. Numerous comments were received from those people which have been useful to the officers who have been drafting the Bill.

In addition, discussions were held between the management of the Public Record Office and the State archivists in other States and the Australian Archives, so that we were able to get firsthand information about the methods being used in other States in the collection of such material. The Victorian Public Record Office has recently undergone a major review, and legislation to reduce and modify its powers has been introduced in the Victorian Parliament. So it seems that some changes are taking place around Australia and they are contradictory. In New South Wales, the role of the State Archives in relation to local government is being increased. Each State seems to be taking a different approach to this question and for the time being we consider that it would be reasonable to monitor progress and development in other States to clarify the policies that underpin the legislation that is being enacted in other places and build on that in the development of our Bill. I hope that we shall be able to do that soon and bring a Bill before Parliament.

Mr HAMILTON: I refer to data bases in the reference library. As the use of automated data bases to gain quick access to world wide information has increased rapidly over the past three years in the reference library, has any thought been given to adding further data bases?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The short answer is 'Yes', data base use has expanded. The number of trained researchers in the library was doubled last year, and I think that was a significant effort. In our library at present there are 15 researchers with some specialisation in areas such as medical or legal research. A number of new data bases have been added recently to broaden the range of information easily accessible to us, and I refer to the CSIRO data base known as Australis; the medical data base known as Medline; the British data base known as Pergamon Infoline; and the Wilson line, which is a United States general interest data base.

I think also of some interest is the fact that we have had on trial in the library recently the data base from the *Advertiser* newspaper. This has been fantastic because it indexes and details articles within the newspaper, and it has made it possible for library staff and other individuals to gain access to newspaper information much more quickly than was the case in the past. That means that we are also able to speed up the rate at which we handle inquiries in the library, and that has helped enormously. These are the latest developments, and they are certainly helping to streamline procedure: within the reference library.

Mr HAMILTON: How many councils have yet to establish library services? How many institutes remain to be dissolved, how many will dissolve in 1986-87 and what will happen to the remainder at the end of the development program?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will deal with the institutes first. As at 1 July this year 43 institutes were still in existence: 18 were functioning as private libraries and receiving no Government subsidies. These institutes continue to function in areas where public libraries exist. Of the remaining

25 institutes, 13 are expected to dissolve this year and, of the 18 operating as private libraries, four are also expected to dissolve this year. Of course, this will bring into question the viability of the Institutes Association, because it will have only 12 subsidised institutes to support. Efforts will be made to persuade councils in areas in which these institutes operate to provide their own public library services. If those efforts are unsuccessful, these institutes may have to continue as private libraries or dissolve. However, the Libraries Board is confident that the affected councils will consider contributing to a public library service, if their own institutes can no longer support them.

I have a list of the institutes which are expected to dissolve in 1986-87; and, secondly, a list of the private libraries, which are unsubsidised institutes, expected to dissolve in 1986-87. Perhaps they could be inserted in *Hansard*.

Institutes expected to dissolve in 1986-87:

Subsidised:

Balhannah	Lobethal	Port Elliot
Freeling	Mannum	Port MacDonnell
Goolwa	Mount Compass	Tailem Bend
Greenock	North Adelaide	Tumby Bay
		Woodside

Private libraries (unsubsidised Institutes) expected to dissolve in 1986-87:

Aldinga	Coromandel Valley	Marmon Jabuk
Warramboo		

Remaining Institutes:

Subsidised:

Eden Valley	Hallett	Mt Pleasant
Glenelg	Hawker	Springton
Glen Osmond	Lyndoch	Tea Tree Gully
Gumeracha	Mintaro	Terowie

Unsubsidised:

Brighton	Grange	Prospect
Colonel Light	Hahndorf	Smithfield
Gardens	Lyrup	Unley
Echunga	Millicent	Wirrabara
Enfield	Parkside	
Goodwood		

In respect of the public libraries development program and how many councils have yet to establish library services, there are now only 10 council areas in South Australia where public libraries have not yet been established. I think it is significant that it is down to such a small number. We are now reaching the end of our 10 year public libraries development program. It has been an enormous success giving access to library services to many thousands of people around South Australia who otherwise may not have had such access.

As I have said, only 10 councils remain to establish library services. In all cases but one they are in council areas which are really too small to establish their own library services. However, in each case the councils are considering sharing a service with a neighbouring council. All of those councils are in rural areas. The Glenelg council is currently negotiating to build a new library on the site of the existing institute. I hope that we can complete the public libraries program in the not too distant future. During this current financial year the libraries to be completed include Onkaparinga, Tumby Bay and Port MacDonnell, some work will be done at Port Elliot (to be completed in 1987-88), and some money will be spent at Hawker in 1987-88. I confidently hope that we can soon draw the public libraries development program to a successful close.

Mr BECKER: I hope the ratepayers of the library will not have to contribute too much for their library. I refer to page 130 of the Auditor-General's Report, under 'Findings and comments. Public Libraries Division', as follows:

A review of the division's book acquisition program revealed that a significant shortfall in funds in excess of \$550 000 had occurred for the 1984-85 program. This shortfall, which was met out of the funds intended for the 1985-86 program, was not

allowed for in the framing of the 1985-86 division's budget. The reasons for the shortfall include—

- Costs of overseas book purchases increased substantially due to unfavourable foreign exchange conditions;
- The long lead time involved and hence the difficulty in estimating accurately an average book price.

The department has proposed corrective action which includes reviews of the Libraries Subsidy Scheme (by the Library Review Committee) and of its foreign currency dealings.

What is proposed? Who is undertaking this review, when will they report to the Minister, and what will it cost? Why was there a difficulty with the budget, and why was the \$550 000 from 1984-85 not included in the 1985-86 budget?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: These problems have been brought about partly by the fall in the Australian dollar over which unfortunately we have no control. It is true, as stated in the Auditor-General's Report, that we are working on ways to correct some of the problems that we have had. The Librarian, Mr Ewan Miller, has probably had more involvement than anyone here with working on appropriate ways of overcoming our problems, and I asked him to tell us what developments have occurred.

Mr Miller: The problem has occurred because the Libraries Board sets what it calls the average book price for purchases for libraries in February or March of any one year and that is usually 12 to 18 months before the books are published. It estimates in advance what the average book price will be. In 1985 it set its average book price at \$11 and a month after that the Australian dollar began its dramatic decline. By the end of the 1985-86 financial year the average book price was \$13. We underestimated the average book price by \$2 because of the fluctuations in the exchange rate. The library has always been concerned about having to estimate that price so far in advance but, because the method of distributing books to libraries is based on a volume per capita basis rather than a dollar per capita basis, this is the method that has been used. In the past, while there have been fluctuations, they have been only relatively minor and it has not had a major impact on the buying powers of libraries or the book budgets.

Because the fall was so dramatic, the buying power of the Public Libraries Branch dropped by 19 per cent because of the fall in the value of the dollar. That is significantly less than the dollar fall because there were some libraries elsewhere in Australia that took the full impact of that and had a 35 per cent cut in their purchasing power. We have done better because we are buying on a State-wide basis and are able to negotiate better terms. We are certainly able to negotiate with our suppliers on ways to ameliorate this condition.

The Auditor-General believed that this method of setting the average book price was going to cause us further problems in the future and suggested that we needed to look at ways and means of changing that. That matter has been taken up by the Libraries Review Committee referred to already this afternoon, and its report is expected shortly. It is anticipated that that review committee will suggest that we change from a volume per capita standard to a dollar value per capita standard to overcome this problem.

The other issue referred to was the different financial solutions that perhaps we could look at to overcome the effect of the fall in the dollar. One of the easiest ways of meeting this problem is additional funds to be provided by the Government, which in fact has been done both in the State Library and in the public libraries area. We are also having discussions with SAFA to see whether or not it is possible for us to use overseas money to purchase our books and repay that money later when the value of the dollar is higher, because about 75 per cent to 80 per cent of our purchases come from overseas.

Even though we buy very heavily from Australian publishers the vast bulk of our material must come from overseas. Other things we have been looking at include purchasing our books through New Zealand which, up until today, was of financial benefit to us: the New Zealand price was being subsidised by overseas publishers because it was a smaller market. Until the New Zealand Government introduced its goods and services tax today, the differential between the New Zealand dollar and the Australian dollar was significant enough to offset the fall that occurred here.

The other thing that we have been attempting to do is to look at different ways of using different materials, for example, purchasing materials in paperback rather than hardback if we felt there was a cost advantage and then rebinding those books when they came to Australia at a cheaper cost than we would have paid than if we had purchased the hardback books in the first place.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Mr Miller referred to the fact that we did not seek reimbursement of that \$550 000 in the 1985-86 budget. It was considered at that time that local councils would not be in a position to match the money anyway because they, too, were having their own financial problems. We were all being affected by the fall in the Australian dollar and, as this money is provided on a subsidy basis, it was considered that councils would not be in a position to match the dollar-for-dollar funding and, therefore, it was considered unnecessary to apply for it to be reimbursed from Treasury.

Mr BECKER: I would like to know what amount in turnover we are talking about, because \$550 000 is a significant loss. What monetary values are involved?

Mr Miller: The total budget for this year is just over \$5 million for book purchases for both the State Library and public libraries. About \$2.2 million of that is not Government money but is local government money. We buy the books on behalf of local authorities, and they pay half of it. They pay the money to us and it is invested on the short-term money market and then used as required.

Mr BECKER: What is the current State Library figure for loss of books through theft? Is the situation improving or deteriorating? What number of books are stolen and what is the value of books missing every year? I am concerned as a member of a high school council, because that school loses about \$3 000 worth of books each year. That is a large sum to make up. What is the impact on libraries from theft? Have the State Library and other libraries experienced similar trends?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am informed that we have had about a 8 per cent loss since 1884 in the State Library.

Mr TYLER: Is that per year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Overall, The record is good. A sample survey was done last year. We keep a good handle on exactly what is happening in the State Library and it appears that we hold our books well.

Mr BECKER: What does that represent in dollar terms?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We cannot answer that question.

Mr BECKER: Do you make a provision of \$10 000 or \$100 000 to cover missing books?

Mr Miller: Next year we will be doing a full stocktake of the collection. There has never been a full stocktake of the State Library since it opened in 1884. The Minister referred to the sample we took to estimate whether there was a problem, and the figure ascertained was 8 per cent. That sample was conducted across the library's collection to see what the loss rate was. We will be able to establish next year what the loss rate will be, what the number of books will be. We also believe that of the 8 per cent, some of the

books are not lost but are mis-shelved and misplaced. The stocktake will identify if that has happened. If I can answer the question, public libraries do not have a significant loss rate from their book stocks because they are lending services and people can borrow the books relatively freely.

In the worst case of which we are aware in South Australia they had lost 2 per cent of their collection in any one year, but in most cases it was substantially less than that. The Libraries Board has never encouraged councils to introduce security systems because the loss rate is relatively low. In public libraries where the collections are being turned over with new books being added, we replace something like 14 per cent of the stock each year because the material either gets worn out or becomes out of date. That 2 per cent loss rate is not a significant part of that loss. The number of books that are actually lost through the circulation system—the ones that become overdue and are not returned—is a very small percentage. The other books that get lost are those which walk off the shelf and do not get issued.

Mr TYLER: Concerning the State's sesquicentenary celebrations, what involvement have young people played in Jubilee 150 functions and what role has the Minister's department played in encouraging active participation of young people in those programs?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A number of things have happened in respect to J150. First, an officer of the Youth Bureau has been working on various programs of youth participation. We have assisted with various young people's community groups which have been looking at putting their own projects together. There has also been a representative of the Youth Bureau on the J150 board. At least, that person was appointed when she was a member of the Youth Bureau staff. She has since moved to another part of the Public Service.

That input on the work of the Jubilee 150 Board initially came from the Youth Bureau, the staff members of which helped put together a program of youth activities that have become part of the formal J150 youth celebrations that are taking place this year. The major components of that include what has been called the J150 Travelling Music Show. That will provide entertainment and training to young people in isolated areas—in fact, in 22 rural centres. The idea is to take a group of persons to country centres to teach young people how they can run their own discos, dances and things of that kind, as well as the sort of skills that they need to stage that form of entertainment. Since the idea was floated with young people in country areas, there has been an excellent response, and we expect that it will be a very successful program during the coming months. In addition, we have assisted in the design, promotion and administration of a youth grants scheme and the youth organisation fund, whereby money is allocated to community groups for projects and activities involving young people during J150 year.

Another significant contribution (and one which will be tangible and have significant lasting benefit) is the contribution made through the J150 youth committee to the rejuvenation of the Odeon Theatre, which will be the new home for Youth Performing Arts now that Theatre 62 has closed down. The Odeon Theatre was opened by the Premier last week. The J150 youth committee contribution to that was to renovate the room that will now be the rehearsal room in the theatre. That was a very significant contribution, because the organisers of the rejuvenation process were running out of funds and were not sure how they would find the cash that they needed to do the work required on the rehearsal room. This injection of funds, which came through the youth committee of J150, has made a significant

contribution and will make the running of that theatre much more successful.

Mr TYLER: What role is the Youth Bureau playing in regional centres? I understand that the Youth Bureau has been involved in a number of regional areas in the past, but its role has recently changed.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think this follows on from the points that I was making earlier about the new advisory facilitating role that the Youth Bureau is playing, not only in the State Government service in the development of programs for young people, but also in assisting community organisations to achieve their aims with respect to services for young people. Two very good examples of the Youth Bureau's activities during the last 12 months were those that I mentioned earlier, namely, the development of youth centres in Whyalla and Elizabeth.

The work of Youth Bureau staff in coordinating the committees that have been made up of Government department representatives and community groups and who's aim is to determine just what those communities are looking for in a youth centre and bringing those ideas to fruition has been a very important role indeed. It is something which I think has been lacking very much in the development of our youth services in the past, because we have tended to have Government agencies, whether State, Commonwealth or local government for that matter, making decisions on behalf of young people about what is good for them rather than asking young people themselves to participate in management committees and groups which are making plans for services that ultimately they will be using. That is a very strong emphasis in the work of the Youth Bureau: we try wherever we can to ensure that young people are being included in whatever discussions are taking place in the development of youth services.

Mr TYLER: I am aware that there has been a problem in the State library for some time in the area of occupational health and safety, particularly as it affects repetition strain injury. I understand that the library has conducted a program within the library. How successful has that program been?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have established a department-wide committee on occupation health and safety which I think is a very significant initiative. As a result of that committee's being established, there has been significant education of staff about their own responsibilities in maintaining proper standards of occupational health and safety. There has also been an extensive review of work practices. This was particularly important within the State Library because, as you say, there was a period during which many members of the library staff contracted RSI. As a result of the steps that we have taken, we have now eliminated RSI altogether from the library, and we have therefore been able to make a significant reduction in our workers compensation premiums, which for 1986-87 have been reduced by 21 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN: We anticipate moving into the waste management section now.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: As far as the Opposition is concerned the youth portfolio area is concluded, and my colleague the member for Heysen will be asking a question in relation to libraries. I will follow with a question in relation to public papers.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: For a long time I have been concerned about the lack of support given by successive Governments to the State Library, and in this respect I refer to a statement which appeared in the *Adelaide Review* and which gives recent Governments an absolute blast. Referring to the Central Library Services in South Australia, the

South Australian President of the association said that they did not compare well with those of libraries in other States. He said:

Central library services in South Australia do not compare well with Western Australia, where the new Alexander State Library makes our State Library look like a bad example of a Coober Pedy dugout—except that dugouts don't leak.

He went on to be extremely critical, as evidenced by the following statement:

... South Australia devoted less to the purchase of monographs in 1984-85 than any other State except Victoria.

Bearing in mind the advantages that have been derived in this State from the Mortlock estate, the Victorian facilities are much better than ours. A number of suggestions have been made by people who have had a long association with the State Library. One suggestion is that, because of the difficulties experienced by the South Australian State Library, it should shed its lending responsibilities and that a separate City of Adelaide lending library should be established. It has also been suggested that one of the great difficulties that the library has concerns its lack of an exhibition gallery, whereas all other State libraries have such a facility where books and other documents can be displayed. In South Australia there is a desperate lack of such a facility.

Will the Minister comment on the suggestion that, unless funding can be increased in order to substantially upgrade the current State Library facilities, its lending responsibility should cease and that it should revert to being a repository for records, books, etc. that could be displayed rather than lent?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am aware of the debate that has been taking place concerning the role of the Central Library Services, and I should like to make two or three points. First, concerning the funding that has been allocated to the central library services during the past few years, successive Governments, including Liberal Governments, have agreed with the policy, taken by the Libraries Board and the Government in the mid-1970s, to develop a community libraries program, to which I referred earlier. We are now reaching the end of the 10-year development phase and, in conjunction with local government, we have been able to develop community libraries in most parts of the State. That is a significant development indeed and it has been a popular one in the community throughout South Australia.

We have been able to bring library resources to people, some of whom live in isolated and remote areas of the State. We all live with the financial constraints of the time and there is no doubt that the decisions that have been taken during the past 10 years have been taken in that direction. The Government and the Libraries Board have deliberately developed a community libraries program throughout the State, I guess at the expense of some developments within the central library services. We should like to be able to do both to ensure that aspects of both services have the resources that they need but, in times when we have to decide priorities, it has been decided that the community development program should have first priority.

Now that that program is reaching a conclusion and we have a network of excellent community libraries throughout the State, the role of the central lending services is called into question, and there are a number of views on that role. Some people say, as the honourable member suggested, that the lending services should be closed and that there should be a community library somewhere in the city. Some members of the City Council are interested in that development. Indeed, the City Council has recently decided to develop a community library in North Adelaide, although I have been

told that it is likely to be some time before it will provide resources for a lending service within the City of Adelaide.

Whether or not that is the correct approach or whether we should consider a different role for the lending services in the city is something which the Libraries Review Committee has considered and on which it will make recommendations to me shortly. A view is also held that the people now using the lending services in the city, since the community library service was developed, comprise rather a commuter population and that therefore there is a role for a lending service there to provide specific sorts of service. For example, such a service might be developed as a model lending service; it could perhaps put special emphasis on a collection of multicultural material. A range of suggestions has been made along those lines. Those are the sorts of issue that have been addressed by the Libraries Review Committee and, when that Committee has made its recommendations to me, we can decide on the future of the lending services.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Public Record Office now has its own identity. Will this body have a direct involvement with the joint repository that is being developed at Gepps Cross? I suspect that it will. What degree of consultation was there with the local organisation by the Commonwealth in determining how and where that facility should be built? Was due consideration given to the likelihood of flooding of the site on which the repository is being built? That site is a flat low lying area which has been flooded in the past and which is most likely to be liable to future flooding with the development of a major fruit and vegetable market a little upstream of the site.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A close consultation was held between representatives of the Australian Archives and officers of the Public Record Office concerning a suitable proposal for the development of a joint facility. We originally intended to try to obtain a building that could be suitably renovated for the purposes of the collection, and the idea of having a shared facility was to reduce costs as much as possible. However, a building suitable for renovation could not be found because of the special requirements of a storage facility of that kind, so it was decided that a new facility should be purpose built and shared by the Federal and State Governments. We hope that that building will be completed early next year. The costs are being shared between the two Governments. I do not know whether matters relating to flooding of the site have been considered, but I will ask Ms Val Siebert (Director, Public Record Office) to comment if she has any information.

Ms Siebert: Planning for the repository was a joint undertaking with equal partnership between the Australian Archives and the Public Record Office. At all stages, it was assisted by the South Australian Department of Housing and Construction and the Federal Department of Housing and Construction and the Federal Department of Local Government and Administrative Services. There was extensive work in the preparation of the brief that finally went to the developers who submitted their proposals. The brief included the nature of the land and the requirement either that the land be not in a flood plain area or that adequate drainage provision be incorporated in the planning of the site. At all stages we were involved in the choice of the site, although there are not really many areas where we can build a structure such as this. We sincerely hope that the developers have designed a building that will withstand any environmental problems.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I trust that my worst fears will not come to fruition, but the area is relatively low lying compared with the adjacent roadway, and major develop-

ments upstream could prove an embarrassment if the amount of water that came from the area adjacent to the abattoirs in the past was any indication of what might happen in the future.

What tangible and practical evidence is there that a serious attack upon the disposal of toxic waste is foremost in the thinking of the Government and/or the Waste Management Commission at present? I am talking not about the accidental escape of toxic material on an industrial site but about the material that is transported from industrial sites for disposal elsewhere where there is a spillage on the roadway. Such matters are constantly highlighted in the press as a concern of the public and administrators, be they emergency services personnel, local government or environmentalists.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The matter is of great concern to the Government, to me as Minister responsible for the Waste Management Commission, to the Department of Environment and Planning and to various other community organisations. But, as this is a technical question, Mr Maddocks, the Director of the Waste Management Commission, will outline what steps are being taken to control it.

Additional Departmental Adviser:

Mr R. Maddocks, Director, Waste Management Commission.

Mr Maddocks: I am not certain whether the honourable member is referring to spillages of waste materials or spillages of chemicals *per se*. In regard to spillages of chemicals, the Waste Management Commission is involved in a Government group, an emergency response organisation, in which the fire services and the police are the primary combatants. If a chemical spillage results in waste material that must be disposed of, the commission is called in in the last resort to advise on what to do with that material.

In relation to waste toxic chemicals, the commission instituted a waste disposal notice earlier this calendar year, starting on 1 March. The production, transport and disposal of alkalines, acids and cyanide waste is now controlled under a docketing system so that we can keep track of those wastes. As from 1 September this year, the docketing system applied to all toxic waste materials. Through that system we are able to keep control, although not so much over the production of those wastes, because that is basically an industrial function as they result from industry. However, once the waste has been produced, it must be disposed of, and through that system we can track its transport to the final disposal site.

That system has now been implemented quite successfully with the cooperation of industry, and there has been little problem in its introduction. I have covered two matters: first, the spillages of chemicals that might result in waste material and, secondly, control over the actual toxic waste stream that is produced by industry.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am worried not so much about the spillages (that is a problem in itself): I am more particularly concerned about the identification of potential toxic wastes at the work site and the methods that apply relative to their transportation and disposal so that they do not cause a public concern other than by accident hopefully to reduce the possibility of accidents.

Mr Maddocks: At the producer stage, several years ago we introduced a licensing system, which was covered by the Waste Management Commission legislation, under which the producers of toxic materials had to advise the commission of the type, concentration and quantity of such waste, how it was produced (and I am talking about annual quantities)

and how it was being disposed of. That gave us a base from which to work. We also introduced a system of transport licensing, and conditions applied to certain people. Fortunately, relatively few people transport liquid and toxic waste materials, but they are now licensed and controlled. There are only three liquid waste disposal depots in Adelaide, and they have been licensed.

The three types of licensees are tied together by the waste disposal notice so that we can keep track of the quantities, who is producing the waste, who carries it, and where it is disposed. The commission is advised of any transactions, and they are recorded in our office and kept on a computer record. Our staff also carries out inspections at the factory level. For example, Monroe Australia on South Road has been a source of chemical waste, mainly solvents, and Mitsubishi has also been a major producer of wastes, as has GMH. Our staff is in fairly regular contact with those firms to monitor the amounts and types of waste being produced. In fact, all major industries within Adelaide or South Australia are known to our staff.

Mr De LAINE: How much of the effort of the Waste Management Commission is devoted to country areas now that non-metropolitan waste management operators have to pay?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Considerable effort is undertaken in country areas by members of the Waste Management Commission. In convincing me that it was necessary for rural councils to be included under the waste management fees provisions, the members of the commission estimated that about two full-time equivalent staff are occupied on work in country areas.

This was estimated to cost the commission about \$106 000 per annum. It is estimated that in the future about three full-time equivalent officers will be working on matters that need the commission's attention in the country areas, and that will add significantly to the costs. When one bears in mind that the increase in contributions and licensing fees from country areas will bring in an anticipated \$112 250 per annum one can see that services are being delivered, even with the fees introduced, that are probably not being paid for. There has always been a workload associated with country areas irrespective of whether operators had to pay contributions, and it is anticipated that this will continue and members of the commission will have to travel in country areas to see that the environment and interests of the people in rural communities are protected just as they are in metropolitan areas.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions, I declare the examination completed.

Works and Services—Department of Local Government,
\$2 778 000

Chairman:

Mr D.M. Ferguson

Members:

Mr H. Becker

Mr M.R. De Laine

The Hon. B.C. Eastick

Mr K.C. Hamilton

Mr P.B. Tyler

The Hon. D.C. Wotton

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts.

Departmental Advisers:

Ms A.M. Dunn, Director, Department of Local Government.

Mr M.A. Lennon, Acting Deputy Director.

Mr M.A. Herrmann, Manager, Support Services.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: One line refers to the purchase of equipment at a cost of \$340 000, but I have identified no particular reason for this. How is to be deployed?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I have a breakdown of how that money will be spent. The vast majority of it, \$245 000, will go towards the purchase of computer equipment for the State Library, the so-called ALIS system—that is an automated lending and information system. In addition, there will be the purchase of new equipment in the State Library and the Public Record Office. That totals \$45 000, and among that equipment will be a microfiche reader, a flexi-clock, a cassette fast copier, a telefacsimile, and a planetary camera. Some \$50 000 will be spent on the purchase of equipment at the Parks Community Centre, and among the equipment being purchased will be computer terminals, hand held radios, a vacuum cleaner, fire exit signs, an aerator, lighting, weight equipment, control board—theatres, and a van for the Cellar which is a place where young people meet. On those three areas of expenditure, we have a total \$340 000.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions, I declare the examination completed.

Tourism, \$9 664 000

Chairman:

Mr D.M. Ferguson

Members:

Mr D.S. Baker

The Hon. Jennifer Cashmore

Mr M.R. De Laine

Ms S.M. Lenehan

Mr J.K.G. Oswald

Mr P.B. Tyler

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr G.J. Inns, Director of Tourism.

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

Mr D.E. Packer, Assistant Director (Administration).

Mr L.J. Penley, Assistant Director (Development).

Mr P.J. Van Der Lee, Assistant Director (Planning).

Mr G.L. Ashman, Administration Manager, Adelaide Convention Centre.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Tyler): I declare the vote open for examination. Would the Minister like to make any opening remarks?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, Mr Chairman.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Would the member for Coles like to make an opening comment?

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Yes, Mr Chairman. I compliment the Minister and her staff on the arrangements for the South Australian Tourism Conference last week. I think the department must be warmly congratulated on the work it did in conjunction with the consultants. I am quite sure that the arrangements made for the national tourism awards presentation would have drawn great praise from the interstate and overseas visitors who came to Adelaide for that occasion.

Having commenced with a compliment, I say now that the Liberal Party very much regrets that the tourism budget is not in keeping with what we believe and what the Government claims to be the State's commitment to the tourism industry. We feel that, given expenditure in other areas, tourism has suffered as a result of quite serious cutbacks. We will be pursuing this matter with further questioning.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I thank the member for Coles for her comments about the organisation of the tourism conference last week and the presentation of the national tourism awards. I agree that it was an excellent week. In many respects I think the members of the industry who participated in last week's conference did so with much enthusiasm and commitment to really achieving something in the conference. I think we find very often that people attend these conferences as an opportunity to have a few days off or to mix socially with people they have not seen for a while. While there was considerable social activity and an opportunity for people to do that, it was also a business meeting which was treated very seriously by members of the industry who participated. I think that much of the information that came out of the working sessions will be very useful in the preparation particularly of the tourism development plan to be used in the next few years and also in helping us to set directions for the industry in South Australia.

I do not agree with the member for Coles with respect to the size of the budget and the proportion that she says has been cut. In fact, this year's tourism budget has increased by 10 per cent on last year. A factor that is not readily visible within the tourism budget is an amount of \$450 000 earned by the department last year in commissions from sales in our travel centres. Treasury has allowed us to keep that money this year. The department has been negotiating for this with Treasury officials for some time.

We consider that we should have a more sales oriented approach within the Travel Centre. One way of doing that is for the commissions that we earn from sales to be retained by the department so that officers of the department and our travel consultants can see exactly what their efforts are achieving; we can then use the money that we are able to earn through commissions to further the work of the department. For the first time we have been successful in having Treasury agree that we should retain our commissions. We hope that, by taking certain measures to improve our sales capacity, we will be able to increase the amount of money that we earn during the coming financial year in relation to commissions and considerably more than the \$450 000, which was last year's figure. We have been doing that by way of a sales training program for members of the staff within the department. The introduction of a new computerised booking system in the department allows us to be much more efficient in converting tourism inquiries into

sales. We anticipate that the commissions through those earnings this year will be considerably higher and, as a result, the budget will be boosted even further.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I must take issue with the Minister over the 10 per cent increase. First, that barely covers inflation, and, secondly, there is a grant of almost \$1 million to the Adelaide Convention Centre. That is a new initiative which is quite separate from all that has gone before, so it does not reflect an overall increase in the budget as presented in previous years. However, I leave that aside for the moment and turn to Program 1, 'Strategic Planning Policy Formulations for Tourism Development', which includes the encouragement of appropriate infrastructure.

I would like to question the Minister about the Entertainment Centre, which is regarded as tourism infrastructure. Will the Minister explain why the Government chose the design by Hassell & Partners rather than the design submitted by Colliers International?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As Mr Inns is Chairman of the committee appointed to assess the various proposals submitted by the companies interested in developing the Entertainment Centre, he would be best placed to explain how this committee came to the conclusion it did and why the Government decided to accept the committee's recommendation.

Mr Inns: I find myself somewhat awkwardly placed in answering this question in absolute detail if we are getting into the realms of comparative prices put forward by both consortia. As late as yesterday I received a deputation from Colliers, who have been concerned about the publicity that has found its way into the press and who have considered that it has not assisted the company. More particularly, Colliers have no desire to see the details of its model displayed publicly in terms of the costs it has put forward.

Having that in mind, perhaps I can indicate the basic factors if that will suffice that were considered by the committee that favoured the Hassell model. Perhaps I could dispose of the financial considerations by saying that: we engaged two consultants, one a firm of chartered accountants in Adelaide, Edwards Marshall, and the other Mr David Peterson, Managing Director, Michael Edgely Holdings, Perth. He was formerly the Manager of the Perth Entertainment Centre. We sought additional professional advice from the Department of Housing and Construction, Architectural and Quantity Surveying Divisions, as well as the Crown Solicitor's office. We were able to reduce the two schemes offered by Colliers and Hassells to a common denominator form, which meant that the difference in the prices that were put forward for the basic capital cost for both models was very little.

In fact, when account was taken of the difference between the servicing and maintenance costs of both models, the difference was about \$14 000 between the final costing of the Hassells and Colliers models. The committee believed it was able to ignore to a substantial degree the differences in cost because we had in front of us two models that varied in price, at a common denominator level at least by only \$14 000. So, price was not a factor of earnest consideration.

The committee was faced with considering two excellent proposals and recommending to the Government which model was the superior design. We reported to the Government that both models were thoroughly researched, that both were cost effective and that both would perform the role of an entertainment centre most adequately. However, the Hassell model was preferred principally on its internal design because of its greater degree of flexible use, its supe-

rior lines of sight and its better internal patron circulation provisions and ease of orientation.

The committee considered that in comparison to the Hassell model the Collier plan did not cater sufficiently for toilet and concession provisions and had less convenience storage and servicing provisions. In addition, the Hassell model was adjudged by the committee, in consultation with its consultants, to be a more aesthetic design and, in particular, addressed more adequately the gateway location at the commencement of Port Road.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Notwithstanding the concern that Colliers might have expressed to the Director of Tourism about the publicity associated with the unsuccessful tender, nevertheless this matter is of public interest and is one that we believe should be pursued. Will the Minister advise the committee whether the Government has received a letter of complaint about the final tendering process for the Entertainment Centre? If it has, will the Minister divulge the nature of the complaint and what has been the Government's response?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: To my knowledge there has been no letter of complaint about the tendering process. Certainly, I have received no correspondence and I know of no other.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I understand that there is concern upon which a complaint could be based because of the involvement of Mr Russell Thompson in the Government selection committee at the time the tender was narrowed down to two, based on the fact that Mr Thompson subsequently resigned to join a company associated with the successful tenderer.

Mr Thompson was an officer in the Department of Recreation and Sport at the time of his membership of the selection committee, and he is now employed by a company called Natplan, which has interlocking directorships with Hassell and Partners and shares the same business premises. Is the Minister concerned that this appears to have jeopardised the integrity of the tendering process in that Mr Thompson would have been in possession of confidential information supplied by Colliers at the time?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am advised that, at the time Mr Thompson left the State Government to take up an appointment with that company, the committee sought advice from Crown Law about the issue, and was advised by the Crown Solicitor that the company to which Mr Thompson was going was so far removed from Hassell and Partners that there was no cause for concern. I might add that at that stage the final submissions for the project had not been put forward.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: My understanding is that Natplan's interlocking directorships with Hassell and Partners and the fact that Natplan shares the same business premises as Hassell and Partners has certainly aroused some questions in the minds of those who believe that Colliers could have been disadvantaged by the knowledge that Mr Thompson had as a result of his originally being on the selection committee.

Leaving that aside for a moment, in regard to the financing of the Entertainment Centre, the Premier said that a starting date will depend on the availability of funds and that in this respect the Government may seek private sector involvement. Will the Minister confirm that, following the Premier's announcement during the election campaign last year that the Government intended to proceed with an entertainment centre, the Government was approached by Australian Fixed Trusts with a proposition to underwrite the cost of the entire project and that this proposal was referred to the Entertainment Centre Committee and

rejected? If that is so, and I would appreciate the Minister's confirming it, why was the project rejected considering the difficulties the Government is having in funding the centre?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I understand that Australian Fixed Trusts did indicate interest in the development but, when it learned of the magnitude of the costs involved in building an entertainment centre it withdrew its interest.

Ms LENEHAN: My questions relate to page 627 of the Estimates of Payments book. The penultimate paragraph on the left hand side of the page states:

Gaps in the tourism data base and its unreliability in parts, continue to hinder tourism planning, policy and priority formulation. There is an urgent need to improve the tourism data base and to place more emphasis on evaluation of the economic value and impacts of tourism projects and special events.

Given that statement, could the Minister outline what initiatives the department intends to take to redress that criticism of the tourism base and the collection of data information?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This matter is of considerable concern to me. Since I became Minister of Tourism and started to become much more familiar with the statistics that are available to us in determining the pattern of movements of tourists around this country, the attitudes of tourists about various market destinations, and the numbers of people moving to different parts of the country, one of the things that has concerned me enormously is that much of the information arrives much too late to be very useful to us for planning purposes, or it is collected in such a way that it is unreliable or inadequate for State use. Some of the international figures, for example, usually contain such a small sample of visitors who have visited, say, South Australia that it is very difficult to regard those figures as being terribly reliable. It is also a matter about which the department has been very concerned for some time. It has made numerous efforts to bring some of the deficiencies of these surveys to the attention of the Federal authorities and the Australian Bureau of Statistics office here in South Australia.

I decided this year that the matter was of such concern that it was worth raising at a Tourism Ministers council meeting which was held in June. I presented to that meeting a paper outlining our view about the deficiencies within the current statistical collection to see what we could do about overhauling the whole system and making it more useful for planning purposes. That Tourism Ministers council meeting resolved to ask the Federal Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism to prepare a paper on the issue with a view to suggesting various options that might be available to us about how we could improve the range and collection of information at our disposal. That is to be followed up later.

The issue is obviously complicated by how much these things will cost. If we have a collection of various forms of information to which we do not currently have access in the tourism industry, it will mean either that agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics will have to cease collecting other information on behalf of organisations in other industries or that additional money will have to be allocated to the Bureau of Statistics to enable it to add to the information that it currently collects.

That raises the question of cost, not only for the Federal Government but also for State Governments, because there would be some expectation that State Governments would participate or perhaps that industry might play a role in paying the additional costs for the collection of information that was not currently available to us. These are some of the questions that will be dealt with by the discussion paper that is being prepared. I hope that from these discussions

we can improve the range of information that is available in tourism and thereby improve our ability to monitor tourism industry performance and plan better, and more efficiently, for the future.

Ms LENEHAN: Listed under the 'Strategies' heading is the need for high priority on selected infrastructure development. One of the strategies that is outlined is:

Concentration of Government tourism infrastructure investment in selected locations with the highest development potential.

Is that process taking place and, if so, without betraying confidences or in any way jeopardising proposals that the department may be looking at, could the Minister outline the criteria for establishing the highest development potential of a particular area and say whether there are any such areas at which the Minister and the department are specifically looking? I am aware of the broad general range of things like the Flinders Ranges and Kangaroo Island, but could she flesh out that statement for the Committee?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not sure that I understand the question entirely. Certainly, one of the things that we are trying to do as part of our strategy for tourism development in South Australia is to identify those areas of the State that have the highest priority for attracting visitors. Then we will attempt to re-orient our own funding, which is available to us through our Development Assistance Fund, to assist with the development of those areas where it is possible to do so. We have also initiated or participated in various studies of certain areas that we consider to be priority areas. I refer to, say, places like the Flinders Ranges and Kangaroo Island—areas like that where we have employed consultants to prepare reports or carry out investigations on what the development potential might be. In this way, we can assess those recommendations and do what is possible for a State Government to do to realise the development potential.

Regarding the development assistance line, we have tried this year for the first time to use that more scientifically and in a way that is perhaps more in keeping with that general development thrust, so we have split the development assistance funding into two areas. First, we are calling one fund the Development Assistance Fund, which will maintain the sort of assistance that we have given to, say, local government authorities in the past to subsidise the upgrading of toilet facilities, camping grounds, picnic spots and that sort of thing which help to improve local areas for visitors. Secondly, we are setting up a Development Initiatives Fund, which really relates to pursuing the broad development thrust on which we are embarking. With this money, we are planning to provide funding specifically in those priority areas. In some cases it will be on projects that are wholly funded by the Department of Tourism, because we recognise that in particular areas it will not be possible for local councils to match the funding in the time frame that we need to have money spent in order to provide the facilities that are necessary to increase the number of visitors to a particular area.

An example of that is a project at Cape Jervis, south of Adelaide, where the Department of Tourism has played an important role in providing shore facilities to make it easier for tourists and others with motor vehicles who are looking for access to Kangaroo Island by the *Philanderer* ferry. We are upgrading the carparking area, sealing the roadway, and generally upgrading the landscaping in that region. Had we waited for the local council to find sufficient funding to match, on a dollar for dollar basis, the money that we might make available, it would have been a long way down the track before we could achieve those improvements. We

thought it sufficiently important to allocate money quickly, so we have done that work alone.

A similar initiative has been taken on Kangaroo Island where, earlier this year, I announced that about \$1 million would be spent over the next four years on the Island. Some of the money will be spent on the usual dollar for dollar subsidy basis, working with the two councils on Kangaroo Island, whereas for other projects that are considered to be of a high priority we are fully funding the initiative. So, there will be a combination of funding arrangements for Kangaroo Island because that work has been identified as a priority development area of the State. We are therefore moving towards incorporating not only our development funding but also the pursuit of the various research proposals and consultants' reports that we have called for to bring together a much more cohesive State-wide strategy for development, because it is obviously important to have attractions and facilities in place before we encourage vastly increased numbers of people to visit a region.

Ms LENEHAN: I thank the Minister for her reply. I am aware of the facility at Cape Jervis, because the Industries Development Committee played a significant role in helping to ensure that such facilities would be available for *Philanderer III*. Bearing in mind the emphasis that was given to the matter by the recent tourism conference and the theme of that conference, can the Minister or her advisers comment on the possibility of considering the development, perhaps through an entrepreneurial Government and private enterprise initiative, of some form of theme park along the lines of, although smaller than, Disneyland? I am aware that studies, initiated earlier, have considered this type of man made tourist attraction, and it seems to me that such an attraction would complement the already existing facilities such as the casino, the Grand Prix event, and the Convention Centre, and provide an Australian version of Disneyland which could attract people in its own right.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: On first impressions, the idea of having a major attraction such as Disneyland is attractive indeed, because such major theme parks have been successful in various parts of the world. However, such parks rely very much on local support for survival: places such as Disneyland, for example, need about 70 per cent local patronage to succeed. In a State the size of South Australia we would find it difficult with our local population base to support in an ongoing way such a major attraction.

However, such attractions as theme parks, which are specific tourist attractions, are important in the overall package of attractions that any State has to offer, and for South Australian conditions perhaps smaller theme parks that interlinked throughout the State might be a more reasonable approach to adopt.

Nevertheless, any such endeavours must rely on the interest of private sector operators to take up the challenge. I guess that in South Australia we already have one theme park of the kind that we are discussing: at West Beach, on West Beach Trust land, there is the Marineland complex, which is an attempt in the direction about which we are talking. That complex has met with varying success over the past few years. In fact, I understand that the West Beach Trust is looking for investors who would be prepared to give the whole operation a big boost, because it is difficult for Marineland to survive and prosper. One reason in recent years concerns the infrastructure: the buildings and other supporting structures have been run down considerably, so the complex is not as physically attractive as it once was. The West Beach Trust has had trouble finding the finance with which to upgrade the complex, so it is looking for investors who might be interested in doing something about

that development. In summary, a big theme park of the Disneyland variety probably would not work here, but there is an opportunity for us to pursue ideas on a smaller scale.

Mr D.S. BAKER: There is a massive increase in expenditure on Programs 1 to 4, which concern tourist research. Is that research being undertaken by private consultants and, if it is, what is the normal basis of engaging such consultants?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A major market research project, which is being undertaken by the department this year, will cost us about \$150 000 to have carried out by private consultants. It is now six years since a major market research proposal was pursued in this State, and there is no doubt that the nature of tourism and the attractions that exist in this State have changed significantly since 1980. The perceptions of South Australia, the State's tourism potential, and what we have to offer tourists have also changed. There have been significant changes, especially in the past 12 months. With the opening of our international airport in 1982 things really started to change in the tourism area.

The Grand Prix, the opening of the casino, and the various operations on the Murray River, such as the paddle steamers, have come on stream in the past few years. The tourism attractions that we have to offer and the marketing that is being undertaken not only by the State Government but also through private enterprise organisations are helping significantly to change our place within the tourism market and are changing perceptions of this State.

We thought that it was timely to embark on detailed market research, and a private firm of consultants is undertaking that research on our behalf this year. We hope to have the results of that survey by the end of the year so that we can prepare our advertising campaigns much more effectively and target our markets much more specifically. In addition, there are other smaller market research projects that will be conducted during the year.

Mr D.S. BAKER: Is the \$325 000 to be directed to the one market research organisation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No. The major market research project to which I referred will cost \$150 000; that sum is committed to the company that will undertake the market research. By the time the whole project is completed, there will be other components, which will take the total to \$164 000. In addition, reports are being prepared, such as regional profiles, statistical reports and various special project reports, which total \$25 000. We are also undertaking area strategy plans in line with the theme of priority development, to which I referred previously. That will identify tourism investment opportunities, tourism infrastructure requirements and tourism management policies in the Flinders Ranges, at Port Lincoln and in the Barossa area. That will total \$96 000.

The other major sum that should be included is the South Australian contribution to the domestic tourism monitor, which is collected nationally and to which we make a contribution—\$26 000 this year. There are numerous other smaller projects, making a total of \$336 000.

Mr D.S. BAKER: I note that \$985 000 has been allocated as a grant for the Adelaide Convention Centre. For what purpose is that allocation made, and is it recurrent expenditure or a capital expenditure?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The sum of \$985 000 represents the anticipated net operating deficit of the Adelaide Convention Centre for the 1986-87 financial year. That sum is based on an anticipated opening of the convention centre in April 1987. I can itemise that for the honourable member.

Mr D.S. BAKER: What are the projections for the following three years? How much of a burden will this be on the State?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I hope that it will not become much of a burden at all. So far we have projected operating deficits for 1987-88 of \$1.427 million and for 1988-89 of \$1.574 million. Beyond that, it is very difficult to make accurate predictions. The operations of the convention centre will depend very much on our ability to market South Australia as a suitable place for conventions and to attract conventions of reasonable size to this State. So far, in the short time that has been available to the management of the convention centre, it has been very successful in attracting very big and important conventions to South Australia in the next 18 months or so, and they include the SKAL conference, which involves some of the most important people in tourism in the world.

I was very interested to hear the President of the SKAL organisation, who visited South Australia a few months ago, say that in Spain (and he was Spanish) in the two years following the SKAL conference there was an increase of about 52 per cent in the number of visitors. I would not think that we can expect the same magnitude of visitor number increase, because Australia is slightly less accessible to the vast population of the world than is Spain, but the fact that some of the leaders in the travel industry will visit this country will help significantly in boosting the proportion of people who will be selling Australia to their clients later.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to program 2 on page 180 of the Estimates of Payments: what improvements in South Australian tourism information have been achieved by the Department of Tourism over the past year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A number of new reports were produced in the last financial year, including the visitors survey that was conducted in the Mid-North region; a survey of day visitors to Burra and Clare; a Barossa Valley regional inventory; a survey of visitors conducted during the Grand Prix last year; a list of tourism research publications that has been prepared by and is available through the South Australian Department of Tourism; and details on the South Australian tourism data base. We are currently upgrading the existing statistical reports, because we recognise the principle that data must be usable by people in the industry, and thus we have to make improvements in the presentation of some of the annual reports that we prepare.

We have placed added emphasis on the interpretation of the information provided in those reports, and one example is the report that was produced earlier this year called *Tourism Accommodation in South Australia*. That is an excellent publication, and it is presented so that it is very readable by people in the industry who are concerned about tourism and the prospects for tourism. It includes a graphical representation of the data so that it is easy to see.

It has information at State, regional and sub-regional levels and integrated data regarding hotel, motel and holiday flat occupancy levels, examples of how to use the information in the booklet and an explanation of terms used and the data sources from which it comes. There is also an improved appearance format on previous publications. We are trying to do that so that not only do we have a record of information about various sectors of the industry but we have it in a way that is likely to be more accessible to people so that they will use it more readily.

Mr De LAINE: What is the Government's rationale in placing such a high priority on the South Australian market research project?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As I said earlier, it has been six years since we had a comprehensive market research study in South Australia and, as numerous changes in tourism have occurred in this State, we consider that it is important to have up-to-date information about people's attitude to the State and about their intentions for holidays, and this includes international and domestic visitors. Therefore, we have undertaken an intensive market research proposal.

Mr De LAINE: In relation to the Government's travel centres and services to the public, what progress has been made in the computerisation of the Government travel centres?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The installation of computers in the Government travel centres has been an enormous leap forward in our ability to service members of the public who want information, and booking facilities. We have now installed computer terminals in our Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney offices, and that has increased the services to the public enormously. We have had an intensive staff training program so that members of the staff are able to use the equipment efficiently and it gives them much faster access to information on a variety of subjects, including accommodation, establishment of facilities in regional areas, the location and operating hours of particular tourist attractions, and so on. It has vindicated our decision to introduce this technology into our travel centres because in the past few months, with the Jubilee 150 celebrations and the increased number of people who have travelled to South Australia, we have been able to cope with a much heavier workload in our travel centres without having to employ additional staff. The computers have played an important part in that.

In addition, the computer system helps to reduce the margin of human error in providing information to the public. Instead of having to rely on personal knowledge, brochures and other information available to travel consultants when giving information, they are able to have quick access, through computer terminals, to up-to-date information. We are planning to expand the software program of the system fairly soon so that we can also provide detailed State-wide transport schedules and ultimately allow free sale and ticketing for individual accommodation, bookings and packages. In summary, the introduction of computerisation into our travel centres has been a great step forward and has worked out successfully.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: My question is still on the entertainment centre. The Minister said that she had not received a letter of complaint about the tendering process or the membership of the selection committee for the entertainment centre. Did the Premier or the Chairman of the committee receive a letter of complaint about the tendering process or the membership of the selection committee and, if so, what response has there been?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not aware of any letter that the Premier has received, and the Chairman can answer for himself.

Mr Inns: I cannot recollect a letter being received that complained about the tendering process, and the Premier has referred all correspondence he has received to me as Chairman of the committee. However, I have received a letter that drew attention to Mr Russell Thompson's resignation from the Public Service, and hence from membership of my committee, and his appointment to a company, which the honourable member for Coles described. That is the only letter that I can recall that has in any way questioned the processes.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Given the earlier response that advice was sought from the Crown Solicitor regarding Mr Thompson's membership of the committee and subsequent resignation to join a company associated with one of the tenderers, did the Chairman seek assurances from Mr Thompson that his decision to leave Government and join the company associated with Hassell would not jeopardise the integrity of the selection procedure?

Mr Inns: Yes, I received an assurance in writing.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I turn to the program support services and resources on page 629 and seek information about the funds allocated last year to marketing the State as a tourist destination. I note that the funds allocated for planning the marketing effort, intrastate promotion and interstate promotion were underspent: can the Minister explain, given the great demand for marketing effort, why last year's funds were underspent, particularly in an area where the State needs to use every one of the limited resources that we have?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will ask the Deputy Director, who is responsible for marketing initiative, to give that information.

Mr Noblet: It is my recollection that the amount was carried over at the end of the financial year due to the delay in launching the intrastate advertising campaign. As I recall, debited against the line 'Planning the market effort' are advertising agency fees incurred in the production of specific advertising material, and advertising scheduled around that time was delayed until August for two reasons. A decision was taken within the department to shift priorities at that time and bring forward another project which utilised a similar amount of funds, and that is why those particular lines were underspent: because the project was delayed for a short time until a launch which I recall happened on 15 August. In summary, the underspend is as a result of a decision taken late in the financial year to alter the timing of certain expenditure on a particular campaign, which was delayed until the 1986-87 financial year. Those allocated funds were transferred to another line within the Marketing Division.

Ms LENEHAN: I take up a question on the same line. In preparing for today's examination of the tourism budget I, too, noted that for international promotion the proposed amount for 1986-87 is considerably less than was expended for international promotion in 1985-86. However, looking below that line I note that general promotion expenditure is quite a deal higher in terms of the proposed expenditure. Has there been a significant policy change in terms of the allocation of funds for a general promotion, particularly with respect to international promotion? What is involved with general promotion and how does it differ from the interstate, intrastate and international areas?

I am particularly looking at international promotion figures. Last year actual expenditure was \$620 000, but this year proposed expenditure is \$455 000. That is a significant reduction. However, the next line deals with general promotion where \$1.057 million was spent last year and it is proposed that \$1 125 000 will be spent this year, and that is a significant increase. Is there some policy change in terms of the way promotion has been directed which would see moneys going away from international promotion slightly but increased in the general promotion area? Can the Minister elaborate on those directions which, from the figures, seem to apply?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The current figures for allocation of funding between general promotion and international promotion are not as significantly different as those mentioned by the honourable member. I think it can be

explained as a reapportioning of funding. Perhaps Mr Noblet will explain.

Mr Noblet: I think there are two parts to the member's question: first, she would like to know what is contained under general promotion; and, secondly, she would like to know why there was a significant shift in the amounts allocated to international promotion *vis-a-vis* domestic promotion. These kinds of shifts take place from time to time, depending on timing. Last financial year the department devoted a considerable amount of its resources to launching internationally the 1986 Jubilee 150 events, to take advantage of the Grand Prix and to assist promotion of the Adelaide Festival of Arts, which was the biggest festival ever undertaken. That consumed a higher proportion in 1985-86 than can be expected in 1986-87, as the Jubilee year winds down and it is a non-festival of arts year and the Grand Prix comes to stand on its own two feet. A similar amount was committed to assist the launching of the casino in 1985-86, but funding is not required to the same extent in 1986-87.

Amounts for general promotion vary from year to year depending on the stocks of brochures and other display material on hand at any one time. To contain the unit costs of some brochures, it is quite common for the department to produce 18 months or two years supply at any given time. That kind of expenditure is included under general promotion for items such as brochures, posters, display material, audio visual production, photographic services and other like items. There will be a natural fluctuation from one year to the next depending on the quantities of stocks ordered at any given time.

Ms LENEHAN: That clearly explains the shift in allocation. I apologise for being slightly parochial, but I am sure the Minister knows of my interest and involvement in tourism at a local level. The recent Pacific Area Tourism Association task force which was in South Australia to look at the whole of the Fleurieu Peninsula area came up with a number of proposals and recommendations. Will the Minister share with the Committee how successful she believes that prestigious task force was in identifying issues and proposals for the development of tourism on Fleurieu Peninsula?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think it was a very important exercise. It was the first time that a PATA task force has visited South Australia to look at potential tourism development in this State and to give us an external view of our tourism potential in a particular area. As the honourable member said, the task force was made up of very important people in the tourism industry from various parts of Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Some members had visited South Australia before and some had not, so there were people who were looking at the south coast of our State primarily through new eyes and they could be quite objective about the things they saw and their views about potential in that area.

Before dealing with some of the findings of the task force, a significant point about the work of the task force is that it was another indication of how effectively organisations like the task force, State Government departments and local government authorities can work closely together. The two councils in the south coast area were very cooperative and very keen to be part of the whole process, and they provided all sorts of assistance and information to both the department and the task force. The task force, too, complimented the Department of Tourism on the quality of the background briefings and other information made available to it in undertaking its work. I understand that the final report of the task force will be available to us in the next few

weeks, but we already have some information about the nature of its major recommendations.

I suppose the most significant recommendation is that it has suggested that for the south coast region we should have a shift in image, a change of emphasis, about what it is that we promote when we look at the south coast. It suggests that we should concentrate less on the ocean front of the south coast and much more on the lower Murray and Murray mouth region, the lakes and the wetlands. It considers that those areas have the greatest tourism development potential of any part of the south coast. The task force suggested that no single tourism development will generate significantly increased tourism volume in that area: rather, we must develop an effective strategy to achieve tourism growth by creating a complex of mutually complementary smaller developments, activities, attractions, and so on.

It suggests that we should discourage the development of any further low to medium priced accommodation in the area, because demand for that accommodation is weak at the moment. It also suggests that we should try to attract a large proportion of the interstate and international market to that region, that is, more affluent consumer groups than those who currently predominate as visitors to the region. Members of the task force also recognise the need for a much better marketing program for the south coast and believe that those areas of land that remain undeveloped in the region should be retained for future high quality tourism development.

So, in summary, what they have suggested is that we should have a range of specific attractions calculated to increase the volume of visitors to the area, to have attractions that will give the area greater appeal than it currently has and to encourage people to stay longer than they currently do because, the major market for the south coast region is for day trippers and short stay visitors, and they suggest that future developments should concentrate on keeping people in the area longer so that they spend more money, thereby boosting the regional economy.

Ms LENEHAN: My third question relates to something upon which the Minister touched, that is, the whole question of accommodation. I refer to the second paragraph on page 627 where there is talk about strong indications that there will be an oversupply of accommodation developed in Australia in forthcoming years. It goes on to talk about the direction in which the department should go in encouraging investment accommodation proposals.

In the Minister's reply she touched upon the whole question of accommodation and the fact that in the preliminary findings of the report there should be an emphasis away from low quality accommodation towards medium and better quality accommodation. I heartily concur I have recently written to the Wine Coast of the Fleurieu Tourist Association suggesting that they should be encouraging entrepreneurs to invest in quality alternative accommodation and, as examples, I refer to Lawley Farm, the Landhaus and various other forms of alternative accommodation that are so successful in the Barossa Valley. Will the Minister tell the Committee whether it is the department's intention to encourage the kind of accommodation that is tied in with the other things that I have picked up in reading the overview?

Should we be moving towards accommodation as part of the whole experience? I refer to the examples that I raised with my own local association: to use the small family wineries that may wish to extend into accommodation and the provision of meals. People could visit and experience the way in which wines are made, the way grapes are

harvested, and so on, and stay on the premises, meeting the family and being part of that experience. Another example is the almond industry. The industry could provide similar accommodation, and a whole range of experiences that are geared around the almond industry.

I do not pride myself on being terribly creative, and I have just come up with those examples off the top of my head. Will the Minister comment on whether she believes that that kind of direction would be in keeping with the sort of findings that the report is making? Will the department be encouraging that type of experiential holiday (I remember Mr Noblet at a recent conference using that or a similar term)?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The sort of thrust referred to by the member for Mawson is very much the approach that we are adopting in encouraging tourism investment in accommodation in this State. Already, there has been a significant achievement in that area. Places like Mount Lofty House, Padthaway Estate and Lawley Farm provide an authentic experience (that is one of the terms used in the tourism industry) where people can go to a really nice form of accommodation where they do not feel that they are just another number in a motel box but where the whole experience is part of the accommodation and holiday package. That is very much part of our development thrust in South Australia. Fortunately, it seems to be reflective of the trend in market demand as well. There is a growing proportion of people who are interested in travelling and who are looking for that sort of holiday experience, and South Australia is already well placed to cater for those people in various parts of the State. I imagine that there will be further developments in that area as time passes, and we are well placed to pick up on that emerging trend. We are certainly promoting it.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Returning to the Entertainment Centre, following the confirmation by the Chairman of the committee (Mr Inns) that there was a letter of complaint received by the committee about the composition of the committee, can the committee Chairman advise this Committee who was the author of the letter?

Mr Inns: I cannot recall the specific author in terms of the signature on the letter, but it did come from Colliers International.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: On page 629, under 'Support services resources', pursuing the matter raised by the member for Mawson of the increased funds for general promotion allied to the substantially decreased funds for international promotion, I note a substantial increase in staffing from 1.3 in 1985-86 to 12 FTE in 1986-87. Can the Minister advise what is behind that increase which is substantial and which appears to account for the total increase in staffing numbers? Who will those staff members be? I do not seek their names, but what is the designation of those 11.7 FTE positions, where will they be located and what will be their responsibilities?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The increase in staff in the general promotion area, is primarily the increase in the number of people employed in the Convention Centre. There will be eight new people employed this year in the Convention Centre and four, I think, are in marketing. No, I am sorry, I have been poorly advised. All 12 people will be employed in the Convention Centre. It is an average figure that we are looking at here. Eight people will be employed initially, reaching a maximum of 12 by the end of the financial year.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: What will be the functions of those staff members?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will ask Mr Ashman from the Convention Centre to answer that question.

Mr Ashman: In the main the people that we have on board at the moment are marketing staff who are marketing the Convention Centre throughout the State and interstate. As we get closer to opening date, we will employ staff for administration and finance purposes, together with operational staff who will be required to operate the centre. It is proposed that once the Convention Centre is fully operational we will have in the vicinity of 21 full-time staff. The remaining operations will be conducted under contract. We will contract out audio visual, electrical and maintenance work, and so on. There will be mainly 21 full-time staff for the centre. The rest will be contracted out.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I am surprised to hear the Minister say that she has been poorly advised. I think she is very well advised. It is a question of how she uses the advice. Proceeding on that same page, a sum of \$250 000 is allocated to facilitate regional planning. Can the Minister provide details of how that money will be spent? How much of it will be directed towards implementing the recommendations of the review of regional tourism in South Australia? Which of the medium-term and long-term recommendations listed on page 28 of the review does the Government intend to adopt and pursue?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Dealing with the regional review first, we have not yet made final decisions about which recommendations will be implemented and when they might be implemented, because only very recently we completed the extensive consultation that took place with representatives of the industry and the various regions of the State. In fact, the Director of the department personally attended each of the regional meetings that were held around South Australia to discuss the recommendations contained in the report. We have been able thereby to get a very good feeling of the views of people in the regions. I think it would be true to say that by and large there is agreement around South Australia with the general thrust of the working party's report on the restructuring of regional tourism.

As far as the recommendations and their implementation is concerned, we are holding off with the implementation of specific programs until the employment of the new Assistant Director, Regions, which is the first recommendation that we have implemented by creating that new development of regions within the Department of Tourism and calling for applications to fill that position. We think it is appropriate to have that new officer in place prior to implementing other recommendations that were made by the working party. The new Assistant Director will consult further with people in the regions as to which recommendations should be implemented and at what speed we should be trying to achieve those changes within our funding parameters.

Mr TYLER: In relation to the promotional budget, especially as it relates to the America's Cup next year, no doubt the department has identified the America's Cup period as an ideal time to promote South Australia. Can the Minister indicate how much will be spent and what is the extent of our promotion for that period in Western Australia?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The first point I want to make in relation to the department's promotional activity within Australia is that we are concentrating most of our promotional effort in New South Wales and Victoria, because they are our major markets. We believe that it is important to maximise our major market opportunities before we move into some of the more minor markets. After all, 50 per cent of Australia's population lives in New South Wales and Victoria, so it is important for us to concentrate on those

States. By far the vast majority of people who visit South Australia come from New South Wales and Victoria.

Having said that, however, we recognise that there are opportunities, using the America's Cup period as a vehicle, for promoting South Australia and increasing the number of people who might visit here. We have to bear in mind the financial constraints within which we must live when allocating funds of our own for promotion within Western Australia. It was a matter of considerable concern to us, and was certainly one of the issues that I took up very early on after my appointment as Minister of Tourism last year, to see that we were able to maximise our effort in capitalising on the America's Cup event.

We were very pleased, therefore, to support and encourage the establishment in Perth of a private sector travel agency that is concentrating exclusively on selling travel packages to South Australia. That private sector company, which was opened in June or July this year, has been very successful so far in giving South Australia a much higher profile. With assistance from the Department of Tourism, it has been able to develop some advertising packages including brochures and a TV campaign in Western Australia that is helping to draw attention to South Australia and numerous holiday experiences that can be found here. The level of interest that has been generated by way of inquiries to that office has been very encouraging and is an indication of the success of the advertising that it has conducted.

In addition, we have allocated an amount of money this year in our marketing budget for further promotion in Western Australia. In fact, it is double the amount that we allocated last year. With respect to other States—the other minor markets—we are also attempting to increase our efforts within resources this year. For example, with the completion of the sealing of the Stuart Highway by early next year, we are hoping to have a joint promotion with the Northern Territory Tourist Commission to promote the road and access to it and to highlight Adelaide's claim as 'the Gateway to the Outback'.

Through our Melbourne office we are spending a modest amount in Tasmania this year, largely to test the longer-term potential for promotion of South Australia in Tasmania. We are currently having discussions with two private sector companies that are interested in setting up travel agencies and promoting and selling South Australian packages in Brisbane. This will be a brand new area for South Australia if the company is successful in opening up that office, because so far the Department of Tourism has not had the resources to engage in any real promotion in Queensland. We would certainly be interested in pursuing that area with those private sector organisations.

On that topic, the current Government's policy of undertaking joint venture activity has been very well received by people within the industry, and there has been increasing support for that approach from private sector organisations, as evidenced by the increasing number of contacts and inquiries from private sector operators who recognise the effectiveness of the marketing campaigns that we have been pursuing and who are keen to work with us in promoting the State in our collective interests.

Mr TYLER: Does South Australia still have package arrangements with Victoria? Are there promotional arrangements between Victoria and South Australia? At one time there were working arrangements to try to attract Victorians to South Australia and vice versa.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We are not quite sure to what packages the honourable member is referring. There has been a cooperative effort between South Australia, Victoria

and New South Wales to encourage international visitors to stop off.

Mr TYLER: I understood that the department, in conjunction with the Victorian Government, issued pamphlets.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: We know what the honourable member is talking about.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am aware of the joint promotions by the South-East Regional Tourist Association and the Victorian Tourist Commission. In terms of South Australian tourism, I believe that pamphlets were circulated particularly in Victoria to encourage people to stop and look at various tourism attractions in South Australia as they were passing through. That is certainly something of which I am aware, and I know that it has existed for a long time—the honourable member referred to packages rather than brochures. Certainly, that effort has been maintained.

Mr TYLER: What evidence is available to verify the tourism benefits to the State from the Grand Prix?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The benefits from the Grand Prix have really been quite extraordinary. Anyone who was here last year and witnessed the huge number of visitors to the whole State who spent money in restaurants, wineries and various other tourist spots would verify that the Grand Prix was of great benefit. We wanted to be sure that we had a very clear picture of the benefits from the Grand Prix, and for that reason we conducted one of the most extensive research surveys ever undertaken of any festival or special event in Australia. The survey into the Grand Prix activity last year was undertaken by the Department of Tourism with the assistance of the Centre for Economic Studies at Adelaide University, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the Grand Prix office. It demonstrated, more than we anticipated, that the event fulfilled expectations.

The results of the visitor and expenditure surveys are contained within the report of the Department of Tourism entitled 'The Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix, Adelaide 1985 Survey of Visitors'. That survey report is really worth reading. The publication will be augmented shortly by a book which is being produced by people from the Centre for Economic Studies who worked on the survey, and that book is due to be published shortly. In general terms, the findings show that, first, 32 000 people came to South Australia from overseas or interstate. The total value of the additional economic activity solely from expenditure relating to the Grand Prix was estimated to be \$9.6 million. Interestingly enough, visitors to the Grand Prix exhibited a higher than average spending profile than the typical visitor who comes to this State.

The number of people who indicated that they would come back to South Australia was also very high: more than 80 per cent of respondents to a survey said that they would return to South Australia at a future time either for a Grand Prix or for some other purpose. There were very direct economic benefits that accrued through the Grand Prix, but also there were less tangible and less quantifiable benefits, primarily the increased exposure that South Australia gained internationally and nationally through the television coverage and other publicity that accrued. A vast number of interstate and overseas journalists wrote numerous articles for newspapers, magazines and journals, and those articles have since appeared in various parts of the world. The television coverage was very important in increasing our exposure. So, the Grand Prix has begun to transform our image in the tourism marketplace nationally and internationally.

It has helped to encourage a new feeling of self-confidence within the State, and that is paying dividends. The event has been highly successful and, on all available evidence so

far, this year's event will be at least as successful as and probably more successful than last year. We can expect a larger number of visitors to the Grand Prix this year. We can certainly cater for a larger number. Last year 105 000 people attended the Grand Prix, and this year we can cater for about 120 000. The benefit to the economy from this year's Grand Prix should be even greater.

Mr TYLER: Will the survey be ongoing in relation to future Grand Prix?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We are not planning to conduct surveys to the extent of that undertaken in 1985: that was a very comprehensive survey, and we feel that it is unnecessary to undertake something of that magnitude on an annual basis. However, we will certainly monitor the effects of the Grand Prix every year.

Mr TYLER: I refer to the Entertainment Centre (and, unlike the case with the member for Coles, the Minister will be pleased to know that there is no innuendo in my question): what will the \$4 million shown under the capital works line at page 223 of the Estimates of Payments be used for?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The \$4 million is split up into two categories. First, \$2.5 million is being allocated for site acquisition. The program to acquire various properties in the area that are necessary to construct the Convention Centre, has begun, and the \$2.5 million is being allocated to continue that program. In addition, \$1.5 million is being allocated for design development for the successful proposal. That will be as far as we can go for the time being, unless the economy picks up considerably and we are able to make considerable new allocations. The development program for the entertainment centre is being slowed down but in the next financial year will be able to proceed, at least this far.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to page 130 of the Estimates of Payments program 2, 'Marketing the State as a Tourist Destination': despite the Minister's protestations that the marketing budget is adequate, she does neither the industry nor the department a service by maintaining that stance because the budget is demonstrably inadequate and that is clearly acknowledged by the industry. There has been a substantial reduction. When the grant for the Adelaide Convention Centre is taken out of that marketing budget, and it is clearly inappropriately placed in it and artificially manipulates the total to look better than it is, the total is \$3.2 million, not \$4.2 million.

That is substantially less than last year and very substantially less than provision in other States. Queensland is spending \$8.8 million on marketing—not that I am suggesting that we should get into that league, at least not at this stage—and Western Australia is spending \$14.5 million, in addition to which there is \$2.6 million of income. That State is a competitor of South Australia. We are talking about budgets getting into the realms of four times the South Australian budget from Governments that are competing with us for the national and international markets.

One of the great concerns is the rate of inflation and its effect on marketing. The line 'Tourist Advertising and Promotion' has suffered a substantial cut from \$2.513 million to \$2.28 million. Can the Minister or the Director of Marketing advise the Committee what is the current rate of inflation in media costs and, if possible, indicate what proportion of air time, television time, or press space can be bought this year for the same dollar as last year? It is extremely important that the industry know just how much we are getting for our money in comparison with last year's expenditure and with our competitors. An indication of the

inflation rates and media rates would give us some idea of just how badly off we are.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Perhaps the member for Coles should listen more carefully, because I thought that I had already tried to explain some of these matters. Contrary to what she said, the amount of money allocated this year for marketing has reached an all time high in this State. In addition to the \$2.2 million which is incorporated in the advertising and promotion line, we have approximately \$500 000 as the commission target. That includes at least \$450 000 from last year and we hope that we can obtain at least \$500 000 this year, as a target. There is also the Convention Centre marketing budget of \$320 000 which adds up to a total figure of just over \$3 million for marketing this year.

I reject completely the suggestion that has twice been made by the member for Coles that it is not reasonable to include the marketing budget for the Convention Centre in our marketing figures. The Convention Centre is a new tourism initiative and it is reasonable and proper for it to be included in the figures that we are putting forward about the proposed expenditure on marketing in South Australia. What is more, over time, things are changing dramatically with respect to the money being spent on promoting this State, and that has been brought about by the numerous new developments undertaken in South Australia which add to the range of tourism facilities to promote, and which are adding to the overall promotion of the State through private sector sources. Added to the effort that is undertaken by the State Government, that gives a healthy picture of promotion of our State. I am referring specifically to the money that is allocated by the Grand Prix Board to promote that event, which is essentially a promotion of our State. That is nearly \$1 million and about \$1.4 million is spent by the Casino on marketing its establishment.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Is that inside or outside South Australia?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is about \$1 million outside the State and \$400 000 within South Australia, which is a significant amount of money for promotion in other places. Various other organisations have come onstream recently and are promoting their own product and therefore promoting South Australia, such as the Murray River developments and the Hyatt Regency, which will come onstream next year, and various other organisations such as the Bridgewater Mill and Lincoln Cove Development Corporation. These private sector organisations will promote not just their own product but the State as a whole. Taken in conjunction with the marketing effort of the South Australian Government, involving an increase in marketing funds for this year, that gives a healthy picture.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Perhaps this could be considered a supplementary question. I asked what is the rate of inflation and what is the proportion of air space time and press advertising that the dollar can buy this year as compared to last year.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I estimate the inflation rate for advertising to be 14 per cent this year, and the increase in the marketing budget for this year over last year is 15.6 per cent.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Despite the Minister's protestations she has not convinced me, my colleagues or the tourism industry of the correctness of the inclusion of those funds in the department's marketing budget, and we are talking about the department, of which the South Australian Convention Centre is not a component. There is a lot of convincing required before we shall accept that there has been an increase and not a reduction

in the department's marketing budget. I shall leave that matter aside, while acknowledging the 14 per cent rate of inflation, which indicates to me that the tourism advertising and promotion budget of \$2.2 million, as opposed to \$2.5 million last year, will mean a lot less space and time for the money available. The Minister and I will have to continue to differ on that point.

I turn now to page 181 of the white book, 'Program 3—Advice and Support to Tourist Development', where I note that there has been a further substantial reduction in funds allocated for facilities development. I heard the Minister say, in answer to the member for Mawson, that tourism infrastructure was being tackled in two ways and she described that as being more scientific. That may be so, but there is still a reduction in funds allocated for facilities development. Unfortunately, there should be a very substantial backlog of applications from local government for grants for facilities development. What is the total cost of the backlog of applications which have been or are likely to be approved but which cannot be funded out of that \$855 000? And from how many local government areas have these applications come?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I return to the point made earlier in relation to marketing. I do not think I can let that lie as it contains an error of fact in at least one comment made by the member in relation to the Convention Centre. The Convention Centre is a component of the Department of Tourism. The Manager of the Convention Centre reports to the Director of the Department of Tourism. So it is quite appropriate for the marketing budget of the Convention Centre to be incorporated within the Department of Tourism's marketing figures.

In relation to the development assistance line, it is true that there is a reduction in the amount of money that we are allocating this year. However, I think the member for Coles has a cheek in raising this issue when we consider how much was allocated by the Liberal Government, when the member for Coles was Minister of Tourism, and the huge increase that has taken place in that line in the intervening period. In the 1981-82 financial year, the then Liberal Government allocated \$319 000 to the development line. If one adjusts the 1986-87 figure against an inflation figure, that amount in today's dollars would be worth \$464 000 against the \$855 000 which this Government has allocated to the development line this year. Of course, last year we allocated \$966 000, so there has been an enormous increase in the money made available under a Labor Government to development assistance over the past four years. It is true that in any one year there are always a number of applications that we are not able to subsidise and a number of councils that we cannot assist. As to the numbers, I will ask the Assistant Director responsible for this area to provide further information.

Mr Penley: The development assistance program for 1986-87 is listed as \$855 000. We plan an expenditure of just over \$1 million, which allows for a carryover into the 1987-88 period. In addition, there is about \$900 000 worth of projects which will not be considered this year. That is proper because they have yet to be correctly assessed and placed before the Minister for allocation. However, they will be considered in the ensuing years of 1987-88 and 1988-89. At this stage that figure is \$960 000.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I feel that my question has not been answered, although I appreciate the information that has been provided. One would assume from what the Director of Regions has said that the \$855 000 will meet all current applications, other than those that have yet to be assessed. I thought that there may have been a

backlog of applications that have been assessed and will receive approval but cannot be funded out of that \$855 000. I would like to know what they are and whence they came.

Mr Penley: The backlog is \$960 000. Traditionally, it runs at about \$1 million a year which we cannot treat in any given year. It is impossible to list them now because of the large number of projects and their complexity spread across the State in various local government areas. However, it is possible to provide that information later.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Perhaps that can be dealt with as a question on notice, Mr Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, if the Minister does not mind obtaining that information and including it in *Hansard* later.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to program 4—'Advice and Assistance to Tourism Regions' on page 181 of the white book. I note that there is no allocation for town tourist offices this year as against the previous year's allocation of \$65 500. I know that tourist regions are deeply concerned about this chopping off of funds. Why has this been done? What does the Government propose, if anything, to compensate regions for this lack of support for town tourist offices, which are regarded by tourist regions as critically important? It was a recommendation of the previous review that funding and staff should be provided for those offices.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There has not been a reduction in the amount allocated for town tourist offices: in fact, there has been an increase. Last year \$63 700 was allocated. This year we are allocating \$66 800, which includes proposed funding for new offices in six different locations. I think the disparity in figures can be explained by the new accounting method which has been developed for regions in that we are now combining the Regional Tourist Associations line with the Regional Tourist Associations and Town Tourist Offices line to become the Regional Administration line. The footnote explanation of that appears on page 182.

Mr De LAINE: In view of the worldwide reputation of beaches in the western suburbs, the tourist potential of the Port Adelaide redevelopment, and the West Lakes development and bearing in mind the extreme shortage of tourist accommodation in these areas, does the Government have any policy of trying to attract investors to establish hotels or motels in this region?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have certainly been encouraging the policy of tourist development within the Port Adelaide region. As the honourable member would be aware, considerable activity is taking place in Port Adelaide with the development of the Maritime Museum and other efforts to raise the profile of Port Adelaide as an area of tourism significance. In fact, this year money will be allocated in the tourism budget to assist in the establishment in Port Adelaide of a tourist office, which will be located in the Maritime Museum complex. We certainly appreciate the value to tourism of the Port Adelaide region and are doing as much as we can to capitalise on that.

I do not believe that we have a specific policy for encouraging the development of new accommodation in that area, although I note that there have been some developments of late, particularly with the new Lakes resort hotel, which has been established at West Lakes, and one or two other recent developments. More recently the Development Division of the Department of Tourism has been having discussions with potential Asian investors who are thinking about the prospects for accommodation development in that area. We will be assisting them in whatever way we can to realise the

plans they have. I hope that that will add to the tourist potential of the Port Adelaide district.

Ms LENEHAN: In relation to the last question asked by the member for Coles, it seems to me that the sun has come out very well in relation to looking at the total amount for regional administration of \$366 000. Some quick mathematics would indicate that the two budgets for the tourist associations and tourist offices last year came to \$296 700, which means that an extra \$69 300 is being allocated. That seems fairly self-explanatory from program 4.

My question relates to an article that appeared recently in the *News* of 17 September headed 'Signs say 1 000 words', which talked about the Standards Association of Australia having looked at releasing a range of symbols designed to make life easier and safer. It gave an example of some of the signs in the form of symbols, and indicated that there was an incredibly high recognition rate of these symbols. The article also stated that the association was cooperating with China, Japan, England, France, Austria and Hungary to develop more international symbols; that it was hoped there would be about 12 signs, including fire and exit signs, standardised; and that it was hopeful that councils and other authorities would use the signs.

This matter carries an enormous implication for tourism and making international tourists feel more at home in a country by promoting the use of these internationally recognised signs or symbols. Has the department in any way had any input to the Standards Association of Australia in relation to the production of the signs? If not, I can understand that because it is an Australia-wide organisation. Will the department encourage State Government departments (Highways, Environment and Planning, and Parks), as well as tourist operators in South Australia to maximise the use of these internationally recognised signs so that tourists from all over the world will be able to easily recognise them, feel more at ease and understand the facilities or message being put across? The member for Albert Park is particularly interested in this matter and I am really asking this question on his behalf, as well as for my own information.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I agree with the member for Mawson that it is highly desirable, for the benefit of international tourists, particularly those whose first language is not English, to standardise our signs as far as we are able so that it makes it much easier for them to get around while visiting South Australia. To a large extent some of the more common tourist signs have been standardised (for example, the symbols for information, toilets and those basic signs) in most parts of Australia. In relation to the efforts that have been undertaken on behalf of the department, I am aware of a submission to the International Standards Signage Committee, and Mr Penley knows more about that and can give further information.

Mr Penley: Approximately 12 months ago the Department of Tourism, in conjunction with the Highways Department, made a submission to the Australian Standards Association which I think was reporting to the International Standard Signage Committee (if I recall the name correctly), and that was part of a review of international symbols and signs. Most of the symbols one sees in South Australia at present, particularly at airports and road signs and as the Minister suggested, for toilets and incapacitated facilities, are international standard. It is part of an ongoing review. We are involved in making comments to that review.

Ms LENEHAN: I have a supplementary question. Is the department actively promoting the use of these international signs and symbols both through Government departments as well as individual tourist operators?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, we are encouraging Government organisations and others to use the signs. I know that the South Australian Tourism Industry Council is also pursuing that matter and is encouraging members of its organisation to use those international symbols wherever possible.

Ms LENEHAN: Page 627 of the yellow book under 'Strategies' contains a reference to shifting the emphasis in advertising from image awareness to specific holiday ideas. I would like to pick up that strategy and relate it to the recent wine campaign in the Eastern States. First, how successful was that wine campaign in the Eastern States? Secondly, if it is envisaged that that campaign will be expanded and continued, will it fit in with the objective of not only making people aware that we have a wine industry—and I suggest the finest wines not only in Australia but the world, many of them coming from the Wine Coast of Fleurieu region—but, coming back to holidays of experiencing things rather than just looking, is it envisaged that such a campaign will pick up the whole emphasis stated in the objective which would look at specific holiday ideas?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This is the first in what I hope will be a series of theme oriented advertising campaigns. We believe we have reached a point, as far as the marketing thrust for South Australia is concerned, where the campaign that has been pursued during the past few years, a general awareness campaign, designed to raise the profile of South Australia and people's consciousness about South Australia as a holiday destination, has largely been achieved.

It is now time to be much more specific about what we have to offer people, so that we can offer particular holiday ideas which people can pick up on and hopefully pursue. The wine campaign was developed because, according to all our market research, it is very clear that, of all the things South Australia has to offer, our reputation as the premium wine State is recognised more than any other as our biggest attraction.

So, drawing on our greatest strength, we decided to develop this wine campaign. So far it has been very successful indeed in raising people's consciousness about South Australia and our wine industry. It was first launched in Victoria in May this year. Following the television advertising campaign which I think went to air for about four weeks, some consumer research was conducted to test and evaluate the message that people were receiving. From that, we learned that those television commercials had motivated over 40 per cent of the respondents to think of South Australia as the legitimate home of the wine industry, and we estimate the numbers to be about 550 000 people who hold that view in Victoria. Just under a third of the respondents took the message that there are many more winegrowing areas in South Australia than the Barossa Valley. That I am sure would be pleasing news to the member for Mawson and the member for Fisher, who are concerned about the southern winegrowing areas. So, that message got through to people quite clearly that it is not just the Barossa Valley that one goes to see when in South Australia: other areas that grow wine are good places to visit as well. A similar proportion of people were prompted to think about going on holiday to South Australia.

That very positive response in Melbourne has since been repeated in Sydney following the launch of the campaign there in August. We have had in our Sydney office an unprecedented response from people seeking more information about holidays in our State's winegrowing regions. The Sydney television campaign has identified BP service stations as the contact point in New South Wales for the distribution of leaflets and other information that is avail-

able in conjunction with the campaign. That company has advised us that it is very satisfied with the campaign so far, and has made some very favourable comments about it.

The department has also been successful in negotiating extensions to the wine campaign without the need for any significant expansion in our budget, and that is very pleasing. First, the campaign will be promoted during November and December in the Australian Airlines flight deck lounges at domestic airports. There will be during the next few months a number of newspaper and magazine supplements producing articles and other information about the campaign, and shortly a two page spread about the winegrowing regions and the wine campaign will appear in the *Australian Wine Guide*. The Royal Auto Club offices in Victoria will also be featuring wine campaign displays next month and further activity of a similar nature is planned throughout the financial year.

So, this campaign has been very cost efficient and has been brought about by the cooperative efforts of State Government resources through the Department of Tourism and also from various sectors of the tourism and wine industries, which have also provided funding to bring the campaign together. It has been a very successful campaign, as I said, and I hope we will be able to build on that. We hope to be able to extend the mass media advertising into March 1987, so in that time we should have reached a large number of people and hopefully have converted interest into positive responses in the way of increased numbers of people visiting our wine regions.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Referring to the program 'Strategic planning and policy formulation for tourism development' under which market research funds would be allocated, and following the Minister's announcement of the \$250 000 market survey (questions were asked in another place about that survey), the Minister would be aware that there is some concern that the successful company commissioned to do that is an interstate company. Can the Minister advise the Committee whether the proposal for the survey was referred to the State Statistical Priorities Committee and whether any South Australian companies were given the opportunity to provide detailed information as to their competence to undertake the survey?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The answer to the first question is 'Yes', the proposal for conducting the market research was referred to the State Statistical Priorities Committee. A number of South Australian companies registered an interest in undertaking the market research on behalf of the department. In the selection process conducted by a committee comprising officers of the Department of Tourism, none of the South Australian companies were selected for the short list of three companies asked to prepare more detailed proposals for the market research to be undertaken. Those South Australian companies were excluded on professional grounds: they did not meet the criteria established by the committee. It was considered that the South Australian companies, and a number of other companies from other parts of Australia which were not asked to prepare detailed proposals, were unable to meet the requirements of the market research to be undertaken.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Can the Minister advise the Committee what were the criteria that the South Australian companies were unable to meet?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Mr Van Der Lee, the Assistant Director of our Research and Planning Division, was a member of that committee, and is much better able to answer the more detailed technical questions about the requirements we had for a market research company and to speak a little more about the process used by the com-

mittee in choosing the final three companies to prepare a detailed proposal.

Mr Van Der Lee: It must be remembered that this was an Australia wide study, and consequently, one of the key requirements was the consultancy chosen had an Australia wide capability in terms of administering a survey and had the field work capability. We were looking at running the survey activities in most capital cities in Australia and also in some of the major regional centres. We also needed someone who had a well proven track record in tourism marketing studies. There are many companies that do very good specialised market research work primarily on consumer products.

It is certainly our experience that it does not necessarily follow that we can transfer that expertise to the tourism field where we are dealing with a much more intangible product. The other important consideration was that nearly all the markets that we were considering were tourism markets outside this State with a logistic concentration in the Eastern States. With those factors in mind, the 27 registrants of interest were very carefully addressed in terms of fairly rigorous criteria. A fair bit of effort went into this, and it was from that process that we arrived at three consultants, who were invited to submit proposals. We chose three because we did not want to impose on too many companies the burden of investing time and effort. On the other hand, we wanted a representative sample (if you like) in terms of evaluating which firm best suited our requirements.

[Sitting suspended from 6.3 to 7.30 p.m.]

Membership:

Mr M.G. Duigan substituted for Ms S.M. Lenehan.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to program 4, 'Advice and assistance to tourism regions'. Acknowledging that the funds provided under regional administration contain provision for town tourist offices, there appears to be a discrepancy in the Minister's statement. If I heard her correctly, she said that \$66 800 has been provided in funding for town tourist offices this financial year. Is that correct?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: If that is the case and if, allowing for inflation, there is still a reduction in funds, and, as the Minister stated, the \$66 800 includes funding for new offices in six different locations, how is it possible to maintain funding for existing town tourist offices and to fund six new offices with a somewhat reduced amount, in accordance with the Minister's statement? Will the Minister please explain?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Did the honourable member say \$60 800?

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I understand that \$66 800 is what the Minister said.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We will fund six new town tourist offices to a fairly minimal level. In addition, a slight reduction in the funding will be made available to four town tourist offices that are currently being funded, and they are at Bordertown, Loxton, Port Augusta and Whyalla. Those funds have been reduced marginally.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: If that is the case, slightly less is being spread even more thinly over a number of tourist offices. On that basis, and on the basis of the concern of the Regional Tourism Association in relation to inadequate funding for tourism offices, I believe that a statement that funding is being provided for new offices in six different locations gives a somewhat rosy view of what

is in fact not a very rosy picture. I will not pursue that matter now, but will the Minister provide full details to the Committee subsequent to this meeting on the amount of funds being provided to each town tourist office that is being funded by the Government as well as details of funding for each office in the previous year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will be happy to do that, but before we move on to another subject I point out that the funding that the department provides for town tourist offices is intended not to support those tourist offices entirely but rather to provide some encouragement to local councils to provide suitable funding for town tourist offices. We try to provide support seeding money and to encourage local government authorities to fund town tourist offices sufficiently so that they are able to promote tourism in their regions.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to the 'Intra-agency support service items not allocated to programs' identified at page 182 of the Estimates of Payments and the overseas visits of Ministers and officers. I note that the Minister spent less than half the allocation voted in 1985-86 but proposes to spend considerably more, namely, \$20 000, in 1986-87. Where did the Minister go last year, whom did she take with her, where does she propose to go this year and whom does she propose to take with her? Also what is the purpose of the visits?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: During the past 12 months I have undertaken two overseas trips. One was in the first two weeks of my becoming Minister of Tourism, and that was to fulfil an arrangement that had been made by my predecessor to travel to Hawaii for the Australian Federation of Travel Agents conference in order to pursue further the bid that South Australia has been making for the 1987 AFTA conference to be held in Adelaide. I was away on that occasion for about four days. I did not take any members of my staff with me, although members of the Department of Tourism staff were present on the trip. The only other overseas trip that I have had since then was approximately three weeks ago when I represented the Government, at the request of the Premier, in Penang for Adelaide Week in the Penang sister city celebrations. On that occasion, too, I travelled alone and did not take members of staff with me.

In this current financial year, the only plan that I have at the moment is to travel to Texas. I shall leave tomorrow and I shall be away from 2 to 13 October. My prime purpose in travelling to Texas is to take part in the celebrations and promotion that will take place in Dallas in the Nieman Marcus department store, which is having an Australian fortnight promotion, beginning next week. Over three weeks, the store will be promoting Australia and Australian merchandise and I understand that about \$2 million worth of Australian merchandise has been purchased and will be displayed in various departments of the store; there will also be tourism displays.

The South Australia Department of State Development and the Department of Tourism have both participated in providing assistance and financial support to that promotion, and it is my intention to be in Dallas at that time, as well as to attend a major local government conference in Texas and various other, primarily tourism oriented, promotional activities.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Do you intend to take any staff?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I shall be taking one member of my staff, namely my press secretary.

Mr DUIGAN: I apologise if any of these questions have been covered already. I have been unable to be at some of the discussions on tourism. If I have missed any, I can be

referred to the *Hansard* report of the proceedings. I have noticed that in the policy area under which the first four programs fall is one that is generally shown under the title 'Economic Development'. My first question relates to the relationship between the Tourism Department and the Department of State Development, and in particular to the way in which the objectives of the Department of State Development are incorporated into the development of the tourism plan for 1987-90.

The general issue that I want to raise concerns the extent to which there is cooperation and the extent to which the Department of Tourism works closely with the initiatives being taken by the Department of State Development, as well as the initiatives that are being taken by Technology Park, to attract new industries to South Australia. When people who are contemplating establishing themselves in South Australia come here to have a look at the economic opportunities and the opportunities that are available at Technology Park, will the people in the Department of Tourism ensure that they are advised that these people are coming so that they can take over after the Department of State Development people have finished?

This will ensure that potential new companies can be shown a wider range of South Australian activities and can be sold a South Australian culture and lifestyle. They can be shown schools, opportunities in universities and cultural facilities, as well as the general advantages that might exist for companies and employees to move to South Australia. In this way it becomes a total package; opportunities could be taken to provide these people with a few days relaxation in South Australia to let them experience the alternative lifestyle which they might be able to pursue here if their company was to relocate here. The general issue is the tourism plan and the relationship between officers of the department and the Department of State Development.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There is quite close cooperation between the officers of the Department of Tourism and the Department of State Development. For example, the directors of the two departments authorities met regularly. Until recently when the former Director left the Public Service and returned to the private sector, there was an arrangement by which the two directors met once every six weeks to have discussions about matters of common interest and concern. I understand that, since the new Director of State Development has been appointed, the Director of Tourism has met with him and they have agreed to continue the practice of meeting regularly so that the two departments can be kept informed of what is happening in each area.

In addition, other officials within the two departments meet regularly to discuss matters of common interest. Various Government committees deal with State development, particularly those with a tourism flavour and officers of the Department of Tourism participate in discussions that might be necessary. It has also been decided recently that there will be a meeting between a number of officers from each department to enable them to work on a strategy plan incorporating the respective roles and objectives of State development and tourism so that we can formalise that cooperation much more than has occurred in the past.

As to business people and potential investors coming to South Australia, there has been close cooperation with the Department of State Development, particularly when potential investors are interested in the tourism industry as a possible area for involvement. Officers of my department become intimately involved in programs that those potential investors pursue. While they are here, they are often shown around the State and have tourism projects explained.

If it is necessary, more comprehensive sightseeing programs to get a feeling for the State are also arranged. There has also been cooperation with the Department of State Development on the placement of business migrants into tourism related investments. In summary, there is an ongoing relationship between the two departments. As time passes, I think there is recognition in both areas that we have much in common and that many of the goals that each department is pursuing are very similar, and that it is helpful for both of us to work closely together.

Mr DUIGAN: I refer to the corollary of that position, namely, the extent to which the Tourism Department acts as a sort of marketing arm of State Development and uses the identification of the areas that it has seen as important to the future development of the State as a focus for deliberately going out of its way to attract people from those areas in the Eastern States. So, if State Development has identified particular technological areas as being of vital benefit to the future development of the State, the department could say, 'Right, that is our focus of activity. That is what we want as a major investment area in this State. Let us ensure that we make contact with that area and encourage visits to South Australia by all those people in that area from the Eastern States.' It could be in the form of package holidays for senior people from those general areas. When they come to South Australia they could have a packaged holiday which includes general sightseeing and relaxation but also involving visits to areas of activity with which these firms are involved interstate, as well as the things I mentioned before about schools and universities. It could become a specific targeted marketing strategy fitting in directly with State Development.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: At the moment, the Department of Tourism does not participate in schemes of the type mentioned. However, I believe that in some other States that sort of activity does occur. For example, I know that the New South Wales Government in the next few months is planning to put together investment package tours for business people who may be interested in investing in that State. Whether or not the New South Wales Tourism Commission has become involved in the tourism aspects of the package mentioned by the member, I am not aware. I certainly agree that, if we could show some of the lifestyle aspects of the State and some of the things that would encourage potential business people to view South Australia not only as a good business investment but as an interesting place to live and to visit, our chances of attracting their investment dollars would be enhanced.

In relation to promotional literature for State Development, we try to pursue quite common themes. The brochures and booklets produced by the Department of State Development, particularly those that relate to lifestyle and living in the State, pick up very much on the same lifestyle themes that we promote in our tourism advertising. So we are trying to push a common theme and a common message to people we contact in other States.

Mr DUIGAN: My third question is also in the general area of the tourism plan and follows on my earlier question about market segmentation in the marketing strategy. I acknowledge that the Minister has indicated that the previous focus that I mentioned is being picked up and that there is close cooperation. Another market segment fits in very much with the recognition that more visitors to South Australia come from the domestic Australian market than from overseas, and I refer to the family market—families who take holidays for a couple of weeks at a time. The department could focus in on that group as potential visitors to this State. That raises the general question of the extent

to which the plan identifies different sectors of the market and, rather than having a general 'Come to South Australia' type of advertising campaign, it focuses on various sections, whether it be the family market, the potential economic development areas that are important for the State, or the retired persons market. The department's marketing strategy could focus on particular segments of the interstate market. Is that type of approach addressed in the plan, or is it just part of the normal ongoing strategy of the department?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As the member probably knows, the tourism development plan is currently in draft form. We received a lot of very useful feedback not only from the forum held in August for industry people but also from the tourism conference that was held here last week. That information also will be used and incorporated in the final draft of the tourism development plan. In relation to the approach mentioned by the member, we are certainly trying to change our advertising thrust—and we talked about this earlier—changing the general awareness campaign to become much more specific thematic advertising. The first step in that direction was the wine campaign, which was recently launched interstate.

Market research available to us indicates that wine and wine growing in this State is identified as the attribute of South Australia which is most often identified. So building on that awareness that already exists, we have pursued a wine campaign that we hope will attract those members of the community who are interested in that sort of holiday—holidaying in a wine region, not necessarily however to simply visit wineries but to see the attractions of regions in which wineries exist.

In relation to the various segments of the market, or categories of people, we are aiming specifically at gaining information from our recently commissioned market research project: information such as which groups of people are likely to be suitable target markets for South Australia to maximise the number of visitors who come here—whether they be family groups, as the member mentioned, the retired persons group, or some other group.

The market research will also help us to define the current directions in which we are moving. Changes in Australian demography show that the over-55 age group should in future be the group on whom we concentrate, as the proportion of that age group in the general population is growing significantly. As these people reach retiring age, they will possibly have superannuation benefits and other money, as well as time, to spend on travel, and one would expect that that age group would be worth pursuing in the next 20 years and beyond. The market research will help us to define more specifically the areas that we should be looking at in the next few years.

Mr D.S. BAKER: The Minister referred to wineries in the Southern Vales that provided a total holiday experience and she outlined the help that was being given to entrepreneurs who wished to make that region a tourist area. What is the Department of Tourism doing in the Southern Vales and in other parts of the State for that type of person who is providing a total holiday experience? Is Government assistance being given by means of grants, loans, or promotion?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Department of Tourism cannot help financially with private sector operations, but we try to help those private sector organisations by means of promotion. We display their promotional literature wherever possible and use their product in advertising material that we produce or distribute.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: At page 633 of the yellow book, under the heading 'Issues/trends', there appears the following statement:

In the face of greatly increased competition from other States, South Australia has been able to generally maintain its market share of aggregate tourist activity in recent years.

Then, at page 627, under the heading 'Corporate/management objectives', we are told that South Australia has 'about 7.4 per cent of domestic visitor nights'. On the basis of the State's population and general economic activity, I should have thought that 7.4 per cent was less than South Australia's rightful market share of any national economic activity. Does the Minister consider that 7.4 per cent is an optimum level for South Australia's market share of domestic visitor nights? If she does not, what goal should be set by the department in this respect?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not consider that to be an optimum level, but I do not think that I should fall into the trap into which the member for Coles fell when she was Minister of Tourism, by putting a figure on what I think might be an optimum level. We should be pursuing as much growth as possible without limiting ourselves by putting a figure on it. For the past two or three years, our market share has remained relatively steady and we are still at about the same level of market share as is Western Australia, which is fairly comparable to South Australia.

One problem that we have had in South Australia in recent years in building our market share has been that we have not had the same level of tourism related development in this State as some other States have had. Perhaps Queensland is an example of a State where considerable development of tourism attractions and other facilities has taken place. However, through the efforts of this Government and other organisations, that matter is now being addressed and new attractions are coming on line. These include the Grand Prix, the various components of the ASER development, the Lincoln Cove project, and the interpretative centres in various parts of the State, and other things have been happening more recently. So, we should be much better able to promote our State and specific attractions and thus increase visitation to South Australia.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: What the Minister said about falling into a trap by setting targets was an extraordinary statement because, unless targets are set, there is no possible way in which targets can be met. It is one thing to say, as the draft tourism plan says, that the principal objective target is that the South Australian share of overseas and interstate visitor nights has progressively increased from 1984-85 levels but, unless a specific goal is set, we could increase our visitor numbers by only one and the Government could still claim that it had achieved its objective. So, unless a percentage annual target is set, the Government will meander along with no objective in mind and no significant results, and we will stay on the 7.4 per cent, which is inadequate.

On page 627 of the yellow book, under the heading 'Strategies', we are told that one strategy is 'to extend the range and depth of South Australia's tourism product through identification and specification of tourism investment opportunities'. What investment, in money terms, has been made in South Australia from South-East Asia or from any other part of the world during the past financial year in response to the Government's efforts, through the Department of State Development and the Department of Tourism, to attract either business migration or capital? Will the Minister detail the amounts and the specific projects that have been initiated as a result of the Government's drive to attract tourism investment?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It seems that too often, during the course of this debate, statements, claims and assertions are made and then put aside, and we move on to something else without dealing with the issue appropriately. In my view, it is pointless and a waste of energy and time to set targets for increasing the number of tourists. It is much more important to establish goals, aims and targets for developing tourism within this State: that is, to develop attractions and the infrastructure that is necessary to make this State an attractive place to which people will come. Unless we have those things here, unless we pursue a policy and a strategy designed to make this place a desirable tourist destination, all the goals and targets in the world that we might set for ourselves in terms of how many people we want coming through the door will be irrelevant. That is not the way to increase tourism here at all.

People do not come just because we want them to. We have to have something for them to see and do and so we are pursuing a policy based on that strategy rather than setting goals and targets and hoping that we might be able to reach them. In regard to the question to which the member for Coles has just referred to, it is difficult to estimate what amount has been invested in South Australia as a result of the efforts of the Department of Tourism or the Department of State Development. As best we can, we suggest that about \$2 million has been invested in the accommodation section of the tourism industry in 1985-86 and about \$5 million plus has been invested this year in specific investment opportunities in places like the South Coast, Eyre Peninsula and the Riverland. That does not necessarily cover all investment brought about by Government activity. That question is too difficult to answer.

Mr TYLER: In some way my question supplements that asked by the member for Coles. It is no good talking about our share of domestic visitor nights if we cannot accommodate them. What are our occupancy rate statistics, especially since the Grand Prix, since we have had an internationally acclaimed event on our calendar?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I have those figures. Occupancy rates in South Australia have been most encouraging since the Grand Prix last year. In the Adelaide region itself the figures are probably better than in any other area of the State, as one would expect. Since 1984-85 the occupancy rate has gone up from 57.5 to 63.2 per cent, which is very significant. There have been increases in most regions of the State.

Overall in South Australia the increase from 1984-85 to 1985-86 has been from 53.2 per cent to 55.1 per cent. Certainly, in the Adelaide, Barossa and South-East regions there have been good occupancy rates during this year that have been maintained steadily since the Grand Prix. There was a feeling earlier in the year that perhaps we would see a decline in the occupancy rates as the year went on because of course we had a successful Festival of Arts earlier in the year that accounted for some of the boost in numbers, but the growth has been sustained during the year and it is encouraging.

Mr TYLER: My question relates to the South Australian Tourism Development Plan referred to under 'Agency overview' on page 627, as follows:

The South Australian Tourism Development Plan, a five year plan setting out the strategies and priorities for the future development of tourism, has been in operation since 1982-83. This plan is being comprehensively reviewed in 1986 to provide the directions for tourism into the 1990s.

Can the Minister expand on where we are in that process?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A steering committee was appointed to oversee the development of the Tourism Development Plan after it was initiated in February this

year. There was extensive consultation with people in the tourism industry on the development of the draft plan. In February, through *Grapevine* magazine, readers were encouraged to complete a questionnaire seeking their views on the key issues and following that a series of discussion papers were prepared that were put to an industry forum meeting held in Adelaide in August. That forum, attended by over 100 key industry figures in South Australia, was successful in putting together what is now the latest draft plan that was presented to the recent State Tourism Conference.

People who attended that conference were also invited to complete a further questionnaire on the draft and we have been able to receive more detailed comments from people who were interested to give us their views. So, we have placed much emphasis on consultation in the development of this plan and we expect that the draft will be completed by the end of this year. We will then be able to launch the new Tourism Development Plan early next year.

Mr TYLER: Again dealing with 'Agency Overview' there is this statement:

There are strong indications that there will be an oversupply of accommodation development in Australia in the forthcoming years. In light of this trend South Australia should be selective in support of tourism accommodation investment proposals.

What is meant by 'oversupply of accommodation'?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There has been significant development in accommodation in various parts of Australia. Queensland is the most significant example of such development. In addition, in the last couple of years there has been enormous development of accommodation in Western Australia, particularly Perth, and there is a view that, if this style of development continues, Australia could see an oversupply of accommodation. Mr Paul Van Der Lee has spent much time recently looking at accommodation patterns and demands in Australia with a view to trying to assist us in pitching our own share of the accommodation market and helping us with the advice that we might give to potential investors about the style of accommodation that would be most suitable in this State. He can elaborate on my remarks.

Mr Van Der Lee: The main point to note about the accommodation oversupply is that it is probably likely to be oversupply in the five star category accommodation. Many sums have been done on this and it has been reasonably well documented in various places, like the *Financial Review*, the *National Times*, and so on. Those calculations indicate that if all the investment proposals that are currently on the drawing boards—and they amount to about \$5 000 million—proceed, and tend to be concentrated geographically in Western Australia, as the Minister mentioned, and also in Queensland, we will see a situation where there will be such an oversupply of accommodation on the market that it will take between three to five years for demand to catch up.

That would be a very awkward situation for the industry to find itself in, because there is likely to be price cutting and so on to try to fill that accommodation. What would tend to happen would be that some of those proposals would not proceed, and the situation could well become self-correcting. However, we need to be aware in South Australia not to fall into the same trap of promoting accommodation in the same segment, that is, the five star segment, where there is likely to be an oversupply.

Other commentators (and I think there is sufficient evidence to support this) have pointed out that provision for growth of accommodation in the three or 3½ star market has not been as rapid, and there are certainly opportunities

in that area. As well, as has been discussed earlier, there are demonstrated opportunities in the alternative accommodation areas, where a package of activities and accommodation is often provided. One of the things the department is trying to do, therefore, is to give investors a better set of information and knowledge of this forward-looking environment for accommodation so that they can make appropriate investment decisions.

Mr TYLER: I completely agree. I have not been to Queensland, but I have been to Western Australia, and by putting up five star hotels everywhere in Fremantle, the character of Fremantle is being completely destroyed. Is there a danger in South Australia of becoming top heavy in this five star market?

Mr Van Der Lee: I think South Australia is in the best situation of any of the States. For whatever reasons, there has not been a big rush to build a lot of five star accommodation in the State. There are certainly times when we could do with more, as the heartache that those people who are trying to organise Grand Prix accommodation will attest to, but it is hard to sustain that, once we have the Hyatt on stream, any substantial amount of additional five star accommodation could be justified.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: At page 627, the document states:

Specific marketing strategies which will be adopted are:

... targeting tourism promotion initiatives at key interstate and overseas markets.

Can the Minister elaborate and advise the Committee what the department regards as our key overseas markets, and how much has been allocated to each of those markets for the current financial year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As far as the international market is concerned, we will be allocating \$565 000 this year. Of that amount, \$190 000 will go to the Japanese market; \$120 000 will go to the UK and European market; around \$100 000 for South-East Asia; \$65 000 for North America and \$60 000 for New Zealand. The remaining \$30 000 will be spent on publicity, for meals and special projects of one kind or another.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Pursuing that question over to page 634 under the heading 'Marketing the State as a Tourist Destination' and referring to 'Issues/Trends', the document mentions international flights in and out of Adelaide. Can the Minister advise the Committee if any of the airlines have plans to increase their flights into South Australia and, if so, on which routes? Further, which ones would the Government like to see?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have not had any information about airlines making specific decisions either to increase flights or to bring flights into Adelaide. However, from time to time, members of the department and I have had discussions with representatives from various airlines who are at least interested in investigating the possibilities, and most recently the Director of Tourism has had discussions with MAS and Qantas about those possibilities. I also had discussions with MAS earlier in the year and Air New Zealand has indicated an interest in increasing the number of air links between Australia and New Zealand. Air New Zealand is investigating the possibility of a flight between Christchurch and Adelaide, and that is certainly something we would be keen to pursue, because not only would that open up another segment of the New Zealand market to South Australia, but it would also provide us with another air link to the West Coast of the United States as there is a link between Christchurch and the United States. That would certainly be a very desirable link if Air New Zealand is able to have the appropriate negotiations with Qantas.

MAS is thinking of a link between Kuala Lumpur, Darwin and Adelaide, which would also be very desirable and something which we are keen to promote, because that would open up a new market for us in South-East Asia, not only for tourism but there is potentially another growth area for trade, particularly in the line of fresh fruit and vegetables—a very successful aspect of the air link that we have with Singapore. We believe that there are opportunities with Malaysia along those lines if we can achieve that air link.

We have been talking with Qantas and are very keen to pursue the idea of interlining with Sydney and Perth to Japan and North America. Discussions have been taking place with Qantas recently about the possibilities of achieving that. They are the most recent developments. We have to keep pursuing the airlines concerned to try to achieve those air links because it will make a significant impact if we are able to achieve that growth in flights.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Continuing on with the Japanese market, the Federal Minister for Tourism in a post Federal budget press release stated:

Japan was now Australia's fourth largest single market, last year attaining a 25 per cent growth to about 112 000 arrivals. A further 25 per cent rise was expected this year following the success of the ATC's 'I'm Aussie' advertising campaign, which was aimed at young married couples and female office workers aged 19 to 29.

Of that 25 per cent national increase, what percentage did South Australia receive of those Japanese visitors, and in what way is South Australia linking in to the 'I'm Aussie' campaign to ensure that Japanese who respond to that campaign do not restrict themselves to the Eastern States?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: At the moment, I think our share of the Japanese market that comes to Australia is something like 4 per cent, so we are working from a very small base. We hope that we might increase our market share through those cooperative efforts. I think I will ask Andrew Noblet, who has been working very closely with the ATC and with various interests in Japan in promoting our interests, to give us an update on exactly what the department is pursuing with respect to the Japanese market.

Mr Noblet: South Australia's strongest short-term potential in the Japanese market rests with those market segments who have longer time than the average Japanese outbound tourist. The average Japanese person who goes overseas takes an eight-day, seven-night trip, two nights of which are spent in an aeroplane and five in the destination country. That leaves very little room to include Adelaide. Our greatest potential lies with the groups who travel for longer periods, predominantly students, young office ladies and what is known affectionately in Japan as the silver market—the older age group who have more time on their hands and higher disposable income.

Our marketing efforts in Japan have tended to be directed towards the wholesalers who specialise in handling those market segments rather than chasing the honeymoon market, which has become a great boon to Queensland, Hawaii, Guam and other destinations. South Australia will never be able to increase its market share significantly until there is a non-stop direct flight from Japan to Adelaide.

Our marketing efforts in Japan are directed just as importantly at the travel industry and the international airlines as they are at consumers so that sooner or later Adelaide's turn will come for inclusion on the schedule of outbound flights from Japan. In summary, our marketing efforts in Japan are directed at those market segments that have greatest potential for South Australia, notably those people with more time on their hands and a higher discretionary income, in an effort to increase our current market share

from 4 per cent to 5 per cent or 6 per cent, and hopefully more than that in the long-term.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: At page 627 of the yellow book under 'Agency overview' there is reference to the Government's placing a high priority on selective infrastructure developments. Will the Minister provide a status report on the Lincoln Cove development and indicate when the first accommodation will come on stream and any other relevant matters? What are the Government's plans to assist in the promotion of Lincoln Cove, and what efforts is the Government making to make Lincoln Cove part of a recreational boating package that could attract not only interstate but also overseas visitors to South Australia?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The plans for the development of Lincoln Cove are proceeding very well and are largely on target. The marina area has been excavated and will be flooded fairly soon. In the meantime, measures to sell the packages of land around the Lincoln Cove development are proceeding, and I understand that about \$2 million worth of land has already been sold. It is anticipated that once the marina area has been flooded and people get a clearer picture of the nature of the development, once they can see for themselves how attractive the area is, greater effort can be put into the selling program and more sales will be achieved.

There will be development in a number of stages, I understand, and the first stage of the development will incorporate family tourist accommodation involving about 50 units initially in conjunction with a retail entertainment core, which will include a tavern, restaurants, and other such facilities. The Lincoln Cove Development Corporation is working on a number of plans with respect to its future and its involvement in the above ground development of the project and the staging of the various components. Mr Penley, who is the Government representative on the Lincoln Cove Development Corporation, will expand further.

Mr Penley: The Minister has covered most of the points. The tourist accommodation will begin the first stage, hopefully within the next couple of months, and will involve 50 family accommodation units at about the 3½ star level. In addition, there will be 50 what we will call fishermen's cabins pitched at the budget end of the market, so hopefully there will be 100 keys of accommodation on stream at the end of next year. That is seen as the beginning of stage 1 of the objectives of both the Lincoln Cove development and the Government in the creation of an international style resort. We will be working very carefully to ensure that that resort is pitched at the character of Port Lincoln and the coastline.

Government assistance for the construction of that resort, in particular financial assistance, is yet to be determined or assessed, so that question cannot be answered. The future promotion of Lincoln Cove as a tourist destination will proceed in a cooperative sense with the department once the operator is brought on stream, and that will be early next year. Pre-opening promotions will occur in the form of familiarisations for travel agents and wholesalers hopefully in about the middle of next year.

The project is on stream. The real estate sales are on target—indeed, they are slightly ahead of budget, although they have slowed down marginally over the winter months. The flooding of the basin, which will commence at 1 a.m. tomorrow, and the coming of summer will produce quite a buoyant real estate sales period for at least the next six to eight months. We are confident that we will stay on budget and that we will exhaust the existing supply of real estate.

Mr DUGAN: Did the figures that the Minister cited in reply to the member for Fisher in terms of hotel occupancy

for the past 12 months since the Grand Prix, indicating substantial increases of up to 60 per cent in some cases, relate to South Australia or a specific part of the State?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The figures I quoted were for the City of Adelaide and the State as a whole. In the Adelaide area there was an increase in occupancy from 57.5 per cent to 63.2 per cent compared to last year, and for the State as a whole there was an increase from 52.3 per cent to 55.1 per cent. Various regions differ, depending on their respective success.

Mr DUGAN: I wanted to clarify that, because a number of hotel managers in Adelaide have told me that they were more than satisfied with the extremely high occupancy levels. In fact, they were reporting occupancy levels much higher than that, but perhaps that involves only the major four star or five star hotels in Adelaide. In the past 12 months, particularly since the Grand Prix, some occupancy rates have been as high as 70 per cent and 80 per cent.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That is right. The figures for the Adelaide region cover the metropolitan area and other parts of the near Adelaide district. Occupancy rates of about 74 per cent have been reported for the inner Adelaide area.

Mr DUGAN: That is no doubt due in part to the major sporting events and national and international conferences that have been held as part of Jubilee 150, and other major events such as the Festival of Arts, all of which have kept up the occupancy rate. I was interested in the Minister's comment, in reply to the member for Coles, about the tourism conference. The Minister said that the department had surveyed all the participants in that conference to ask them a series of questions about their approach to Adelaide and how its facilities rated, and so on.

That put me in mind of the fact that there are nearly 1 000 delegates here for a national housing and planning conference, and I wonder whether the process of canvassing visitors when there are large numbers of them here for national and international conferences is a normal part of the operational programming for a tourist department or whether there is some consumer resistance to being surveyed in hotel rooms. I also wonder whether, when major events such as the one which is on this week and that which was on last week are being conducted in Adelaide, any attempt is made to provide those visitors to the State with documentation, in their hotel rooms or through the hotel, related to their visit to South Australia. Are they given additional information or is it provided through conference organisers?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There is a bit of misunderstanding about what we did at the tourism conference last week. We did not survey the delegates about their attitudes to Adelaide as visitors, because most of the people who were attending the conference were tourism operators within the State. We surveyed them as to their views on the draft tourism development plan and asked them to fill in a questionnaire on that. The last occasion on which we undertook a survey of people visiting South Australia in the way that the honourable member has suggested was the effort that we made during the Grand Prix last year, when we not only asked visitors to the Grand Prix track itself to fill in questionnaires with an interviewer being present but also deposited questionnaires in all the hotel rooms around the city area. We had an overwhelming response to that request for information, and a much better return rate than would normally be expected for a questionnaire of this kind.

At least on that occasion there was not consumer resistance to completing the questionnaire, and we feel that that might have been helped by the fact that we suggested that if individuals filled in the questionnaire they might be

eligible to receive two free gold passes to the 1986 Grand Prix. If we provided such incentives for other questionnaires, we might have a better success rates. We got useful information about people's attitudes to Adelaide, their spending patterns and other things.

As to material, literature and promotional information for visitors to the city for conferences, usually the people who are organising conferences seek out that information and go either to the Department of Tourism or seek advice and information through the Adelaide Convention and Visitors Bureau, which provides promotional literature usually in the material that it distributes at conferences.

Mr DUIGAN: From recent press reports it appears that there may be a new group of people coming to South Australia, namely, those people who may fly to Alice Springs from the Eastern States to play the poker machines all the way down to Adelaide. Perhaps the Minister could organise package deals with Australian Airlines to appeal to those people to fly to Alice Springs and then come to Adelaide to spend their winnings here in the Casino.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: In relation to the Adelaide Convention and Visitors Bureau, what funds are being given to it this year and what sum was provided last year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Last year we allocated \$130 000 to the ACVB and this year we will be allocating \$135 000.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Given the work of the bureau and the return on investment that the Government can get from that work, and recognising that convention visitors spend more per day than any other kind of visitor, will the Minister consider linking the Government's grant to a formula that provides for the staffing costs, which is a common formula that is used by Governments in other parts of the world, so that the bureau's administrative arrangements can be conducted with confidence and its promotional events can be raised from its members? The sum of \$135 000 seems to be a very small amount considering the work that the bureau does to bring more than \$20 million a year into the State in terms of visitor expenditure.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Government values highly the work of the ACVB, and I point out that this State Government provides more in the way of Government funding to this bureau than any other Government in Australia provides for its bureau. We had discussions with representatives of the ACVB earlier in the year. They put to me a case for increased funding and pursued with me the idea of devising a formula for funding. We indicated (and this was well before we had any idea of what sort of budget we would be putting together in the financial year) that we would look more closely at a level of funding that would incorporate those basic costs of the ACVB. At the same time I suggested to the ACVB that it should pursue more vigorously its other options for funding, that is, increasing the proportion of funding that is provided through the industry, through membership of the organisation and through contributions made by the Adelaide City Council.

It seemed to me that the Adelaide City Council's contribution was relatively low in view of its stated objective of promoting the City of Adelaide as a tourist destination and a prime centre in Australia for convention business. It seemed that it would be worth while for the management of the ACVB also to pursue that avenue. I understand that it did that and was able to secure an increase in the grant money from the City Council, certainly not to the sort of level for which it was hoping, but to an increased level.

In relation to State Government funding, I certainly would have preferred to provide a larger grant for the ACVB in its work this year. In view of the tight budgetary situation

I was not able to agree to a larger allocation. However, through the allocations that have been made for the Adelaide Convention Centre, the State Government is contributing significantly to the promotion of convention business in this State. Our collective contribution, both through the ACVB and the Adelaide Convention Centre, is considerable.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I would like some information about actual growth. Throughout the proceedings of the Committee various figures have been mentioned. At the State tourism conference it was difficult to gather accurate information because the slides displayed were flashed on and flashed off at high speed but, if I saw the slide correctly in the fleeting moment available to me, growth over the past five years appears to have been static. This surprised me.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The growth of what?

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The growth in visitor numbers in South Australia. From what I could see there was virtually a straight line from about 1980 to 1986. I am wondering whether my eyes deceived me or whether in fact there has been no real growth since 1980, because that was certainly the visual impact of the slide. Can the Director of Research indicate whether there has been any real growth in total visitor numbers to South Australia since 1980?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Visitor nights have remained reasonably stable during the past couple of years.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: For four years, if I saw the slide correctly. That surprised me because in 1982—the last year of office of the previous Government—I understood that there was substantial growth in this area.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There was in fact a dip in visitor nights in 1980-81 which picked up a little after that. Since that time visitor nights have remained relatively static. However, as I understand it, there has been an increase in visitor numbers during that period. We do not have information on the growth in visitor numbers with us tonight, but there has been an increase.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: If that is the case, that is a very serious revelation. It is fine to have an increase in visitor numbers, but the ultimate benchmark is the total aggregate of nights spent here. If we have 100 people staying for one night, or 10 people staying for 10 nights, the result is the same. Our goal should be to increase the number of visitor nights. Unless we do that, we do not create any more jobs or any more prosperity. I return to my absolute commitment to the policy that there should be an annual target that we aim to achieve every year. Unless we know exactly what we are going after we have very little chance of achieving it. If there has been virtually no growth in visitor nights in South Australia in the past four years, I do not see how anyone can claim that the Government's tourism policy is a success.

We may have created more infrastructure, we may have spent more on promotion and we may have enhanced the product but, if it is not attracting more people to stay for longer, it has all been for nought in terms of growth. If the Minister does not have the figures with her, can she provide, for insertion in *Hansard*, accurate figures on which the graph depicted on the slide I mentioned was based? If there has been no significant increase in visitor nights over the past four years, the whole State and the industry should be well aware of that and we should start at square one and reassess our position, because apparently we have made no progress in four years.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I agree wholeheartedly with the member. We have to increase visitor nights to show success in attracting an increased share of the tourism market. In

fact, if the member had paid attention during the tourism conference and the talk that was given about visitor nights and visitor numbers, she would be aware that the speaker went on to say that during this year there has been quite considerable growth in visitor nights compared to last year. We expect to maintain that growth in visitor nights during the coming year, and it will probably plateau in 1987-88. There has been no growth in visitor night numbers during the past 12 months. So I think the changes that have occurred in South Australia in terms of the development of infrastructure and the other things that we have been discussing tonight have played an important role in assisting our tourism promotion and attracting tourists to this State.

Mr TYLER: The Minister will be aware that there is a coalition of right wing groups formed in South Australia advocating the abolition of the holiday leave loading. The Minister will be aware also of the H.R. Nicholls Society and the Free Enterprise Foundation, which also has significant membership from the Liberal Party—

Mr D.S. Baker interjecting:

Mr TYLER:—like the member for Victoria. I am glad the honourable member has pointed out that he is a member of the New Right. Can the Minister indicate what effect the abolition of the holiday leave loading would have on families in encouraging them to partake in holidays?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is pretty clear that the abolition of the holiday leave loading would have a significant impact on tourism. It would have a direct negative effect on domestic travel in Australia because at present the lump sum nature of the holiday leave loading and its payment coincide with recreational leave periods and provides dual incentive for families, for households, to direct that extra income to holiday expenditure, holiday travel.

For this reason the abolition of the loading would have a greater impact on tourism and travel within Australia than any other discretionary expenditure that families currently have. It seems to me that any reduction in the real income of families will have a negative effect on the ability of families to travel and their decisions to allocate some of that income to touring. Therefore, the abolition of the holiday leave loading would have a detrimental effect on the businesses of people in the tourist industry, many of whom I know believe that it would be desirable to abolish that leave loading. The cost savings to the industry operators would be far outweighed by the loss of demand that the abolition of the loading would create.

Mr TYLER: It would have the effect of biting the hand that feeds it, because the bread and butter of the industry comes from families and their ability to take holidays. What impact does tourism have on the State's economy? How many people are employed in both a part-time capacity and a full-time capacity? I seek also a breakdown of the age and sex profile of workers.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In regard to the impact on the economy, the South Australian Tourism Industry Council recently assessed the dollar impact during the last year as being about \$1 billion, if one includes the day trip expenditure figures. It is a significant part of our economy. In regard to employment, 27 000 people are employed in the industry. There are 20 000 full-time jobs and 20 000 part-time jobs shared among 27 000 people. As I understand that information about sex and age distribution is not available to us, it would not be possible to get that breakdown.

Mr TYLER: Can the Minister indicate traffic figures through the International Airport during the life of this Government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Since this Government took office there has been an increase from, I think, six flights

to 13 flights a week through the International Airport. I do not have information available about the total traffic in terms of numbers through the International Airport, but we do know that about 18 per cent of international visitors who come to South Australia come through the International Airport.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I again refer to the visitor nights figures. The Minister has confirmed that there has been no growth in visitor nights in the past four years. Am I correct in my interpretation of the Minister's response?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, it has been static.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The Minister says there are indications of an increase in the 1985-86 year which it would be reasonable to assume could be attributed to a combination of the first Grand Prix and the Jubilee 150. If one makes that assumption, which is a fair assumption, the results so far are a very indictment of the Government's strategy. It means there is a natural increase because of one event—the Jubilee 150. Whilst the Government may take some credit it can hardly take credit for the timing; this year was going to be the year regardless, and the Grand Prix was not specifically part of the Government's tourism strategy in terms of its general overall departmental approach. So, the Government has not succeeded in any way at all in increasing visitor nights in this State. Would the Minister agree, on that basis, that there is cause for a very serious re-think of the Government strategy, or is she satisfied with that result?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not think the Government's effort and contribution in the area of promoting the Australian Formula One Grand Prix can be dismissed. It is a very significant achievement on the part of this Government that we have been able to secure that event on an annual basis for at least seven years, and I would expect that the contract will be extended beyond that. I do not think we have felt the full effects yet of the benefits to South Australia of that event alone. Not only do we have a significant inflow of visitors during the period of the Grand Prix events themselves, but we have an enormous increased exposure for the State and an awareness of South Australia which is brought about by the staging of that Formula One Grand Prix. I think we will start to feel the effects of that increase in promotion at a later time with respect to people taking decisions to visit South Australia for one reason or another.

The other aspects of the infrastructure development that I have referred to already, and the encouragement that we have given to a number of private enterprise projects in this State, are also playing a significant role, and for those things as well we have not had the opportunity to reap the full benefit. I refer to things like the development of the ASER project, the Convention Centre in particular, the development of the new Casino which, after all, has only been open for some 11 months, and other projects which have had the strong backing and support of this Government. I might say that they have not had the support at appropriate times of the member for Coles, who I think has taken a rather short sighted approach to the development of certain infrastructure in this State and has been rather negative, in my view, about some of the initiatives that this Government has taken to try to increase the range of tourism projects and the infrastructure in South Australia that would help to increase our market share of tourism.

I must say that the visitor nights record must also be placed in the context of what is happening nationally with respect to holidays being taken by people in this country. We are affected by national trends, just as other States are, in the sense that there is an increasing trend for Australians

to take shorter holiday breaks. They go to places for shorter stays rather than long holidays, and that is happening in this State and other places in Australia as well. It is a trend which we all have to cope with, and if that is how people want to take recreational leave available to them, then we have to accommodate that and go with it. Andrew Noblet would like to add one or two points to that.

Mr Noblet: I think it is worth making the point that achieving market shares is not directly related to the amount or type of advertising or promotional expenditure. It has a lot to do with the way in which the product development of the State keeps pace with the developments of other competitive destinations. What we have seen in the past 12 months is a good example of how South Australia can achieve improved visitation from interstate, overseas and from within the State when we begin to place increased emphasis on development of new and innovative products and special events, and take advantage of them.

Although the Jubilee 150 events of 1986 were not an initiative or a responsibility of the Department of Tourism, the promotion of them was. The Jubilee 150 Board expended no dollars outside of South Australia, where the total promotional responsibility rested with the Department of Tourism. Given the existence of the special nature of the events and activities in the Jubilee year, the department has in fact been able to notch up some very satisfactory indicators in the first nine months of this calendar year. By taking advantage of the Grand Prix and promoting it interstate, the same with the Jubilee 150 events, and the same with events like the Festival of Arts and the opening of the Casino, the department has begun to see very favourable increases since the beginning of this calendar year, to the extent that rooms sold in the whole of South Australia increased by 12.6 per cent in the first six months of this calendar year. I think it reinforces the view that the Minister expressed earlier, and contained in the review of the tourism development plan, that South Australia's future visitation increases are very much tied to the extent to which we can develop new and innovative product opportunities and then take advantage of them for interstate and overseas promotion.

No amount of promotion interstate; no amount of creative strategy will make up for product deficiencies, and I think the activity of the past six to 12 months has been a good example of how South Australia can achieve increases which, from all indicators—the Australian Bureau of Statistics figures; sales through the Travel Centres in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide; the distribution of brochures—point to the fact that our promotional efforts must be tied to the further development of innovative products and special events.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I would like to respond to the Minister's remarks. I take it that, in alleging, that I have a negative response to some of the initiatives, the Minister is not casting aspersions on a private member's right to oppose gambling. My opposition to the Casino is the only opposition I have expressed to any of the initiatives which she mentioned, and my support for all the others has been extremely strong and positive.

The Minister's following remarks about the Grand Prix seemed to put this tourism budget in an interesting light and indicate that the Government's tourism strategy basically rests on the assumption of an automatic increase in visitor numbers which will flow as a result of the Grand Prix and which is what is happening in the immediate and past financial year 1985-86, and that accounts for what the industry considers to be inadequate expenditure, notwithstanding the validity of the statement that promotion alone will not create a market: there must be a product for that

market to buy. This glowing talk about the future, which I hope is well justified and I believe to some extent is justified, is similar talk that South Australians have been hearing for the past four years.

As the Minister has acknowledged, in the past four years there has been no increase in the number of visitor nights. On that basis, will the Minister or her officers provide the Committee with statistics on visitor nights in South Australia from 1982-83 to 1985-86? I take it that that information is to hand.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We do have that information and I can provide it for the Committee. I would like to take up a couple of the points made by the member for Coles, because I think that the discussion we have been having all night indicates something quite contrary to the message that she is now putting to us about the approach that has been taken by this Government in pursuing a tourism strategy.

We certainly do not place all our emphasis in developing a tourism market on the benefits that might flow from the Grand Prix by any means. The Grand Prix is just one of the initiatives that have been taken by this Government. It is one of the projects which have been strongly supported by the Government and which have significantly increased the number of visitors to this State. However, the number of visitors to South Australia for that event is not the beginning and end of the value that accrues to South Australia through having the opportunity to host an international Grand Prix race. As I said earlier (and I repeat), the exposure that Adelaide and South Australia have achieved through the staging of that Grand Prix nationally and internationally is immeasurable.

I do not know whether the member for Coles has had the opportunity in the past few months to speak to people from other States and to international visitors, but I certainly have had those opportunities, as have other people with whom I have discussed this matter, and all those people report either a new perception about South Australia and Adelaide (if they knew about it in the past at all) or certainly, in the case of international people, a new awareness of the existence of this State and this city and an interest in visiting if people had not had the opportunity to do so previously.

That is the sort of thing that we must try to build on and to capitalise on. We must convert that renewed interest into travel plans to get people into this State as a result of the increasing awareness and interest. But that is not the only thing we have pursued since we have been in government. We have been pursuing the ASER development, we have supported the development of the Casino, and we have been working with private enterprise in the development of the Lincoln Cove project and a range of other projects that have been developed and established during the period in which this Government has been in office. We cannot expect to have results flowing from those initiatives before they have been created. But that is certainly the sort of development and promotional strategy on which we have been working during our time in office, and I believe that the results that we have seen in terms of the increased number of visitors in 1985-86 indicate that that approach is correct. I certainly hope that we will be able to maintain the growth that has been created during this year.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The Minister said that she had the figures to hand. Will she provide them for the Committee?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We do not think we have them here, but I can provide them later.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Does the Minister confirm that she does not have the figures on visitor nights here?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, but I can provide them later.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I note that under 'Agency Overview' at page 627 of the yellow book one of the corporate management objectives is to encourage tourism development which takes into account environmentally sensitive areas where appropriate. What is the status of the Flinders Ranges feasibility plan and when will an announcement be made about the investigation into the establishment of tourism accommodation in the Flinders Ranges? At what stage is that investigation at present? I know that the tourist operators in the region are extremely anxious to know what the recommendations will be.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The consultants have been working on this matter and they have taken much longer than I hoped they would take to produce the feasibility study for resort development in the Flinders Ranges. I understand that the study is drawing to a conclusion, and we hope that we will be able to make public the findings of the consultants' report towards the end of the year.

Mr DUIGAN: Does the Minister have available figures that might have been supplied to the department by organisers of major events such as the Festival City Marathon, the Australasian Oaks, the Festival of Arts, Oakbank, Come Out, and other major festivals that are held in South Australia, as to the number of interstate and overseas visitors that they attract? If the Minister has, will she give an indication of the number of people from interstate that those organisations think they attract to South Australia?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: At the moment we do not have accurate information about the number of festivals and special events that are held around South Australia. There is not a consolidated list of the hosting of various festivals and events here. We believe that it is desirable that there should be one, and we want to have available to us in readily accessible form information along the lines suggested by the honourable member.

Information about visitor numbers and other things may be of use to other organisations that are planning festivals or special events in this State. With that in mind, we are about to employ a student from TAFE to produce a report on just that sort of information. We want to have an inventory of the events and festivals that are held in South Australia annually and the timing of those events, and to have accurate information about exactly what those festivals and events produce. We do not have the information available now, but we will have it fairly soon.

Individual festivals and other special event committees and organisations make their own assumptions about what numbers of visitors are attracted by their events, and we have access to that information from time to time. However, we want to consolidate the information so that it is readily available in a centrally located places.

Mr TYLER: The department is involved in two bicentennial projects, one at Goolwa (an interpretive centre on the River Murray) and another at Port Augusta, which is an interpretive centre on Aboriginal culture. What is the progress on these projects?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Both projects are well along the way to development. The Port Augusta project is more advanced than is the project at Goolwa, but they are both very important interpretive centres that are being developed in South Australia, and they will play a very important role in providing information to tourists who come to this State. I will ask Mr Penley to expand on the development of both

those projects since he has been closely involved with both of them and will be able to provide a better picture of the stage that each has reached.

Mr Penley: The project at Port Augusta is known as Wadlata, the Outback Centre. It was the recipient of a \$1.8 million Australian Bicentennial Authority grant. The Wadlata and Goolwa projects are both in the advanced planning stages at the moment. The property at Port Augusta differs slightly, in that it exists in a physical form at the moment. Part of the grant was utilised to purchase an old Catholic college campus in the middle of Port Augusta. No building construction will occur apart from renovation of the existing building. Planning for the interpretive displays and exhibitions to go into that building are well advanced and will commence early next year. The centre is due to be dedicated in December 1987.

The River Murray Interpretive Centre at Signal Point near Goolwa is also in an advanced planning stage in relation to the building itself. Nothing exists on the site at the moment—the building must be constructed and the interpretive display and media installed in it. We expect planning approval for that project within the next two months. Construction of the building and prefabrication of the interior display will commence in January next year. That is also scheduled to open in December 1987. That is the recipient of a \$2.8 million ABA grant.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that members want to ask questions on capital expenditure. We now have about 18 minutes remaining. I will take any more questions on the tourism line.

Mr D.S. BAKER: First, I take issue with the member for Fisher in relation to his disgraceful attack on members on this side, his claim about our political thinking and his specific claim that I am a member of the New Right. I categorically inform the member that I have been right all the time and continue to remain that way!

I refer to an answer by the Minister to a question from the member for Fisher regarding holiday loadings. Having been involved in the tourist industry I am aware that penalty loadings have the greatest financial effect on that industry. If ever there was anything that we could do in this State to make us not only more viable but also more competitive on the world scene, it would be to start talking about penalty loadings. They affect not only employment generally, but also our competitiveness in the tourist industry. Although I would not like to talk about abolishing casual work, I think it is time that we in Australia talked about people working at a casual rate, whether on Saturday, Sunday or any other day of the week. What are the Minister's thoughts on what effect that would have on our tourist industry generally in this nation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The first point that I would like to make about penalty rates is that it really is mythical to suggest that penalty rates have a significant impact on the tourism and hospitality industry. Penalty rates do not represent a significant cost input in the tourism industry. A number of research studies undertaken in Australia show that penalty rates have only a small influence on the overall costs in the industry.

Most employers have been able to use casual staff rather than paying penalty rates to permanent staff. In addition, a large number of tourism facilities are run by owner operators using members of their families as support staff, so they do not pay penalty rates, either. The savings that are often talked about as occurring if penalty rates were abolished would not materialise because the overall level of wages would tend to increase. You would find that workers

would demand increased wages or some form of compensation for working odd hours of the day.

I recognise that in the tourism and hospitality industry it is a seven day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day business in some cases, which means that there is demand for working at unusual hours of the day. Employers would find that employees would demand some other form of compensation if penalty rates were to be abolished. Therefore, the basic wage structure would not be reduced significantly.

It seems to me that the claims that are made about penalty rates, first, are grossly overstated as to their impact on costs within the tourism industry and, secondly (and there is good evidence to support this), that if penalty rates were abolished there would be some other form of loading or demand for compensation in order for people to work in the unusual hours and circumstances that many have to work within the tourism and hospitality industry.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I turn to the appointment of the Director for the Regions. The Minister will be aware that I have asked questions of the Premier regarding this appointment. Yesterday I received a letter which reinforced many of the concerns that have been expressed to me from the regions. The letter was attached to a news clipping in which the Minister denied that there had been any political interference in the appointment. The letter indicated that one of the members of the selection committee, namely, the Director of Local Government, had written a reference for one of the applicants for the position upon whom she would subsequently pass judgment for appointment.

If that is the case, it is a matter for concern. Can the Minister assure the Committee that the information given to me is wrong, or did the Director of Local Government write a reference for one of the applicants whom she subsequently assessed for the position?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I certainly had no knowledge of this letter until this minute, when the Director of the Department of Tourism indicated to me that one of the applicants had asked the Director of the Department of Local Government to be a referee. The Director of Local Government agreed that she would be available to be a referee but, when she was asked by the Director of the Department of Tourism to join the panel for the selection of a suitable person to fill the position of Assistant Director, Regions, I understand that the Director of Local Government informed the applicant that she could no longer act as a referee on behalf of the applicant and would not be prepared to provide a reference of any kind, whether written or otherwise.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to page 629 and the heading 'Advice and Support to Tourism Development' and the item 'Promotion of Tourism Awareness' for which \$71 000 was made available in 1985-86 of which only \$48 000 was spent. The importance of tourism awareness cannot be underestimated, and it flows way beyond the so-called tourism and hospitality industry into fields like retailing, transport, commerce, banking and the like where too few people are aware of the importance of tourism and the need to inform visitors in any way they wish. Can the Minister explain why that important allocation was underspent, and what are the Government's plans for expenditure on tourism awareness in the current year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We are not able to provide a response to that question at this time, but I will have some inquiries made and make that information available at a later time.

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

Works and Services—Department of Tourism, \$9 519 000

Chairman:

Mr D.M. Ferguson

Members:

Mr D.S. Baker
The Hon. Jennifer Cashmore
Mr M.G. Duigan
Mr M.R. De Laine
Mr J.K.G. Oswald
Mr P.B. Tyler

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr G.J. Inns, Director of Tourism, Department of Tourism.
Mr A.B. Noblet, Deputy Director, Department of Tourism.
Mr D.E. Packer, Assistant Director (Administration).
Mr L.J. Penley, Assistant Director (Development).
Mr P.J. Van Der Lee, Assistant Director (Planning).
Mr G.L. Ashman, Administration Manager, Adelaide Convention Centre.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the vote open for examination.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The questions I would have asked about the Adelaide Entertainment Centre have already been answered under the other lines. I would like to ask about the \$5.5 million worth of equipment to be purchased for the Adelaide Convention Centre. Can the Minister advise the Committee what are the principal components of that equipment, what will be the method of tendering for the equipment, and are South Australian firms to be given preference in that tendering process? It is quite a substantial sum that could be of considerable benefit to South Australian industry.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is the intention to give preference to South Australian companies, and that has already been the case unless there is a substantial difference in the price and quality of the equipment being offered by companies outside the State. As far as the allocation of the \$5.4 million is concerned, the major components of the money to be spent on equipment relate to such things as the purchase of furniture, fittings, equipment and operating plant for the Adelaide Convention Centre. The major components include \$1.1 million on loose furniture and equipment, \$850 000 on seating, \$985 000 on kitchen equipment, \$627 000 on kitchen small wares etc. Other moneys being spent are in packages of \$100 000, \$300 000 or \$400 000 lots and include such things as projection equipment, PA system, performance lighting, security system, carpet for the main hall, security safes, forklift and bucketlift tractors, staff uniforms, computers, PABX and translation equipment.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Obviously the interior design of the Convention Centre would be a very important contract for a designer. What component, if any, of that \$5.5 million has been allocated for interior design, and what firm has been engaged for the purpose of designing the interior?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I understand that most of the interior design work is in the hands of the ASER Property Trust rather than the State Government through the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Notwithstanding that, it is still important to know whether a South Australian company has been engaged to perform the interior design work. Does the Minister know which company is involved?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I understand that a South Australian company called Woodhead Hall McDonald Shaw has been successful in gaining that business.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: In referring to the allocation of \$4 million for the Adelaide Entertainment Centre I was noting what the Minister said and got as far as \$2.5 million for site acquisition, and there were other components. Given that the Premier has said that the centre is a long way off, is it expected that that \$4 million will be spent in the current financial year if only \$2.5 million is for site acquisition and the Government does not intend to proceed much further, according to what the Premier has said.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We are planning to spend the full \$4 million in this financial year. As has already been indicated, \$2.5 million will be spent on continuing the site acquisition program which has already begun. A further \$1.5 million will be spent on design development for the Entertainment Centre and at that point there is likely to be a pause in the development process. The committee that determined the successful proposal and advised the Government as to how the project should proceed argued very strongly that, if the project had to be slowed down for cost reasons, it would be important to proceed at least to the design stage, because it would be very difficult, if we paused at this stage, to maintain the enthusiasm and the personnel who formed part of the original design team. If there was a break, we could lose the input of very important figures

in that process. Therefore, the project will move to the design stage.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to the Victor Harbor railway, the funding responsibility for which has been transferred to the Minister of Transport: what plans, if any, has the department to promote that railway once it is upgraded?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Mr Noblet will report on the specific plans for promotion.

Mr Noblet: There are no specific plans for that product that would place it in any other priority category as distinct from a number of other Government initiatives, including the Lincoln Cove development and the Port Augusta and Goolwa interpretive centres. Those new developments will feature very strongly in intrastate and interstate promotion of the range of South Australian tourism products in the near future. There is not a specific budget allocation for the Victor Harbor railway.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A management committee is being established to manage the Victor Harbor railway project and the Department of Tourism will have a nominee on that committee. Part of the responsibility of that committee will be promotion.

The CHAIRMAN: I am obliged to declare the examination of the vote completed. The Chair would like to express appreciation especially to the member for Light for scheduling the program for the past two days. I appreciate the way in which the honourable member has assisted the Committee and I certainly hope that we can continue with that sort of cooperation.

ADJOURNMENT

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