

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 17 September 1987

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Chairman:

Mr D.M. Ferguson

Members:

The Hon. Jennifer Cashmore
 Mr M.R. De Laine
 Mr K.C. Hamilton
 Mr J.K.G. Oswald
 Mr P.B. Tyler
 The Hon. D.C. Wotton

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: In opening the votes, it is my intention to open them all so that questions relating to tourism can be asked, and I will put the whole vote just before 4 p.m.

Tourism, \$9 894 000; Minister of Tourism and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts, Miscellaneous, \$3 676 000; Works and Services—Department of Tourism, \$2 347 000

Witness:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr G.J. Inns, Director of Tourism.
 Mr L.J. Penley, Assistant Director (Development).
 Mr D.E. Packer, Assistant Director (Administration).
 Mr M. R. Fisher, Assistant Director (Regions).
 Mr K.C. Rossiter, Acting Assistant Director (Planning).
 Mr P.A. van der Hoeven, General Manager, Adelaide Convention Centre.
 Mr G.L. Ashman, Administration Manager, Adelaide Convention Centre.
 Mr F.J. van der Lee, Acting Assistant Director (Marketing), Department of Tourism.

The CHAIRMAN: First, the lead speaker for the Opposition is allowed a 15 minute opening if she so desires and the Minister has the right of a 15 minute reply.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: In view of the short time available, I am willing to go straight into questions.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: If it is in order, I would like to make some opening remarks.

The CHAIRMAN: It is in order. It is in compliance with the agreement with which we started the Committee. Does the lead speaker for the Opposition wish to change her mind?

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: No.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I want to make a few remarks about the state of tourism in South Australia and some of the work that the Department of Tourism has been doing in the past 12 months. It is important to note that tourism in this State is doing very well. All the statistical indicators certainly tell that story. Tourist nights in South Australia are up by some 10 per cent in 1986-87 and that is on top of a 6 per cent increase for the year before. Interstate

visitation is up by some 20 per cent, and our market share has risen from 7.7 per cent to 9.2 per cent. Hotel and motel rooms sold in the State increased by 11 per cent compared to the national average of 7 per cent. In the lower budget end of the tourism market, caravan nights are also up by 8 per cent.

There has been a significant improvement in the tourism picture in South Australia during the past 12 months or two years. We should acknowledge that some of the Jubilee 150 events during 1986 have added to that very good performance. It is clear that there is a new growth trend in our State. I do not think that we should be surprised at our success when we consider that the progress that has been made in creating new tourism assets in the State has been quite significant during the past few years.

We have a growing number of services to the Adelaide International Airport; Australia's best, most elegant casino which is certainly attracting a lot of attention to our State; the Australian Formula One Grand Prix, which is a very high profile sporting event and which has raised the profile of our State; a magnificent new Convention Centre, which is the first purpose built facility of its kind in Australia; the Hyatt Regency Hotel opens within the next few months; and we have had unprecedented national exposure to the travel industry and various leaders within it through the conferences that have been held in Adelaide in recent times, including the Australian Federation of Travel Agents Conference, the Travel Writers Conference and the Adventure Workout group, which is here this month. The Stuart Highway has been sealed and that is adding to the number of people who are coming to this State for adventure outback holidays.

The Department of Tourism has conducted a review into regional tourism which is now complete. The South Australian tourism development plan for the next two or three years, which is a joint industry/Government document, has been released. The marketing strategy that we will be pursuing has also been formulated, and this follows the evaluation of the extensive market research study that we undertook late last year. The implementation of those things has begun, including the review of the Department of Tourism. We have appointed a marketing consultancy firm to assist us in pursuing the objectives that we have set for ourselves.

The South Australian Government has reaffirmed its commitment to tourism growth through this year's tourism funding allocation. This year's allocation for the Department of Tourism is up 8.3 per cent on the previous year's allocation. The Convention Centre allocation is up \$2.69 million and in combination this amounts to a substantial real increase in tourism funding. It contrasts favourably with the funding restraint that has had to be applied in some other Government functions. The Government's direct funding to the Department of Tourism budget cannot be taken in isolation. We must also look at the efforts that the Government is taking in other areas. Things that come to mind specifically would be the Grand Prix and the investment that has taken place there, the Lincoln Cove development at Port Lincoln, the effort that has gone into developing tourist attractions like the Maritime Museum, and various North Terrace cultural institutions.

Other policy decisions have been taken by the Government from time to time which assist in our tourist effort: for example the deregulation of petrol retailing, resulting in the availability of petrol 24 hours a day, which is very important to people touring our State by car. That is certainly a factor that showed up in one of our tourism surveys in the past as a problem for people visiting this State. I will

point out a few features of the department's allocation of \$9.894 million. Our marketing activity budget is up 12 per cent this year, and our overseas promotion activity funds are up by 24 per cent. The department now has an opportunity to increase its commission earnings to further add to marketing funds, and certainly during the past 12 months since the scheme was introduced we were able to exceed our budget—and I hope that we will be able to repeat that this year.

The reorganisation review has provided opportunities to get more out of our existing resources: for example, we are converting the support that we give to the regions of the State from administration assistance to promotion assistance. Following on from this funding allocation the department will be in a position to undertake several significant marketing initiatives during this financial year: for example, we will establish a South Australian presence in Queensland for the first time; we will upgrade our Travel Centre by introducing new staff uniforms; there will be better training and some changes to the decor of the Travel Centre; a new corporate logo and slogan will be created for South Australian tourism; we will commission a new library of photographs for promotional purposes; there will be a new series of motivational regional brochures; a new South Australian film will be produced to be used for video promotion of the State; a completely revamped brochure for South Australian promotion in overseas markets is being produced; and funds have been earmarked for advertising in selected national magazines to try and target the specific markets that we have identified as being relevant to South Australia (this represents an extension of our advertising to cover the national market).

We will have a new range of advertising material; we will step up the educational visits to South Australia for key publicists and people involved in the travel industry; there will be funding support to the tune of some \$70 000 for tourism promotion by the regions; we will establish a new festivals development fund of \$50 000 to be jointly funded with the State Government Insurance Commission; and we will produce a brand new brochure for the Japanese market.

In summary, we will be able to achieve a number of initiatives during this financial year, and I think the State's tourism future is looking very bright. I think that last year and this year will be seen as something of a milestone in tourism, and we are certainly looking forward to the challenges ahead of us. Speaking of milestones, I take this opportunity to recognise one other milestone occurring at the moment: that is, I understand that the member for Coles later today will celebrate her tenth anniversary in Parliament, and I certainly extend my congratulations to her.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure that the Committee as a whole would also like to extend its congratulations to the member for Coles.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Thank you, Minister, for such a gracious acknowledgment, and I extend that also to you, Mr Chairman, and the Committee.

As the General Manager of the Adelaide Convention Centre is present, I will begin by asking questions under the Miscellaneous line. In view of the Auditor-General's comments about the need for a mechanism to monitor the Government's obligation in respect of the ASER project, including operation of the Convention Centre, what arrangements has the Government made to ensure that its liability is accurately forecast and kept under rigid control in respect of the deficit funding of the Convention Centre?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not certain what the honourable member means by 'arrangements the Govern-

ment has made'. We have established a board which will assist in the operation of the Convention Centre. That board, which will report directly to me as Minister of Tourism, will meet on a regular basis to oversee and direct the work of the Adelaide Convention Centre to ensure that it is operating efficiently and effectively.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I think that the Auditor-General was expecting something more than a board; he wants to know what mechanisms the board will be putting in place to ensure that the Government's liability for the centre is accurately forecast and kept under rigid control. I repeat the question; what are the mechanisms that the board is using to ensure that that deficit funding is accurately forecast and kept under rigid control?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think that the honourable member is referring to the capital expenditure taking place on the ASER development as a whole. Perhaps she will correct me if I am wrong. It seems to me, first, that the ASER development is not a matter for me as Minister of Tourism to concern myself with, except to the extent that it affects the leasing arrangements for the Adelaide Convention Centre or the organisations involved with the development of the ASER project itself which I am certain are instituting very appropriate measures and ways of monitoring the development of that project to ensure that its cost is kept down as much as possible.

My function as Minister of Tourism is to oversee the work and operations of the Adelaide Convention Centre. The steps that I have taken to appoint a board, which comprise very responsible people with a broad range of expertise, are designed to assist me in ensuring that the work of the Adelaide Convention Centre is conducted as well as it might be.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The Minister in her reply referred to the appropriate measures that the board is taking in respect of the Government's liability for the operations of the Adelaide Convention Centre, which will cost taxpayers \$2.5 million for operations in the forthcoming year and \$1.16 million for common areas. I will put the question in another way; what are the components of the deficit funding of the operations of the Convention Centre? Does that sum include any allocation for marketing? And, how is this deficit funding estimated?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The lease payments for the Adelaide Convention Centre amount to \$2.45 million (based on a 6¼ per cent rate per annum) and the leasing amount of \$1.012 million for the car park, totalling \$3.462 million. The leasing payments for the Adelaide Convention Centre have been separated into those parts of the Convention Centre which form the revenue raising components and also other responsibilities that we have, and I am referring now to the common areas of the ASER development itself. The Government will be responsible for 40 per cent of the common areas of the ASER development project, and the payments, based again on that 6.25 per cent rate, will be \$1 044 000, making a total payment of \$3.7 million.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I have a supplementary question. There is a discrepancy between the Minister's \$3.7 million and the \$3.6 million which is listed in the Estimates of Payments, and I would like the Minister to explain that. In doing so, could she also answer my earlier question as to whether the grant to the Adelaide Convention Centre for operations includes any allocation for marketing or is that found under a different line?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am sorry; I did not include the information the honourable member is seeking. The discrepancy in the figure does include some of the other

operating costs and, certainly, there is a component for marketing which will be \$350 000 this year.

Mr HAMILTON: Given that 3.7 million people visited this State last year, poured in something like \$1 billion to our economy, and created approximately 27 000 jobs, can the Minister advise of the impact that the Convention Centre has had upon the local economy in terms of the additional moneys anticipated to be poured in or which have already been poured into the State economy, and the number of jobs created?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The bookings for the Convention Centre during this first financial year will inject something like \$9 million into the South Australian economy in terms of bookings for hotels and other money brought into the State by the delegates who will be coming here for conventions and other functions at the Adelaide Convention Centre. We have estimated that 235 000 delegates will attend conferences in our new Convention Centre during its first year of operation.

We know from surveys that have been conducted in the past that convention delegates tend to spend more on average than do other visitors, so it will make a significant impact on the South Australian economy. When one looks at that figure of \$9 million during its first year of operation and compares it with the deficit funding of \$3.7 million which will be provided by the Government for the operation of the Convention Centre, I think one can see that it is a very good deal that we have been able to do for the State by developing this excellent convention facility.

The Adelaide Convention Centre has engendered enormous interest and support throughout the country and also internationally with the number of conventions that are now coming here. Certainly, it has become a real favourite amongst many of the people who are looking at holding conventions in this State. About 11 international conventions are planned for the Convention Centre in the relatively near future, conferences which will bring in over 1 000 delegates each.

I cite that figure specifically, because that would not have been possible without some of the developments that took place to improve the design features of the Convention Centre during the course of its development. There has been some discussion about the fact that the all-up cost of the Convention Centre will be more than was originally intended, but it is important to compare apples with apples; the original estimate for the Convention Centre related to a very different facility from the one we have now.

We are now able to cater for a much greater number of delegates for conventions than would have been the case had the original design plans been followed through. Some of the features of the Convention Centre make it a much more desirable and flexible facility than otherwise might have been the case. That means, therefore, that we are able to use the facility all year round rather than experiencing slow spots or down periods during the year, which is the normal feature of the convention business. For that reason, I believe that the prospects for the economy in this State are very rich indeed.

Mr HAMILTON: The Minister will recall opening the AFTA *Advertiser* Travel Fair on 31 July this year. Given the large number of international and Australian delegates, can the Minister provide the Committee with information on the impact that that convention had and the comments that were received from international delegates in relation to not only the Convention Centre but indeed the projected opening of the Hyatt Hotel? Can the Minister say how many people will, hopefully, be attracted to Adelaide as a conse-

quence of both the AFTA Travel Fair and the opening of the Hyatt Hotel?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Certainly, people associated with the AFTA conference have been very glowing in their praise for both the Adelaide Convention Centre as a convention facility and some of the tourism products that they sampled while they were in South Australia. The convention program for delegates during their stay in Adelaide was quite extensive. Very deliberately, we tried to incorporate visits to various new tourism developments around the State to give people a much better feeling for what was happening here. An AFTA conference has not been held in Adelaide since 1978 and, while some of the delegates had visited Adelaide for other purposes since then, a number of people had not visited South Australia for quite a long time and were not aware of the sorts of things that were happening here, so it was very important for us to expose those people to the various happenings.

The conference itself was very successful. It was the first real test for the Adelaide Convention Centre in terms of catering for a large number of delegates. As the honourable member would know, it occurred about one month after the official opening of the Convention Centre, so the staff and the facility were certainly tested during the week of that conference and they came through with flying colours. Of course, that is not to say that there were not a few teething problems with various aspects, but we learnt an enormous amount from that conference. The organisers of the conference have been very glowing in their praise for the convention facility as a suitable venue. Just over 1 000 delegates attended that conference and attached to the conference itself was the AFTA travel mart.

It was also housed in the Adelaide Convention Centre building and about 10 500 people passed through the travel mart facility whilst that was in operation as well, so it was an enormous crowd for the facility to cope with but, with one or two minor exceptions, it coped very well. There are a couple of quite big functions to be held in the Convention Centre in coming months, too, which are also going to give us an opportunity to show off the state of the art facility that we have. The first function will be the SKAL conference in November this year which will bring to South Australia some of the most significant people in the travel industry in the world.

In April next year we will also be hosting the PATA travel mart, that is, an association of people in the Pacific area. These are two significant events coming up within the next financial year which will not only bring enormous revenue to the Convention Centre but will also give us the opportunity of spreading the word about the things that South Australia has to offer.

Mr HAMILTON: As I understand it, the Department of Tourism has produced a tourism plan for the direction of tourism in South Australia over the next three years. I understand that a market research study has told the department how that plan should be implemented. Given that we have an international airport and international flights, I wish to couple my question to page 517 of the yellow book, referring to further strong growth in inbound tourism to Australia, and the all important opportunities that will be provided by this sector. Given the importance of airlines in this area, what effort have the Minister and the department made to obtain additional flights to Adelaide from both existing and new carriers? In asking that question, I am cognisant of the statement at page 518 of the yellow book.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, we now have some 13 flights into Adelaide each week and, while that has shown

significant growth in the use of the international terminal since its establishment in 1982, we are not satisfied with that and would certainly like to encourage a larger number of flights into Adelaide. The Premier, myself and representatives of the Department of Tourism, and the Director in particular, have on every occasion possible talked with our national carrier Qantas and other airlines that might have shown some interest in coming into Adelaide to try to encourage them to do so. We have spent much time and effort mounting appropriate cases to those airlines to indicate to them that it would be an economically viable route for them to consider. We use every opportunity that we can to put that case before those airlines. We have had a number of discussions with Qantas, both at ministerial level and officer level. Representatives of the department meet on a regular basis with Qantas officials to discuss current circumstances and to try to impress upon them the importance of increasing our access to other parts of the world.

Recently, we have been talking with Thai Airways and Malaysian Airlines about their interest in their coming to this State, and you might have read recently in the press that the Director and the Lord Mayor, whilst they were in Malaysia, spoke with representatives from both those airlines about the possibility of encouraging them to come to South Australia. We have been having discussions at various times also with Air New Zealand because there are some opportunities there on which we think we can capitalise, should we be able to encourage them to put on a flight either from Auckland or Christchurch, which of course is one of our sister cities. We have been pursuing a number of opportunities.

To try to improve our links with the United States we have been having discussions recently with Continental Airlines both here in Australia and in the United States. We now have an officer working full-time for South Australia in Los Angeles and he has been talking with Continental Airlines officials at his end. We have been talking with people at this end to open up the possibility of increasing our opportunities in that market as well. So, we have been doing some extensive work and I hope that before too long some of that will start to pay off in increasing flights to Adelaide.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I would like to point out to the Minister that this is a Budget Estimates Committee and, while I do not in any way begrudge her introductory remarks because they were very interesting, the Opposition has had the opportunity to put three questions in more than 35 minutes and, thus far, all that has been obtained in answer by way of financial information is that three months into the financial year the \$3.6 million that was allocated to the Adelaide Convention Centre has now become \$3.7 million. The Minister has identified the components of the \$3.7 million, but it seems extraordinary that already the figure has increased within the space of only three months from the budgeted figure, which simply highlights the Auditor-General's comments about the need for rigid control of Government estimates and expenditure. So, I ask the Minister what are the projections for deficit funding for the Convention Centre over the next three years and what are the projected bookings over the next three years.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I indicate that we do not have the projected figures for the next three years with us, and I will take that question on notice and provide information at a later time.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out that any material that is to be provided in *Hansard* must be here by 2 October.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, we can meet that deadline. I should say that the increases in lease payments will be based on CPI increases.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The Auditor-General's Report, at page 198, dealing with the entertainment centre, indicates that in 1986 \$64 000 was paid to consultants for this proposal. In 1987 \$1.195 million was paid to consultants. This is an extraordinarily high sum for a project that is not to proceed. Who were the consultants, what is their brief, what advice did they give the Government and was the full \$1.195 million paid to one or several consultants?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The consultants for the entertainment centre were Hassell and Partners, who provided advice to the Government on this issue. As members will recall, Hassell and Partners was the successful consortium that put forward a proposal for the entertainment centre. The money that has been paid to Hassell and Partners relates to the development of that proposal, in particular to developing the design of the centre that they had put forward as the proposition that they wanted to pursue.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I would like confirmation from the Minister that that money has in effect been poured down the drain. The Premier's remarks suggest that if the entertainment centre is ever to go ahead it will do so on the basis of a private enterprise proposal for a somewhat different and more modest centre. Will the Minister confirm that that \$1.195 million will now not be put to any use and the designs that the Government have will not be implemented?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That is not the case, because a lot of work that was done by the proponents also related to research in relation to entertainment centres and facilities in other parts of the country and the appropriate components to be included in the sort of facility that we are interested in developing. All of that work is available to us to be passed on to people who might be successful in putting forward ideas for the future. It means that the process to be pursued in the development of new proposals will be significantly reduced because so much work has been done on some fairly fundamental issues. It means that the new people coming in to the area will not have to start from scratch.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Total staffing has been reduced from 91.5 FTEs to 85.4 FTEs. The principal reduction appears to be from 12 FTEs to 0.4 FTEs in 'Assistance for conventions' and 12 FTEs to 0.6 FTEs in 'General promotion' (page 513). Recognising that a number of key people have resigned from the department, and recognising that the new marketing arrangements rely heavily on consultants rather than departmental staff, will the Minister explain where and why the reductions have occurred?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The reduction is brought about by the fact that the 12 FTEs that were employed by the Adelaide Convention Centre are now removed from the Department of Tourism lines because the operation of the Convention Centre has been separated from the operation of the Department of Tourism. That accounts for the difference.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: What about the general promotion figure, from 12 FTEs to 0.6 FTEs?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: If we look at the general promotion figure for 1986-87 we see that it is a reallocation of resources. We are discussing an accounting procedure.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: In 1986-87 under 'General promotion' it was proposed there be 12 FTEs but the actual was 0.6 FTEs. It is impossible to tell from looking

at the figures whether it is an accounting procedure. How did the 12 FTEs proposed become 0.6 actual in 1986-87? That is an extraordinarily large number of people—12 FTEs to one barely half time.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: If you look at the 'General promotion' line you see proposed 12 and actual 0.6. If you come down to 'Assistance for conventions' you see proposed 0.4 and actual 12. That is the reallocation of resources.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Was the designation of the 12 staff members proposed for 'General promotion' in 1986-87 merely a designation that was improperly used and should they in the first place have been identified as 'Assistance for conventions'?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The people who were shown under the 'General promotion' line (proposed) were people who were always going to be employed in the Adelaide Convention Centre. They were included under that line because it was decided, as an accounting procedure, that that was the appropriate place to put them at the time. During the year a decision was taken that they were better placed for accounting purposes under the 'Assistance for conventions' line, and that is why the alteration was made.

Mr De LAINE: In her opening remarks the Minister mentioned the appointment of a marketing consultant. Will the consultant replace the traditional advertising agency service used by the department in recent years? What function will that marketing consultant perform that the traditional advertising agency could not or did not perform?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The marketing consultants now employed by the department will replace the traditional arrangement that we have had in the past, which was to employ directly an advertising agency that has taken care of all our marketing and promotional needs. We have moved to this system of employing marketing consultants following a review of past practices. We are doing that because we believe that we will be able to get better value for money by employing people who will be able to take an overseeing brief on our marketing function and give us very extensive advice and access to a range of people in the marketplace. We are looking for the best value for money as well as the best possible marketing advice.

We believe that we should employ marketing consultants who will be able to negotiate directly with people involved in advertising, people who are the best in their field in design and creative work, people who are good at producing radio or television advertisements, or those who are best at producing brochures or whatever it might happen to be. By subcontracting out some of these tasks we are more likely to be able to keep a better eye on what is occurring. We will be able to monitor the performance of the people who are involved in those activities and, as I indicated, we will be able to get better value for money. So I believe that the marketing consultants that we have employed on contract will be able to provide us with the quality advice that we are looking for, and we look forward to the production of some very good work from these people.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to the program 'Advice and Support to Tourism Development', on page 159 of the yellow book, which states that a four-year \$1 million infrastructure program for Kangaroo Island is under way. What progress has been made in relation to that program?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Early last year I visited Kangaroo Island and looked at the various developments taking place there and to assess the needs in various parts of the island. It is very important that we ensure that any tourist activity on Kangaroo Island does not disturb the very delicate environmental balance, and it is important to control the flow of visitors. A lot of work needed to be done in

upgrading various parts of the island where visitors tend to travel extensively. So we developed an infrastructure program valued at \$1.1 million and we were hoping to be able to fulfil that program in agreement with local government authorities over four years. However, due to constraints in our budget we will probably have to extend the program by perhaps one or two years, but we will certainly fulfil the arrangement that we made with the Kangaroo Island councils.

So far, the major work that has been completed has been in the areas of Emu Bay, Stokes Bay, Brown's Beach and Snelling Beach. We have been able to upgrade day trip and camping facilities in those locations. We have also completed a new road signage program which was very much needed on the island, and anyone who has visited Kangaroo Island would know that its signposting was quite inadequate. We have done a survey and completed that road signage program. In the current year we hope to be able to provide toilet facilities at Snelling Beach and toilets and shelters at Antechamber Bay and adjacent to the Penneshaw jetty reserve. Work will also be done at Western Cove. So that program is certainly proceeding and I know that it has been welcomed by the people involved in tourism on Kangaroo Island.

Mr De LAINE: Page 519 of the yellow book also refers to the exciting new Lincoln Cove marina. Can the Minister advise the Committee of the department's involvement in the Lincoln Cove marina and resort project, and what progress has been made in relation to achieving the original objective of providing an international standard resort at that location?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Lincoln Cove development project certainly is exciting and the corporation running the project has achieved significant results. One of the most recent decisions it has taken is to proceed with the resort development that formed part of the original proposal. The corporation has put together a proposal which would result in a \$16 million development. Feasibility projections were recently concluded and action is now being taken to locate an equity partner for the development of the resort.

It is hoped that construction will begin on the resort some time next year. It will certainly be an important component of the entire development in relation to tourism. Certainly the progress that has been made on the sale of residential allotments and marina berths has been very heartening, but we need that resort development to take place to be able to attract the maximum number of tourists to the area. I feel quite heartened that this is now high on the list of priorities of the corporation, and I look forward to its development.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to the marketing line, and I think the member for Price questioned the Minister about this earlier. Of the \$3,036 million allocated for advertising and promotion, what amount will be paid to the new marketing consultant, Honeywill Reid, and what is its brief? What sums are to be paid to other consultants and is it known at this stage who they will be? Supplementary to the member for Price's earlier question and the Minister's answer about the efficiency and effectiveness of using consultants *vis a vis* staff and an agency, what savings or, conversely, increased expenditure will occur as a result of the decision to use consultants rather than departmental staff (and I am talking not about the merits but the costs)?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We will be paying the consultants \$50 000 for their services.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Is that in the form of a retainer?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It includes 600 hours of consultancy work over 12 months. The details of the work to be completed by the marketing consultants is currently under discussion. As the honourable member would appreciate Honeywill Reid was appointed only two weeks ago, so details of the work that they will perform for us are still under discussion. But in more general terms we will be asking them to advise us on the most effective means of implementing our main marketing activities: in other words, we will be asking for advice on the form of promotion, media, style and content of the message that we should be projecting about South Australia. That is in line with the marketing strategy which has come from our market research study.

We will be asking the consultants to identify the best technical or creative resource to commission for the tasks required. We want the consultants to manage the contract resources and advise us on the consistency of all creative executions and in relation to activities within our overall strategy. We will also ask the consultants to assist the department in the development and maintenance of communication and cooperative processes with other agencies, so there will be that public relations function, as well.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I know that I asked a multiple question, but I particularly wanted to know what savings or increased expenditure will occur as a result of the decision to use consultants rather than departmental staff. I am not seeking justification for it, because I accept the merit in that decision: I want to know the financial arrangement. Does it work out to be more economical or more expensive for the Government to do it this way?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is difficult to quantify the savings but I will identify specific things. By appointing marketing consultants rather than doing much of this work ourselves internally (as was the case previously), we will certainly have a staff saving of 1.5 full-time equivalents. In addition, we will be saving the fee that we would normally pay to an advertising agency.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Which is how much?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The fee paid in the past has amounted to about 7.5 per cent of the work achieved for us. As to other savings that might result from our ability to subcontract in a number of areas of work that we will pursue, that of course is very difficult to quantify at this time, but because the various components will be broken up in a way in which they have not been broken up in the past we anticipate that we will be able, if you like, to negotiate on individual contracts a much better deal than we were able to negotiate previously when we were relying on one agency to do all that work for us. I have been handed additional information about the fees that we have paid in the past, showing that our agency fee last year was \$34 989, so that is a significant saving.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The department has advertised for a marketing director. Will an appointment be made as a result of that advertisement and, if so, when, what salary will be paid and what will be the new marketing structure in the department?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have advertised a position titled 'General Manager, Marketing'. That appointment has not been made as we are still in the process of selecting a suitable candidate. There will be a restructuring of the marketing division of the department, which will result from the recommendations of the committee that I appointed to review the Department of Tourism's structure, roles and functions. At this time I am not able to give specific detail of what might flow from a restructuring of the marketing

area because there are a number of issues that I must raise with Cabinet before final decisions can be taken.

However, I can say in a general sense that the role of the General Manager, Marketing will be much more of a managerial role than the former position of Marketing Director. The Marketing Director, because he was working with an advertising agency, was very much involved with the development of creative work for the general promotion of the department. I anticipate that in future that individual will be playing much more of an overseeing, supervisory, or managerial role in ensuring that the marketing consultants are fulfilling their brief, and ensuring that not only the marketing consultants but the department as a whole—particularly those involved in the marketing functions of the department—are working according to the marketing strategy that we have determined.

There has been a tendency in the past for people involved in this area to be so involved with the day to day work of the department, or with their own particular area in the department, that there may have been a tendency to lose sight of the overall objectives in relation to where we ought to have been going with our marketing. With a different structure, and with the person in charge of that area having more time to devote to making sure that we stay on track, I think that we will have a much better opportunity of fulfilling the marketing objectives that we have determined as a result of the marketing research study and the marketing strategy that we have developed.

Mr TYLER: At page 518 of the Program Estimates reference is made to a major consumer research study undertaken during the second half of 1986. The findings indicated that market resources would have to be improved and it foreshadowed a marked change in the development of the department's forward marketing plans for 1987-88. Can the Minister tell the Committee what action has been taken to implement those findings?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. As I have just indicated, we will be restructuring the department's marketing area and have employed a firm of marketing consultants to assist in pursuing our objectives. Overall, our marketing hardware development has been allocated a substantial increase in funding this year. I think that this represents tangible evidence of the priority being accorded the development of new marketing tools for the promotion of tourism in this State.

We are well advanced in the production of a new range of regional brochures which will perform primarily a motivational function; that is, they are designed to encourage people to visit those regions of the State. We are producing a new brochure for the international market which will be released in the next few weeks. That brochure has been substantially upgraded in its format and will be printed in a larger quantity than we have been able to print in the past. It will form the major resource to be used by our overseas representatives. We have revised and reprinted the State map, which will be of real use to people motoring around the State.

Funding resources for the development of new photographic material for the department have tripled this year and we have already commissioned work in that area to identify suitable material for photographic work; we will be getting that work done as quickly as possible. We are producing a new film which will commence shooting in the next few weeks. It will be used to produce videos for overseas promotion and will be used specifically in the Japanese market; that is, we will have a Japanese language version of that film. We have already purchased new display stands and display content is in the process of commissioning.

Quite a lot of work has been done in the department during the past few months since the marketing strategy was determined. Now that we have marketing consultants on board I expect that work to accelerate quite rapidly.

Mr TYLER: In your opening remarks, Minister, you mentioned a new corporate logo and slogan as part of a new image for South Australia. When will they be launched?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I cannot say exactly when the new slogan and logo will be launched. We have already had discussions with the new marketing consultants about their development and we are talking with them now about the process that will be adopted to take suitable advice from people as to what would be appropriate in that area. We hope to get on with that work as a matter of priority because, until we have those things in place, it will be very difficult for us to proceed with the preparation of new literature and promotional material. Whilst it is hard to be specific about it, within the next two months we should have that material in place.

Mr TYLER: On page 518 reference is made to the level of marketing in overseas markets. It states that there will be a significant increase in this area. Can the Minister explain that further?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Our representation in overseas markets has changed during the past financial year, largely brought about by a restructuring of the Australian Tourism Commission. That commission will no longer be accepting people seconded from various State organisations in their overseas postings, which was one of the things we were utilising. It was an economical way for us to have representation in overseas markets. That is now no longer to occur and we have had to take decisions in the past 12 months as to what we might do instead.

During the past year we have employed people to give us full-time representation in both Los Angeles and Singapore, which were the two areas in which we had staff seconded in the past. That is a significant improvement and means that we will have people able to devote all their energies to the promotion of the State, instead of just a percentage of their time, as they were doing while seconded to the Australian Tourism Commission. We will be increasing funding for promotion and advertising by some 24 per cent during this financial year, the most significant increases occurring in the US, Europe and in Japan. We have increased the allocation for journalists and film groups to visit and take advantage of what we have to offer.

As I indicated earlier, we will be upgrading the support materials: the production of literature, photographs and so on. We will be participating in the Okayama Expo in Japan, which will commence in April next year, for which there has also been an allocation of funding. There has been quite considerable movement in those overseas markets, and I think that we can now be more effective during the next 12 months in promoting our State.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Before I ask a question which is also on marketing, I think that it is important to respond briefly to what the Minister said about the brief and function of the General Manager, Marketing, and have on the record the fact that whoever is appointed will certainly have as his or her prime responsibility the ensuring of accountability of the consultants for the expenditure of very large sums of Government money. I do not criticise the concept: I think that it could have great rewards, but it inherently carries great risks, and I wish to give notice that next year the Opposition will be very closely questioning the manner in which the consultants have spent the money, because it removes at arm's length from the Government the control the Government normally has over spending.

I would like to question the intrastate, interstate and international promotion funds identified on page 513, and also refer to expenditure in previous years, although I am not sure whether the Minister has with her the program papers for previous years. The fact is that we spend almost twice as much on international promotion as on intrastate promotion and get a fraction of the return. I know that there are other benefits from international visitors in terms of the extra money they spend and the upgrading of standards they bring with them.

In 1985 we spent \$436 000 to get 2.7 million intrastate visitor trips; we spent \$1.176 million to get 860 000 interstate visitor trips; and we spent \$638 000 to get 117 000 international visitor trips. The State Government is spending less—namely, \$354 000—on getting South Australians to travel within their own State. Last year it allocated \$381 000 and we are spending \$354 000 this year. That \$381 000 last year was substantially less than the Government allocated the year before, which was \$436 000. Both last year and the year before the Government failed to spend its allocation, which is my first point, and the same trend is apparent in interstate promotion. Why are we reducing year after year our efforts in our biggest potential markets, namely, intrastate and interstate, and has the department measured the expenditure against the outcome in respect of its allocation of funds for intrastate, interstate, and international promotion? If not, on what basis are these funds allocated?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The decision that we have taken to reduce the expenditure in intrastate promotion—or, at least, to increase the amount of money we are spending in the international area—is a very conscious decision. More and more in the area of intrastate promotion we are looking at pursuing cooperative promotion with people within the industry. We have a much greater possibility of attracting money from the private sector for intrastate promotion work than we have in some of those other areas we have been discussing. During the past 12 months, we met with some success in our efforts to attract private sector contributions to our marketing effort. This year we will be stepping up our efforts in that area, so we are trying to stretch the marketing dollar, if you like. We are trying to introduce the possibility of multiplying the amount of money we have to promote tourism within the State by getting various private sector organisations to assist us with particular promotional campaigns.

One on which we are working at the moment, which is a town and country pub type of promotion, is designed to encourage South Australians to take short break holidays in the State, and we are working on the details of that at the moment. We expect to attract private sector contributions to that campaign. So, it has been a conscious decision to move into that area, because we believe that we will be able to supplement the funds we are able to provide by attracting that additional funding.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: What did the department spend on cooperative advertising last year; was there an increase on the previous year, as was promised would occur at page 634 of the 1986-87 Program Estimates; and what sum is proposed this year for cooperative advertising?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We do not have the figures for last year; I will have to take that question on notice and provide the information later. In this coming financial year we expect to be able to attract almost \$1.3 million through cooperative advertising and commissions. That is a combined figure, and it is certainly what we will be working towards achieving.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The Minister used the expression 'attract \$1.3 million': does that mean that the Government will spend \$1.3 million and the private sector will spend \$1.3 million? What will the Government spend this coming year on cooperative advertising and how much of that will be matched by the private sector.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: What we are able to predict is what we have budgeted for in particular areas. It is not possible at this time to be specific about how much of the money we have budgeted will be spent cooperatively and how much will be spent on activity that we pursue on our own. It depends very much on the opportunities that present themselves during the year. Marketing activity does not work on a financial year structure. Ideas are not presented to us by private sector companies and organisations at the beginning of the year to enable us to plan our activities. Opportunities present during the year.

The other important point is that we have yet to pursue the options that might be suggested by the new firm of marketing consultants. We would certainly anticipate that this would be one of the areas in which it would be able to provide advice. Until we are able to get into the detail of its brief, it is difficult to predict what assistance it might be able to give us in that respect. I know from our experience in the past 12 months that opportunities for cooperative advertising sometimes emerge quite spontaneously and without forewarning, and we have been able to take advantage of some of those offers because they have been good ones, offers that we should grasp while available. I anticipate that the same thing will apply during this coming financial year. It is very difficult to be specific about the allocation of money that might be devoted to cooperative ventures.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I accept what the Minister says about the impossibility of forecasting exactly what the private sector will spend or come up with, and I recall perhaps one of the best examples of this that occurred in British Columbia. The Minister of Tourism, as soon as Mount St Helena erupted, saw the possibility that people would want to fly up from southern California to see the volcano erupting and immediately embarked on a cooperative advertising program. I hope nothing like that happens in South Australia. I accept the unpredictability, but has the Minister allocated \$1.3 million? The Minister said that she expected that the department would attract \$1.3 million. I want to know (and she should be able to tell me, because it is the department's decision) how much the department has allocated for cooperative advertising.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have not allocated a specific sum for cooperative advertising at this stage: it may be possible to be clearer about that as the months pass.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: How was the \$1.3 million estimated; what does it comprise?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, we can be more specific about the amounts of money we might expect to be attracted through commissions than in the form of cooperative advertising. I would have to say that the sum we have suggested is very much a guesstimate with respect to the cooperative advertising component of that \$1.3 million: I guess we would be talking of about \$300 000. Whether we will be able to attract that sum or indeed exceed it will depend very much on the quality of the ideas we can put forward to people in the industry and, indeed, the quality of the ideas that representatives of the industry put forward to us.

Mr HAMILTON: The Minister might have seen an article in this morning's *Advertiser* under the heading 'US Tourism to Australia Soars' which states:

Most Americans wanting to visit Australia say Australian films influenced their decision.

It further states:

Approvals for US visitor visas to Australia jumped to a record 6 700 in New York last month. It was the highest level handled by any consular post in North America. The figure does not include visas for business people or permanent immigrants.

The Consul-General, Mr John Taylor, predicted today that based on those statistics, Australia could soon expect to see a monthly total of 10 000 visa applications from the New York office alone. The Australian Tourist Commission estimated recently that 390 000 Americans would visit Australia for the Bicentenary celebrations next year.

The number of American tourists to Australia soared from 180 000 in 1984 to about 255 000 in 1986. The 23.2 per cent growth in net tourism receipts at a time when growth in world tourism slumped from 8 per cent a year to just 2 per cent underscores the economic benefit Australia reaps from its highly successful tourist drive in North America.

It also states:

Australian officials estimate that tourism will contribute \$A23 000 million to the economy this year.

Can the Minister indicate the amount of money contributed to the South Australian economy from the North American and Japanese tourism markets?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The short answer is 'No'. One of the hobby horses that I have been riding in Tourism Ministers Council meetings is that the adequacy of the information that we glean about international visitors to this State from the national surveys is inadequate and too slow in coming. Because the samples are so small, it is very difficult to rely on the information. The most official figures we have about international visits to South Australia dates back to 1984-85, and that is not adequate for us to be able to get a good feeling for the trends that are occurring. It does not give us a good picture of the share that we might be attracting of the quite dramatic increase in visits to this country from the two markets that you have mentioned that have come very much as a result of, first, Australian films (as was indicated in that article), and more importantly, the successful television advertising campaigns conducted by the Australian Tourism Commission in those two market places.

I have tried to impress upon the Federal Minister the importance of, first, speeding up the processing of information collected by the Commonwealth organisation on international figures and, secondly, to improve the information that can be gained from that collection about visits to individual States. I am pleased to say that at least on one score there has been an advance because, in the past 12 months, the Immigration Department, which is responsible for collecting the little visitor cards that everyone completes when they come into the country, has moved from a manual system of collection to an automated system, and this has reduced the time enormously for processing the raw figures.

That has helped, but it does not assist the smaller States in getting much of a picture about visits, because those cards do not ask individuals to indicate which State they visited in Australia: they ask in which State they spent most time. We argue that there should be more information provided by redesigning those cards that would give more accurate information about the time spent in our State so that we have a better idea of how things are progressing. It is difficult for us to provide the sort of information that you are looking for but, on the information we are able to gather, we would have to say that there has been an increase in visits from both the United States and Japan. What contribution those visitors are making to our economy is difficult to quantify.

Mr HAMILTON: In terms of the Japanese market, which we all agree is important to the economy of Australia and particularly to South Australia, can the Minister give details

about specific targetting or what matters have been addressed in trying to attract more Japanese to South Australia? I understand that the ATC acts for the whole of Australia but specifically, in terms of attracting Japanese tourists to South Australia, is it done on the basis of 'Come to Australia and then visit three States and fly out from the Northern Territory'? How is the Japanese area marketed? Finally, and most importantly, I refer to the question of signs in the Japanese Language. That is important not only from the point of view of Japanese nationals feeling at home with signs in Japanese (I understand that many Japanese speak English), but it is important that this question is addressed if it has not already been addressed.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In Japan we are continuing the relationship that we have had with Elders, which acts as our representative in that market place. That company's efforts has been largely in the area of working with wholesalers, people in the travel industry, in raising their awareness of South Australia as a destination, and to try to draw to their attention the various attractions of this State. We have been concentrating very much on gaining an increase of visitors to South Australia and concentrating on the tour packages emanating from Japan. We have had considerable success in the past two or three years.

About two years ago there were only two packages from Japan that included South Australia as part of the Australian holiday experience. That has increased to about 14 or more, which is a significant advance. This means that there are now more people who will visit the State on those organised package tours. As to our promotional work in the marketplace, we have already produced Japanese language brochures that are used in Japan. We are upgrading those brochures this year, and we will be producing the video about which I talked and which will be converted into the Japanese language for that market. In April next year we will be participating in the South Australian display at the Okayama Expo.

Mr HAMILTON interjecting:

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not yet sure that I am going. That is a joint State Government venture, as the Department of State Development and various other organisations within the State Government sector will be participating in that expo. Further, the contact that we have been able to make with the people of Himeji, our sister city in Japan, has also been an important way for improving our links with at least one region of Japan. During last year members will recall that about 200 Japanese people visited Adelaide in connection with the sister city celebrations. So, there are a number of things occurring and within our resources we are maximising our opportunities in the Japanese market.

We are distinctly disadvantaged in competing in the Japanese marketplace in not having a direct flight to Japan. For that reason, we have also concentrated much time and effort with Qantas and Japanese Airlines to try to encourage them to see the advantages in providing that direct link. We have some indirect links with Sydney and I think a link with Singapore Airlines which flies directly into Adelaide and then connects from Singapore. There are certain inconveniences attached to that scheduling of aircraft and we would prefer a direct link into Adelaide because of the time constraints that usually apply to visitors who are coming from Japan.

We are putting a lot of effort into encouraging airlines that might be interested in providing that link to do so. We have mounted a very good case in that respect, not only in terms of the tourism potential but also in terms of the trade that could be generated. As we have been able to demon-

strate in other Asian marketplaces, there is a very strong market, particularly for fresh fruit and vegetables, if we can get the direct link. That market has improved significantly since we have had a direct link with Singapore, and we think the same could apply in relation to Japan if we were able to convince an airline that it was a good thing to do.

Mr HAMILTON: The Minister may wish to respond to the last part of that question after this question, and that concerned signs in the Japanese language being erected at airports. Have the Minister and the department been able to determine whether there has been any significant shift in seasonal demand resulting from the introduction of a four term school year? I know that it is early days yet and that the year is not over, but has there already been a discernible trend in that area and, if so, to what extent?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, it is really too early for us to judge the effects of the four term school year. We do not have any specific evidence. There is some anecdotal evidence in some parts of the State that it has caused some problems. The South Australian Regional Tourist Association is planning to monitor the situation this year and into next year to see whether any significant impact has occurred. I was interested to learn, when I went to the tourism Ministers' council meeting a few weeks ago, that in other parts of the country many operators are experiencing a quite significant impact. I think that it depends on the nature of tourism and the seasonal variations that occur in some parts of the country.

For example, Queensland was very distressed about the changes and it was experiencing a considerable change in visitation because of the nature of visitation to Queensland from other parts of Australia being in the winter period, when it receives large numbers of people. The Queensland representatives felt that that was affecting their tourism quite significantly. It was also the case that in Tasmania there was a severe impact. We have not had the same sort of reports in South Australia at this stage. We will be monitoring what happens here over the next couple of years, but I think that it will take some time for things to settle down and for people to adjust to the new circumstances.

It is the case that many companies schedule conventions, meetings, and that sort of thing, to coincide or not coincide with school holiday periods. Also, tourism operators gear their advertising campaigns to coincide with school holidays. In some cases I think that there has been a tendency to overlook the new circumstances this year. Next year adjustments will be made and I think that only at that time will we be able to judge any significant changes.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Has any proposal been put to the Government for legislation to require hotels to grant a percentage of their beds for use at the discretion of the Grand Prix Board and, if so, what is the Government's response to that proposal?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not aware of any proposals being put to the Government.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Page 83 of the Premier's Financial Statement refers to an amount of \$50 000 for costs associated with the December 1985 ministerial reshuffle. What were these costs and why are they incorporated in the tourism budget?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This was brought about by a reorganisation of staffing arrangements at the time of the ministerial reshuffle, which was at the time I became a Minister in 1985. There was a rationalisation of staff in a number of Ministers' offices and in my office one of the existing staff members went to another area, someone who had worked in another Minister's office came to my office,

and a new position was created in my office. That accounts for the amount of money.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Supplementary to that, is the Minister saying that one new position created in her office attracted a salary of \$50 000? If so, what was the position?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There was not a position that attracted a salary of \$50 000. The position that was created, from memory, was a CO2 position which is a relatively lowly paid clerical position at around \$20 000 salary. The amount of money that was allocated to my lines was, I believe, an accounting arrangement. If one looks at the lines of other departments one will find that there are similar arrangements. I understand that there is no additional cost to Government as result of the ministerial reshuffle because, as I indicated, the person who came to my office already was employed by the Government and the person who left my office is still employed by the Government. In fact, the position that was created in my office is held by someone who was employed in the office previously and who has now moved to a higher classification.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: If one staff member left and another one came, depending on their classification, that could result in no change. However, the \$50 000 which no doubt could be explained on notice if the Minister cannot give precise details now inflates the perceived value of the tourism budget just as, when the Hon. Gavin Keneally became Minister of Tourism and had his Local Government Ministry staff transferred to that ministry, the tourism budget became inflated by approximately \$750 000, which looked a very nice round sum at the bottom but did nothing for tourism. If that happens year after year the Government can claim bigger budgets but it may not necessarily be any better for tourism.

Page 519 of the yellow book under 'Advice and support for tourism development' refers to a number of projects, including the Mount Lofty project. It is now more than four years since the Mount Lofty summit and kiosk was burnt out and the viewing area, which should be a mecca for visitors to Adelaide, is as barren and unwelcoming, and as potentially dangerous as it has been for the past four years. It really is a shocking indictment that that awful place, which has in the past decades been one of our prime beauty spots, has been left in this totally neglected state. Page 519 of the yellow book refers to the department's role in a committee responsible for ongoing liaison with the proponents of the Mount Lofty project. Four years is a jolly long time to liaise. How often has the committee met? When did it last meet and what has it achieved so far? When will the Mount Lofty project commence and what form will it take?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It was not until late 1985 that the Government announced that it would call for registrations of interest from people who might be interested in redeveloping the Mount Lofty site after the extensive fires in the Adelaide Hills. A working party was then established by the Minister for Environment and Planning to draw up guidelines for redevelopment of the historic St Michael's property. A number of organisations put forward proposals, and one consortium headed by Touche Ross Management Services was chosen to flesh out the initial proposal that it had put to the Government.

In many ways that proposal was by far the most imaginative of those put forward and as I recall that was also the view of the member for Coles at the time. However, associated with that proposal were a number of matters which may have impacted on the local environment quite significantly, and for that reason it has been quite controversial

in some circles. The proponents have been asked to work on the detail of their submission.

A number of issues have been raised with respect to the impact on the environment and they have been very difficult to resolve. However, the proponents have asked for sufficient time to work through some of those issues. For that reason some time ago the Government extended the period of time during which the proponents can work on the proposal, and the working party to which the honourable member refers has continued to meet and negotiate with the proponents and consider proposals for the site.

I agree that the opportunities for a development of enormous significance are very real. It is a very important part of our State and of significant tourist importance in South Australia, and the time that is passing is certainly of concern to me, as Minister of Tourism. However, it is also important that we have on the site a development which has environmental as well as tourism significance and a proposal which can be supported by the broadest cross-section of our community, so that the time spent is a good investment in achieving that.

I understand that the original intention was that the proponents would be responsible for restoration of the Mount Lofty summit area itself. Because of the time that has elapsed I believe that the Minister for Environment and Planning has decided to proceed with restoration of the area, using Government funding to ensure that at least part of the land that we are discussing can be restored to realise its tourism potential. That decision also will satisfy some of the conservation groups that have expressed concern that the Mount Lofty summit area has not been restored before this time. So I certainly regret the amount of time that it has taken but I think it is important, as I indicated, that the development that takes place there recognises the environmental significance of the region and maximises the tourism potential in the best possible way.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I asked the Minister a question that she did not even address. My question was: how often has the committee met and when did it last meet? I would also like to know what time limit the Government has extended to the proponents.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: As I understand it, the committee meets twice a month and a period of nine months, to expire in April next year, has been extended to the proponents to resolve some of the outstanding issues.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to 'Major Resource Variations, 1986-87—1987-88' on page 520 of the yellow book, where reference is made to the reallocation from grants to regional tourist associations to human resources. What is the reason behind this and will it result in any different level of resources for regional promotion in 1987-88, and how does this compare with 1986-87?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: During the past financial year we allocated some \$166 000 to regional promotion activities. This year, because of more efficient use of our resources and the implementation of the recommendations of the regional tourism task force review, we will be able to spend up to \$346 000 on regional promotional activities. That represents a significant increase indeed. That amount will be achieved by contributing \$100 000 from the Department of Tourism and by supplementing that with anticipated expenditure of \$246 000 by the regional tourist associations. The reorganisation that has allowed this to occur comes about because the Government will now be appointing regional promotion officers. That will release the regional tourist associations from the high cost of maintaining administrative services in the regions; and it will also enable the regional promotion officers to be more active in encour-

aging tourism operators within their regions to contribute money to proposed promotion activity. So I think that that will lead to a much more efficient use of resources and will assist us to pursue our new strategy to attract as much private sector money as possible for promotional activity.

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

Mr De LAINE: What new regional promotional activities are planned for this year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There will be numerous regional promotional activities this year because the new regional structure that has been developed with a review of regional tourism means that the new promotional officers will be active in assisting the regional tourist associations with the development of their promotional activities. More specifically, the sorts of things in which regional associations will be participating will include a number of trade and travel shows, among them the Adelaide Caravan Show and the Melbourne Caravan Show. There will be a combined houseboat operation promotion in Adelaide, and in Western Australia a promotion of the Flinders and Eyre Peninsula areas of the State.

There will be a promotional awareness event in Adelaide, and the wine regions will promote themselves in the *Sun* newspaper. In Melbourne, there will be a promotion of the South-East, Riverland, and the south-west of Victoria. There will also be a consumer awareness promotion in Melbourne and we will participate in the Melbourne Talkabout Promotion. In addition, each region is developing its own regional marketing strategies, which will form the basis from which those regional promotional activities will proceed in future.

Our regional managers are working closely with the regional tourism associations in developing strategies; plans for the Adelaide Hills and the South-East region have already been completed, and work is proceeding with strategies for other parts of the State. Much is planned for the year. In addition, our regional managers have also undertaken some advanced marketing training so as to be able much better to advise the regional tourism associations on their marketing strategies.

Mr De LAINE: At page 513 of the yellow book, there is a dramatic reduction in the proposed recurrent expenditure on assistance for conventions from an actual expenditure of over \$4 million last year to only \$92 000 this year. What was the money used for last year and why is such a dramatic reduction proposed for this year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, the major change is that the Adelaide Convention Centre budget has been removed from the Department of Tourism budget: their accounting procedures are now separate. The rest of the expenditure under that line relates to the grant that the Department of Tourism gives to the Adelaide Convention and Visitors Bureau, which this year will amount to \$135 000.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Turning to the resources summary on page 512 of the yellow book, I note that the receipts estimated for 1986-87 were \$14 436 000 and the actual expenditure was \$14 246 000. Last year, the Minister said that the anticipated increase in revenue that would be retained by the department would offset some of the losses in the marketing budget. In the opinion of the Minister or in the opinion of the Director, what was the reason for the failure to reach the estimated revenue and why is the estimated revenue considerably lower for the current financial year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The major reason for the discrepancy was that the Convention Centre itself was not completed when it was expected to be. The completion date

was delayed, which meant that it was not necessary for us to employ the number of staff that we had anticipated that we would employ and also that the revenue that we would have derived from the work of the Convention Centre was delayed. Regarding the commissions that we were able to retain during the past financial year, we had budgeted for a total of about \$450 000, but we exceeded that sum by about \$6 000 and received \$456 000 last year in commissions.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Can the Minister give the Committee a breakdown of those receipts as between the Convention Centre and other headings? I find it hard to relate what the Minister has said to the figures in front of me. I should have expected that in a full year's operation for 1987-88 receipts would be much greater than in the previous year, yet they are estimated as being considerably down and that does not seem to add up.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We do not have that information with us from the Convention Centre accounts, so I will take that question on notice.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I acknowledge that the Director of the Convention Centre has left, but surely the Minister knows what the department's estimated receipts will be this year and surely she can explain why, if we have a full year's operation of the Convention Centre this year which must yield considerably more than last year, the figure is down from \$14.2 million to \$12.3 million.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The \$12.3 million estimated for 1987-88 comprises the estimated receipts for the Department of Tourism in the coming year. The Adelaide Convention Centre is now accounted for separately and is not included in that figure.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I did not expect it to be, so I was confused by what the Minister said earlier. Why are receipts likely to be down by about \$2 million this year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The point that I was trying to make earlier was that the figure appears to be down because the 1986-87 figure included the Convention Centre. That has now been removed and the figure for this year is for the Department of Tourism only and excludes the Convention Centre figure. There was no income from the Convention Centre during 1986-87, but there will be income in this financial year which will be recorded separately. This figure relates to the Department of Tourism only, so it does not in fact show a reduction but merely that the Convention Centre figure has been removed from the total.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: That being the case, a comparable figure for the Department of Tourism cannot be reached without the Convention Centre figures, which the Minister will provide on notice?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: At page 521 of the Program Estimates reference is made to extra pressure placed on the Adelaide Travel Centre service delivery standards. The Minister is well aware of the high level of continuing complaints, which I do not lay at the door of the staff because I consider them to be hardworking and seriously over-stressed. I noted the Minister's response about new uniforms, a training program and an upgrading of the centre, which I think the Minister would admit is shabby by anyone's standards and in comparison with other State centres both here and elsewhere. What is the Minister doing to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the front counter staff? I submit that with the best training, and the best will in the world, you cannot make three or four people serve 50 people in a reasonable time. It is clear that at times

of high pressure there needs to be more staff there. What will happen about that matter this year?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, in the past few months there has been a full review of the work of the Adelaide Travel Centre and of the way in which it operates. New measures were introduced recently which will assist the staff in handling the flow of clients through the centre much more efficiently than they have been able to do in the past. We have introduced on a trial basis, for example, a queuing system which is now a quite common practice in most areas of public activity, whether in Government organisations where there is a high client contact, or in private sector organisations such as banks, insurance companies, and so on.

Since the introduction of that system there has been a much better flow of traffic through the Travel Centre and clients are happier with the handling of inquiries. As I indicated earlier, this year we will be devoting much more attention to staff training and development, and some \$50 000 will be allocated for that purpose, a vast increase on the amount spent for this purpose in the past.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: In-house or externally?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We will be doing both. We will have consultants coming in from outside to perform particular staff training exercises and we will also have a much greater emphasis within on assisting staff to better serve the people who come through the door. I object in the strongest terms to the recent criticisms made of the staff of the Travel Centre.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Not of the staff, not by me.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: If they are not directed at the staff, criticism is so closely implied that I find it equally offensive. Members of the staff in the Travel Centre take the attacks made upon them in the media in recent times very personally because they view them as a reflection on their performance, as indicated in a petition that they sent to me at the time of the most recent complaint made through the media about the performance of the Travel Centre.

I think that that petition, which was a most unusual thing for public servants to do, was a measure of the frustration that the people in that area feel, because they work at the very best of their capacity. They are very committed and enthusiastic people in our Travel Centre who at times have worked under very trying conditions, particularly during the past 18 months during which time visitations have grown enormously. There have been times when they have been under severe stress and pressure because of the unrelenting number of people coming through the door and the sorts of inquiries that they have had to handle, so the criticism of them is quite unfair.

During the past 12 months about 250 000 inquiries have been handled by the Adelaide Travel Centre, about 9 000 bookings made involving some 25 000 passengers, and, in addition, over 20 000 day tour bookings. When one looks at that volume of people that they have been dealing with and compares that with the number of complaints received (about five to my knowledge have come through my office during the past 12 months) one sees that those complaints pale into insignificance. The volume of inquiries must be balanced against the number of complaints received.

On the other side of the coin, we have actually received a large number of commendations from ordinary members of the public who have come to the Travel Centre and who have received excellent service in relation to the inquiries they have made. A number of those people have written to

me naming individuals with whom they have done business within the Travel Centre. They have also written to the Manager of the Travel Centre and the Director of the department to express their happiness with the service they have received.

In the past few weeks, since the last article appeared in the paper about the work of the Travel Centre, I have also received letters from individual tourist operators who have expressed their deep concern about the continuing attacks on the work of the people in the Travel Centre. They have indicated to me that they are perfectly satisfied with the service that they have received from the department, and from the Travel Centre in particular. One of those people is from one of Adelaide's most popular tourist hotels. He specifically asked the members of his staff to give him feedback on public reaction to the Travel Centre staff because they very often refer people to the Travel Centre for information. The feedback from that quarter was that people are always very complimentary about the service that they receive.

These are just a few examples of the very good reports that we have received about our staff in the Travel Centre. I return to the point that I was making initially, that we have reviewed the work of the Travel Centre because the volume of traffic through its doors has changed during the past 18 months. There has been increased pressure of work done there, so there have been changes in the way in which the staff work. The layout of the office furniture and other things have been changed, which will enable our staff to serve the public much better.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: As the Minister has spent some time on this subject, for the record I should reiterate that my criticisms of the centre, as prepared for the media and published, have been criticisms of the Minister for failing to provide resources to do what is now at last being done, and I am glad that there is an acknowledgment that things have been inadequate in the past.

Being keenly aware that the people involved are public servants, and not wishing to put them under more pressure, I have refrained on numerous occasions from making statements following complaints from operators. The complaints I have received from operators and members of the public would be more like one a week, more in the nature of 55 than five. On the two occasions I have made statements, they have been in response to calls from the staff to me to come in and see what pressure they are working under, and attempt to do something about it. That should be put on the record.

Figures that the Minister has provided about the number of inquiries, bookings, and passengers, I take it are in response to the installation of the automatic counter, which is identified on page 521 of the estimates. Is there any measurement of that 250 000 against previous levels of inquiry? All the staff development in the world and all the queue arrangements in the world cannot help people cope with a situation if there are not enough staff to cope.

Are there any plans to increase the staffing, particularly at periods of peak demand such as lunch hours, when sometimes conditions are, frankly, impossible? I do not think any of us could cope with what that staff is expected to cope with, no matter how much training is available.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have estimated that the increase in inquiries during the past 12 months has been about 10 per cent higher than the year before. With respect to the staffing issue, we will in future be bringing in both part-time and permanent staff to assist the existing staff in the Travel Centre during the peak times to which the honourable member has referred. We will be making much

better efforts than we have been able to in the past to match the client demand periods with appropriate staffing to deal with those inquiries.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: That is additional staff?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It does not necessarily mean additional staff. It may mean bringing in some of the staff we already have employed in the Travel Centre on a part-time basis during a different combination of hours.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Additional staff hours, I meant?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes.

Mr HAMILTON: I quote from an article that appeared in the *Australian Hotelier*, which the Minister may have seen, in August 1987. Under the heading 'Outlook' Mr John Ross, the National President of the AHA, states:

Families: to encourage family groups the industry should be examining areas of child care. Perhaps your hotel could provide a family room or a supervised play area where children can be cared for.

Has the Minister seen this article and what are her views in relation to making provision, particularly in terms of accommodation, for families?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I have not seen the article, but I appreciate the sentiments expressed about the desirability of providing services for families in accommodation facilities and at tourist attractions. I know that emphasis is given to this by some hoteliers who provide activities rooms or child-care centres where they cater for a high proportion of family groups. The idea has enormous merit, and I hope that more operators will see the advantage of providing a range of activities for those groups of people, particularly if they are catering predominantly for families.

Mr HAMILTON: I fully support that proposal, because I believe it would encourage more young parents to take their families away with them rather than, to use a crude expression, farm them out to their in-laws.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: On a point of order Mr Chairman, I draw your attention to point 9 of the guidelines for Committees that states that questions should be based on lines of expenditure as revealed in the Estimates of Payments. Reference may be made to other documents, Program Estimates, the yellow book and the Auditor-General's Report. The *Australian Hotelier* is a bit outside of that.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand the point the member is making, but I have been chairing this Committee in, I might say, a rather relaxed way. The member for Coles might recall that I allowed her to make a fairly long statement prior to the luncheon adjournment that did not, in fact, reflect on a line in the budget.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the members of the Committee to remain silent while I make this point. I have been rather even-handed to both sides on this proposition, but I request members of the Committee to follow the rules, if you like, that were put before the Committee on the first day. I do not resile from the fact that we should maintain the initial rules that we agreed to, and I ask all members of the Committee—on both my left and my right-hand side—to observe those opening rules. The member for Albert Park.

Mr HAMILTON: Thank you. I must say I am stunned by the response of the Opposition: I really am.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr HAMILTON: Nevertheless, I will get back to the question at hand and that is, as I understand it, the Minister of Tourism and the Department of Tourism promoting tourism, which was exactly what I was doing, and I certainly

did not interpose upon the member for Coles when she made constant interjections. I think that this side has been more than fair in that respect.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not want this Committee to degenerate into a political fight. We are here to examine the estimates in front of us, and each member has the opportunity to probe the estimates as hard as he or she desires. I would rather not have this Committee turn itself into a political fight. I ask the member for Albert Park to continue.

Mr HAMILTON: Nor do I. I will continue with positive things. I refer the Minister to the South Australian Tourism Development Plan, the Joint Industry and Government Plan, 1983-84 to 1987-88, page 19 of which states:

Strategies

3.1 Identify all key tourism airports and roads and seek the commencement by all levels of Government to give priority to improving and maintaining such airports and roads.

It goes on to state:

Responsibility: the Department of Tourism should play an initiating and coordinating role supported by the RAA, the Local Government Association, the Highways Department, and the Department of Transport. The South Australian Tourism Industry Council should cooperate in this regard by bringing the matter to the attention of the State's Federal members of Parliament.

Can the Minister say what progress has been made in terms of improving and maintaining our airports and roads?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Regarding airports, a committee has been established on which there is a representative of the Department of Tourism. Mr Don Packer, who is sitting on my right, and deals with matters relating to the operation of terminals in Adelaide. It tries to find solutions for particular operational problems as they arise. One of the issues of which the member would be aware and which was becoming quite a serious problem was the question of baggage handling at the international terminal. That committee considered a number of options as to how that issue might be resolved and how the handling of baggage at the airport might be improved.

In fact, procedures have been set in train that have overcome the problems. That is one example of the sorts of things that the committee looks at, and it has been able to achieve some success since the establishment of the airport and since the increase in visits has occurred with the growth of international flights. That committee will continue to work in that way as and when problems arise. From the feedback I have received from various people associated with the airport, there is a diverse range of opinion about the suitability of facilities at Adelaide terminal.

Some airlines operating through the terminal believe the standard of facilities is adequate for their purposes, while others believe that there are problems at certain peak times: for example, when two international flights arrive simultaneously, which is something that happens from time to time. Facilities at the airport are stretched, and it is sometimes difficult to handle the volume of traffic that passes through at a time like that, but that problem is not unique to Adelaide airport.

If one has ever come through Sydney airport when a couple of jumbos arrive, one will know that that airport is also under considerable stress in handling the volume of people from those flights. We continue to monitor the facilities. We raise issues with the airport authorities and the airlines as appropriate when particular matters are brought to our attention that could be improved, and we use whatever measures are available to us to effect change.

At the recent Tourism Ministers Council meeting we put the Federal Government on notice that, should there be a significant future increase in the number of flights into Adelaide, there would probably be a need to upgrade facil-

ities in the Adelaide terminal. However, it has been estimated that it could probably take up to another three flights a week at least before reaching a critical stage in coping with the volume of traffic, as long as those flights can be reasonably staggered in regard to arrivals and departures. We are keeping a close eye on what happens at Adelaide airport, and take up issues as and when we need to with the authorities who can have some influence over improving the conditions for visitors.

Mr HAMILTON: Paragraph 3.2 at page 19 of the same document states:

Encourage air, road and rail transport operators to introduce innovative fare types to South Australia; provide a range of holiday experiences that will appeal to different groups; improve quality in packaging tours to South Australia; and to give an increasing emphasis to South Australia in terms of content, awareness and interpretation.

Can the Minister elaborate about what progress has been made in those matters?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I think the member may be referring to the previous tourism development plan and not the most current one. Officers of the department are in regular contact with airlines and people operating the railways and those involved with road transport, in order to discuss, first, market trends in tourism and the sort of expectations that we have about visits to the State. We are attempting to educate people within the industry about the findings of our market research and about our new marketing strategy, and to make them aware of the various marketing niches that we believe we can fill in South Australia in developing our marketing campaigns so that industry, too, can develop its own strategies along the same lines.

We work on a regular basis with the airlines in assisting them with the development of package tour arrangements, as we do with the other forms of transport that the member has mentioned. The various publications, etc., that we produce are of assistance to those bodies when they are making their arrangements for development, whether it be fly-drive holidays, coach tours to this State, or whatever. It is an ongoing process that we are engaged in, and we will continue to have close contact with those organisations.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Still on the Travel Centre, in last year's Program Estimates at page 637 the department indicated that it would introduce free sale arrangements for selected operators in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney Travel Centres. If the department proceeded with that plan, what was the outcome? If it did not, why not?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We did proceed along the lines that we indicated last year. I will ask Mr Packer to elaborate on exactly what has transpired during the past financial year.

Mr Packer: Free sale is an ongoing program to the extent that we are continually adding to our list of properties that we have negotiated allocations with. The reference in last year's Program Estimates gave the clue that we were beginning those negotiations. We have a significant number of properties with which we have negotiated free sale allocations now and we are continuing to do so.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to page 160 of the Estimates of Payments under 'Program 4—Advice and Assistance to Tourism Regions'. While salaries related to this line are up, presumably because of the twenty-seventh pay (and I presume that it is not because of any additional staff employed), almost all the other allocations are down. Administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries have been reduced from \$86 643 to \$48 000, regional administration has been reduced from \$348 645 to \$293 000 and tourism research has been reduced from \$83 648 to

\$25 000. What are the reasons for the reduction in administration expenses? That reduction is quite substantial. What are the reasons for the reduction in regional administration costs? I am assuming that tourism research is down because last year's was up because of the major market research. Will the Minister clarify whether or not that is the case? The regions are gaining only on paper in terms of the fact that those staff members who service the regions are costing more, but the actual input into the regions is no greater and, in fact, appears to be substantially less.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The salaries increase is related to an increase in staff as part of the implementation of the Regional Review Task Force and we will be employing promotional officers in the regions. An additional 11 people will be employed for that purpose to work with the various regional tourist associations. It reflects also the change in thrust that is being brought about by the implementation of that task force report away from providing allocations of funding for administration purposes and moving into the new thrust of marketing assistance in the regions.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: On that basis, and on the basis of my discussions with some regions as I have travelled around the State in the past few months, will the department or the Minister consider making the assistance that is provided to regions in the form of that promotional staffing more flexible by allocating a sum of money that could be used by the region either to employ someone (and I appreciate it is the department and not the region that is employing these people) or, alternatively, to employ a general sales agent on commission—a system that could well be more effective in terms of attracting visitors to the region and lifting the profile of the region?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Certainly not at this stage, because the new system that we now have in place for this financial year and presumably beyond has come about from an extensive review of the old arrangements within the regions and comes about also after extensive consultation with operators in regions and the regional tourist associations. In fact, once the task force report was to hand seminars were held in each of the regions around the State at which the recommendations of the task force report were discussed extensively. In fact, the Director of the department personally attended each of those seminars and was able to gauge the reaction of people in the field to the suggestions that had been made by the task force. The recommendations which relate to the employment of promotional officers were unanimously endorsed by all the regional tourist associations around the State. In view of that I would certainly not want to alter the arrangements that have now been put in place until we have had a reasonable period of time to test just how successful these new methods of operation can be.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Will the Minister break down the amount of \$396 000 in terms of who is getting the salaries? Will it be equally divided between all the regions? I cannot see how the line on page 513 of the yellow book relates to staffing.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not able to give a breakdown of staff in each of the regions in South Australia. I will have to take that question on notice and provide that information later.

Mr De LAINE: Substantial Government assistance has been given to Burra in recent years. What was that money provided for? Does the department intend to allocate further funds to further develop the area?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We will be allocating further funding to the Burra region. It has been recognised as one of the real success stories in tourism development in South

Australia. As most people here would agree if they visited Burra, it is a town of enormous heritage and tourism value to our State. The Department of Tourism has worked very closely with the regional tourism association, the local council and individual operators in Burra in evolving a suitable strategy for the development and enhancement of the numerous tourist attractions that exist there. Recently we produced a document called 'A Statement of Purpose', which outlines the way in which the department expects Burra to develop in the future. The department is acting positively to ensure that development occurs substantially in accordance with the proposals contained in that document.

We have given financial assistance to Burra over a period of years, and initially money was provided to upgrade the Paxton Cottages in the centre of Burra. More recently we provided financial assistance for the reconstruction of Morphett's engine house and the site works adjacent to the Burra mine.

During this financial year we will provide financial assistance for the upgrading of the Unicorn brewery cellars, and the department also provided funds last year to assist the local council to purchase the old brewery cellars. We will also provide additional financial assistance for further upgrading of additional units in Paxton Square. So the financial assistance provided to Burra by the department has been quite extensive over the past few years and will continue; and assistance in kind in the development of the strategy document, and so on, has also been a significant contribution to the development of that very important tourist asset.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to the area of support to tourism development, and in particular the visit to Port Adelaide of at least 16 sailing ships from around the world between 22 and 26 December this year, which is expected to attract record crowds. These tall ships, as no doubt the Minister is aware, are part of next year's bicentennial celebration. To what extent in terms of dollars allocated is the department involved in and working towards tourism spin-offs from this exciting event?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Mr Packer is the Department of Tourism's representative on a committee making plans and preparations for the visit of the Tall Ships later this year. I think that it will be a significant bicentennial event, so I will ask Mr Packer to elaborate on some of the plans being worked on at the moment.

Mr Packer: The plans are still being worked on, and that is the operative phrase because, until fairly recently, we had no clear idea of the number of ships actually coming here. Until we actually knew that, we were unable to make any definitive plans on how we should treat our guests. The number is now pretty well certain. The activities that are planned include the usual range of receptions and an extensive home hosting program which will take sailors from the ships into both regional South Australia (involving overnight stays) and into the homes of South Australian families for Christmas lunch. The Tall Ships committee is made up of a large number of different interested parties. The Chairman is Mr Malcolm Kinnaird, from Kinhill, and the committee includes representatives from the major Public Service organisations that will be involved, particularly the Department of Marine and Harbors, the Police Department and the Department of Tourism, which I will come back to in a moment; and it also includes a large number of people from the sailing community who of course have a particular interest in the event.

The Department of Tourism's contribution will be largely in the manning of a tourist information centre in the old Customs Building, which is being taken over for the event.

We will offer the services of the Travel Centre to visitors to Port Adelaide in relation to local day and half day tours. For those sailors who are lucky enough to be able to get away for longer than that there will be trips of perhaps overnight duration. However, we are finding that the requirements of the ships are such that people are generally available with free time for, say, only a day at a time.

Mr De LAINE: With the increasing success of historic tourist attractions at Port Adelaide and the subsequent large and growing numbers of tourists visiting that area, does the department have a policy and a budget allocation for actively seeking potential developers with a view to persuading them to develop accommodation facilities in the area?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We do not have a specific budget allocation for the promotion of Port Adelaide, but I share the local member's enthusiasm about the developments taking place at Port Adelaide, which has really come alive in recent times with the sort of tourist development and refurbishment of the old port town of Port Adelaide. I think it will play a significant role in assisting us in promoting South Australia as a tourism destination. One thing that is particularly heartening about it is that the development that is taking place there is very much in keeping with the findings of our market research study, which indicates that the things that we have to offer in South Australia that relate to preservation of heritage and experiences which are different or unique will be most attractive to the tourist market that we want to target. It means that Port Adelaide fits in perfectly with the strategy that we are pursuing. We will certainly incorporate the developments at Port Adelaide in our future marketing thrust.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: I refer to page 160 of the Estimates of Payments and 'Program 3—Advice and support to tourism development'. Every year there is intense interest in the funds granted to assist facility development. We never seem to crack the million dollar mark, which I am sure is what people have been hoping for a long time. Why was last year's allocation not spent? I have always understood that there was a large backlog of applications for assistance. Why is this year's amount substantially lower? Does that indicate that the backlog of applications has been caught up, or is it purely a question of insufficient funds?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The answer to the first part of the question relates to a discussion that we had during last year's Estimates Committee concerning the nature of the development program. As the Committee would be aware, with the sorts of programs that we are funding we cannot expect them to begin and end conveniently to fit in with financial years and our accounting procedures. In fact, some projects which are begun during the course of the financial year carry over into the following financial year—and that has certainly been the case again this year. During 1986-87 we funded projects amounting to \$859 000 and this year we were able to fund projects to the tune of \$701 000. We expect something like \$210 000 to carry over into next financial year, which would mean a total program of \$911 000. Projects carried over from 1986-87 and included in the 1987-88 program total about \$372 000. So, each financial year there is a substantial carry-over figure, which explains the apparent discrepancy in the figures shown in the estimates.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Under the next line 'Tourism Research', the allocation of \$150 000 is substantial compared with that of the previous year. What is the purpose of that research and is it in any way related to the substantial market surveys carried out last year at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The sum of \$150 000 which appears there relates to four research projects. First, we shall be having a consultancy study to prepare a tourism planning and development strategy for the Barossa Valley, for which we have allocated \$50 000 this year. Further, there is our usual annual contribution of \$40 000 to the domestic tourism monitor, which is conducted nationally. There is also our contribution of \$30 000 to the new Bureau of Tourism Research, which was announced just this week by the Federal Minister in relation to decisions taken on the Federal budget. This is a very exciting development nationally and will, I hope, overcome many of the shortcomings that currently exist in our knowledge of the tourism industry and the relevant statistics. There will be other survey costs and production costs of numerous statistical reports that will be undertaken by the department for use in the tourism industry, and we have allocated about \$30 000 for that. So, the total for those programs is about \$150 000.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: At page 161 of the estimates, under the heading 'Intra-agency support service items not allocated to programs', reference is made to overseas visits of the Minister and officers. Where did the Minister go on overseas visits last year and for what purpose? How many overseas visits were made by departmental officers and for what purpose? Was the Minister or any departmental officer offered free fares or accommodation and, if such an offer was made, by whom and for what purpose?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I made two overseas visits during the past financial year. The first was to the United States in October 1986. The purpose of that visit was primarily to take part in the Nieman Marcus Store promotion of Australia, in the sesquicentennial celebrations that we shared with Texas during 1986 and also to visit various people involved in tourism.

In March this year I visited West Germany and the United Kingdom. The main purpose of that visit was to attend the ITB Travel Fair in Berlin and to participate in a SKAL organisation luncheon to impress on people the importance of coming to Australia this November for the SKAL international congress to be held in Adelaide. I also attended the Corroboree in England and visited Ireland on issues relating to both tourism and youth affairs, which is one of my other areas of responsibility.

That was the extent of my overseas visits. Qantas offered to pay my fare to Europe to attend the SKAL organisation presentation, because it was certainly in the mutual interests both of Qantas, which is the designated carrier for the conference, and of promoting South Australian tourism. I was happy to accept the assistance provided by Qantas for that purpose. Other than that, I have certainly not received any offers of assistance in respect of either accommodation or travel during the past financial year.

Concerning overseas travel undertaken by officers of my department, the Director had one overseas visit during the past financial year: he, too, attended the ITB Travel Fair and the Corroboree. The Deputy Director of the department undertook two overseas, one to Japan and the other to South-East Asia. No free fares were provided for these visits by departmental officers.

Mr TYLER: I am aware that a major promotion involving regional tourism profiles was conducted in the Bourke Street mall in Melbourne during June. How successful was that promotion?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Bourke Street mall promotion, the first of its kind undertaken by the Department of Tourism, was indeed a successful event, not only in terms of the number of people who participated in the promotion

(and it has been estimated that 10 000 people passed through the associated promotional tents erected for the purpose) but also in terms of the enormous boost that it gave to regional tourist association representatives who participated and who found that the level of interest shown by Victorians in this State and in the various things being promoted was very high indeed.

While people were in Melbourne, the opportunity was taken to make several bookings with numerous operators who were present at the time. There was considerable media coverage obtained free of charge, I am pleased to say, just because this promotion was taking place. We estimate that the free time we were able to attract would have cost about \$100 000 for the radio, television and printed press if we had had to pay for it, so it was a very successful event. The department contributed \$30 000 towards the promotion and we were able to attract the equivalent of about \$30 000 in cash or kind from people in the regions to match that money.

I think that all the people who participated said that it was one of the most successful consumer awareness programs undertaken. Since some of the representatives of the regional associations have returned to their regions they have received many inquiries and in some cases people have visited South Australia within weeks of making contact through that promotion, so it was very successful, in terms of both the promotional activity itself and boosting morale for the people who attended.

Mr TYLER: I understand that in 1986 the Department of Tourism commissioned a study into the feasibility of developing a major tourist resort in the Flinders Ranges. Will the Minister outline the findings of that study and say whether a development is proposed?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A feasibility study was undertaken by consultants employed by the Department of Tourism. That formed part of a broader study being undertaken primarily by the Department of Environment and Planning into the Flinders Ranges region of our State. The consultants' report was produced in 1986. They said that a resort development was desirable for the area and in their view feasible. Since that time this Government has given a company called Ophix Pty Limited a 12-month first right of refusal to prepare a proposal and to undertake a further feasibility study into the development of a resort in the Flinders Ranges close to Wilpena Pound. We are presently in the middle of that 12-month period. I understand that the company is well advanced with its study and that, although it will be reporting to the Minister for Environment and Planning rather than to me, it hopes to have a proposition ready later this year, at about the end of October.

Mr OSWALD: Is it a Japanese company?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: They have Japanese connections.

Mr TYLER: A notable achievement in the northern part of South Australia last year was the sealing of the Stuart Highway. What has been the tourism effect of that sealing of this important highway?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Traffic on the Stuart Highway has increased enormously since the sealing was completed at the beginning of 1986. In fact, I understand that the Highways Department is currently undertaking a survey of traffic on that road to gain a better picture of what is happening. Early estimates indicate that traffic flow has increased by at least 100 per cent since the highway was sealed. We have been able to gauge some of the changes that have occurred because of that increased traffic by looking at the results produced by various motels along the way.

The people in Coober Pedy, for example, reported that they had a record month in January this year, normally a very quiet period for them.

There have been a number of hotel and motel developments to cater for the new volume of traffic, and others are on the drawing board. Some of that development has taken place in Coober Pedy. There have also been improvements to camping and caravan facilities in Glendambo and at Marla. I know that in Port Augusta new motel units opened in the past 12 months and that further new unit developments are planned there shortly.

Many of the operators along that outback strip are starting to realise that the tourism opportunities are quite significant and results are being produced. We have been cooperating with the Northern Territory Tourist Commission in promoting the north-south strip because it is in both our interests to combine forces and make our marketing dollar stretch further in the promotion of the Stuart Highway as a new and interesting holiday experience, not only for Australians but also for people coming here from overseas.

In that connection, at the ITB meeting in Berlin in March we pursued that theme strongly. The Northern Territory Tourist Commission and the South Australian Department of Tourism had a combined stand in Berlin where we emphasised outback adventure and the idea of Adelaide being the gateway to the outback. We put a lot of emphasis on the sealing of the Stuart Highway. I think that it will be one of our future success stories and we are already seeing results there.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: The Minister has referred on several occasions to the work of the review committee. I assume that that committee's work is relevant to this budget because there is some fee paid to it, although there is no indication under which line that fee is paid. Has the review committee examined the number of tourism organisations responsible for promotion of the capital and the State (because there is, some might say, a proliferation of them) and, if so, what is the view of the review committee and the Minister in relation to the number of organisations? Is there a view that some should be amalgamated, or that they should be reduced, rationalised, coordinated, call it what you will?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There were no fees paid to members of the review committee: they all gave their services, I am happy to say, out of the goodness of their hearts and to demonstrate their commitment to tourism in South Australia, which was very heartening. I have to agree with the member for Coles that there is an enormous number of tourism organisations involved with the promotion of tourism in our State.

I would like to see a rationalisation of the organisations that exist here, because it seems to me that there is a real duplication of effort and a waste of resources going into the work of the individual organisations, and that tends to dissipate the effort of people who, after all, have similar objectives. One of the objectives laid down in the new Tourism Development Plan is for a review of the organisations. That is something which must primarily be undertaken by the industry organisations themselves. Certainly, the Department of Tourism can show some leadership and provide support and assistance to tourism industry organisations in their attempts to look at their own structures and the range of organisations that exist.

Unless there is agreement amongst the people involved in these organisations that there should be a rationalisation, it is most unlikely that any new structure will be successful. It is very much something for the South Australian Tourism Industry Council and regional tourist associations, in par-

ticular, to look at very carefully, and for them to show the sort of leadership that is required in bringing about the rationalisation that I have discussed. Whatever action they decide to take, I will be very happy and willing to assist them.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: Referring to page 159 of the estimates, program 2, 'Marketing of the State as a Tourist Destination', on the face of it an increase from \$2.28 million for tourist advertising and promotion to \$3.036 million appears to be a substantial increase. Every year the question is posed: how much of that increase is consumed by inflation? I know that hits particularly hard at media costs. I would also appreciate the Minister's opinion as to our competitive position with other States in relation to our marketing.

It is acknowledged in the Program Estimates on page 518 that South Australia is facing intense competition for tourist spending. The report of the Kennedy Committee of Inquiry into Tourism in Australia on page 23 provides a schedule of budget allocations for all the States for 1985-86. I do not have the current budgets for the other States for this year, but I suspect that, if the proportions are maintained (and I feel sure they will be) South Australia will again be spending less than any other State—including Tasmania. These States are our competitors. Can the Minister identify any factors apart from the Grand Prix and the Festival of Arts that would justify our being in such a poor competitive position in budget allocation when it comes to competing for the tourist dollar in Australia?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not believe that we will be in a worse position this year than we were last year or, indeed, back in the early 1980s, when the member for Coles was the Minister of Tourism, with respect to a comparison of our budget with what is happening in other States. I, too, have been attempting to find out what is happening with tourism budgets in other parts of the country this financial year. It has been very difficult to get accurate figures about what is happening in some parts of the country, because some budgets have not yet been brought down; in other cases, they have.

From the information we have been able to glean so far, some State tourism budgets will be reduced this year, and I am not sure what will happen with others. In that context, I think that we will find that South Australia will be in a position to close the gap somewhat. This year we will have a 12 per cent increase in our marketing budget, and when one compares that with the situation that will occur in at least some other States, where there will be a real decrease in the amount of money allocated for tourism marketing, the position looks much healthier.

In ideal circumstances, I would like to be able to report to the Committee that we have been able to allocate millions of dollars more to marketing the State of South Australia. I am not able to do that, but the fact that we have been able to produce a real increase in our budget overall and, more particularly, a 12 per cent increase in marketing this year, is a significant improvement in our tourism effort in what are very difficult financial circumstances. As I have indicated in the past, it is not appropriate for us to look only at the allocation that is made to the Department of Tourism for marketing the State when we are looking at the State's marketing efforts for tourism.

We must also look at the marketing budget of the Adelaide Convention Centre and the amount of money being spent on developing that facility, which will have a significant impact on visits to South Australia. We must also look at the other developments in the State, such as the Adelaide Casino, Grand Prix, and now the new Hyatt

Hotel—all of which are big operations that are doing their own marketing. In all those cases the decisions that have been made by people involved in marketing have been taken cooperatively with the Department of Tourism in terms of the thrust they are pursuing. Each of those organisations is very keen to promote not just its own particular product but also to provide a focus on the State.

One of the recent examples of that new thrust is the brochure produced by the Hyatt Hotel that refers to the facilities of the new hotel but also presents information, in a way I do not think any organisation has so far, about where the city of Adelaide and the Hyatt Hotel fit in relation to various other tourism attractions in and around the city of Adelaide. Our marketing potential for the State is getting bigger and better all the time, with this large range of larger tourism-related operations coming on line and assisting the Government through the Department of Tourism to promote the State as a tourist destination.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: In the Minister's opening remarks she presented some very good news about increased visitor trips to South Australia, including a 10 per cent increase in tourist nights, which I believe is the ideal target. I believe a 10 per cent increase annually for three years is a realistic target, and I am disappointed that there are no targets either in the Government's policy or in the Tourism Development Plan, because I believe that targets are essential. I would like to know how much of that 10 per cent was confined to the city of Adelaide and how much to the benefit of the regions. Some regions and operators in some regions have been hard hit and have suffered quite a bit in the past 12 months. I have heard that occupancy rates on Kangaroo Island are not nearly as high as operators would like, and that there are other regions where there is a reduced occupancy. Is it too soon for those figures to have come through?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, it is. We do not have any hard evidence to produce about the impact on particular regions of the State, but we do know that the most significant increase occurred in the Adelaide region. Other regions of the State have enjoyed part of the increase as well, but not the same sort of increase as the Adelaide region. Nevertheless, there has been growth in other regions of the State but, as the member indicates, there are some regions that have not produced pleasing figures at all.

Those are issues that we will have to address as a department, and also the regional tourist associations in those areas in association with their regional managers and promotion officers will have to consider ways and means of increasing their share of the growth that is occurring in South Australia so that we can have a more even distribution of the benefits that are coming to the State with the growth in numbers. Until we have hard evidence from each of the regions, it is going to be very difficult for us specifically to say which areas have been advantaged by the changes, which may have fallen behind, or which have remained stable.

Mr HAMILTON: I refer to program 3 and the 'Tourism in South Australia' booklet which states that part of the strategy is to promote social responsibility in tourism. Under 'Actions' it states:

Providing advice and information on the special requirements of people with a disability or the financially disadvantaged.

Can the Minister elaborate on what actions have been taken in that regard, because I am most interested in that area?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have certainly encouraged people involved with the construction of particular tourist complexes to take account of the needs of disadvantaged or disabled people when they are making provision, either

for accommodation or in other areas of tourism development. About two years ago we produced a report within the department on ways and means by which the needs of disabled people could be better taken account of by people in the tourism industry. Attempts have been made to circulate that information and to make both tourism operators, whether they be owners and operators of facilities, or people who are transporting disabled people around our State, more sensitive to the needs of disabled people and the work that they do. We will certainly be continuing to raise the level of awareness wherever we are able to do so in future.

Mr HAMILTON: I thank the Minister for that information, because it fits in with a similar document released by the Department of Recreation and Sport on a matter which I raised in this House some years ago that I brought back from Western Australia and which I found very enlightening. Again referring to 'Tourism in South Australia', program 3, strategy 12 states:

Encourage South Australians to be more effective ambassadors for their State, . . .

Actions: . . . Pursue the introduction of a tourism component in school curricula . . .

Identify and implement opportunities for stimulating South Australians to become more knowledgeable and proud of their State.

Can the Minister elaborate on what action has been taken in that regard?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In the past couple of weeks the honourable member might have seen in a newspaper a report on the development that is taking place in the Education Department with the development of a tourism module for use in our schools. Officers of the Department of Tourism were very active in working with the Education Department in developing the curriculum material for that course. It is now being piloted in a selected number of schools in South Australia and, should that pilot program prove successful, appropriate modifications will be made to the structure of the course and it will become part of the general curriculum.

I share the member's view that it is important that South Australians of all ages should be aware of the importance of tourism in our State. It is important for young people to be aware not only of tourism so that they can be better ambassadors but also to know about the employment opportunities that exist in tourism and hospitality areas both now and in future as our tourism industry grows. There will be significant opportunities, and I think the steps that have been taken by our State Government in providing funding for training courses through TAFE and also the most recent decisions made by the Federal Government in its latest budget to increase the number of places with special emphasis on tourism and hospitality will provide a whole range of new opportunities for young people to enter the industry.

One of the things that we have discovered from our own market research is that there has been such rapid development in tourism and tourism product in South Australia in the past few years that even South Australians are not familiar with what there is to offer here. We need to put much more emphasis on promoting those tourism developments and making South Australians aware, so that they can take an interest in visiting them and recommending them to people who might be visiting the State and with whom they come in contact. The development of a tourism course for schools is obviously an important starting point.

Mr HAMILTON: In relation to program 3, strategy 14 in the same booklet by the Department of Tourism states:

Manage tourism to minimise adverse impacts.

That is very important, particularly in terms of the environment. Under 'Action' it states:

Formulate detailed local management plans.

Install protective infrastructure.

Prepare design guidelines that encourage enhancement of heritage and environment assets.

Ensure major development proposals. Specify environmental safeguards.

I ask this question because of some of the developments taking place in the western suburbs, such as Fort Glanville and others.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is certainly one of the major thrusts of our future tourism development that we recognise the heritage value of both the built environment and the natural environment as being very important components in what makes South Australia a desirable tourist attraction. The market research that we undertook certainly confirmed the view that one of the things that South Australia has going for it is the natural environment in various parts of the State and also that we have placed so much emphasis on the preservation of old buildings, and on our heritage in general.

The policy document that was prepared prior to the last State election placed significant emphasis on the need for sensitive tourism development in our State which takes proper account of the environment and controls tourism development to preserve the environment in which it is located. That can be a very difficult task, depending on the area in which one is working. However, I think that it is possible to strike a balance between reasonable tourism development and environmental protection and enhancement. That certainly forms the basis of the philosophy that we are pursuing as a Government in the future development of tourism facilities in our State. It forms part of the advice that officers of the Department of Tourism give to potential developers and investors in our State.

The Hon. JENNIFER CASHMORE: In relation to page 12 of the current Tourism Development Plan, is the working group to plan and implement marketing of the Adelaide Festival under way (presumably it is getting rather late to market the festival overseas)? Has that group been established and, if so, who is on it?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Department of Tourism has had quite close contact with the people who are organising the festival program for 1988. We participated in the preparation of the first round of brochures and other promotional material that was prepared particularly for the international markets. We are very lucky this year in that the main attractions of the 1988 festival were made public much earlier than is usually the case. That has given us the opportunity to circulate information to various international markets well in advance of next year's festival. We certainly hope that that will mean an increased number of people coming to South Australia to enjoy some of the performances that will take place during the 1988 festival.

One of the things with which we were able to assist the festival organisers more specifically was the distribution of that promotional literature. The Department of Tourism undertook the task itself by distributing all of that information to the various international markets on behalf of the festival organisers. With respect to the committee that has been established, Paul van der Lee, from the Department of Tourism, is our representative and he will report on some of the work of that committee.

Mr van der Lee: The committee has met on virtually an 'as required' basis. There have been occasions when we have met quite frequently and other times when some time has elapsed. The membership of the committee is myself and one other Department of Tourism staff person (John Myers). We have had fairly intensive working sessions with Colin Koch from the Festival of Arts. The initial work of

the committee was to look at what opportunities there were to package the Festival of Arts, particularly in international markets. The department has consequently provided a fair amount of information and advice on how to go about that. As the Minister already mentioned, the department has been involved in financing the printing and distribution of the Festival program flier in overseas markets. More recently we have been involved in preparing a program to launch the festival program in our interstate markets, specifically Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The department has just committed itself to advertising in the festival program. We are also considering a request from the festival to produce this year, in the same way we did two festivals ago, a festival diary.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the examination of the votes completed.

Works and services—Department of Local Government,
\$2 488 000; Local Government, \$81 151 000

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 Local Government and Minister of Youth Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

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

Mr M. Herrmann, Manager, Support Services, Department of Local Government.

Ms B. Webster, Director, Youth Bureau.

Ms V. Siebert, Manager, Public Records Office.

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

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I have a series of questions relating to the YES program.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I seek your ruling on this issue, Mr Acting Chairman. The YES program and its funding come under the lines of the Minister of Employment and Further Education and it is not a matter under my jurisdiction as Minister of Youth Affairs, so I suggest that it is not appropriate for this matter to be raised with me.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Tyler): I accept the Minister's point of order. The member for Light should direct his question to the appropriate Minister, and in this circumstance it would be the Minister of Labour.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I accept that, Mr Acting Chairman, but, because it is the youth employment opportunity office, can the Minister indicate to what degree she is required to liaise with her colleague in the performance of the various programs directed for youth benefit?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There are members of the Youth Bureau staff who liaise with people in the office of Employment and Training on employment and training matters relating to young people, as they do with officers working in other areas of State Government which have some responsibility for the delivery of services to young

people. However, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Employment and Further Education in the final event to administer the policy development and direction of the YES program for young people.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Does the Standing Committee on Youth Affairs report to the Minister?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That committee existed prior to my becoming Minister of Youth Affairs and has now been disbanded. It consisted of the chief executive officers of various organisations that had some responsibility for the delivery of services to young people. In its place we established in the latter half of 1986 the Youth Affairs Reference Group. It met for the first time in December 1986 and has representation from each of the Government agencies involved with young people, and there is a large number of those agencies in the State Public Service.

The group has functioned very well, has worked on a number of issues of priority to the Government and has led to much better liaison and cooperation between the individual agencies of Government that have some responsibility for young people. In the past I think that there has been a tendency for some Government agencies to work somewhat in isolation of each other in the development of the youth programs with which they have been involved. Through the Youth Affairs Reference Group (YARG) there is now much better cooperation between the agencies, and there is now an opportunity to share information which might otherwise fall through the net for one reason or another.

Some of the things that YARG has been working on as a matter of priority include the examination of ways to better coordinate our education, training and employment policies and initiatives for young people—and I mean more in a structural sense rather than in relation to the delivery of particular programs within it. It has also examined the information needs of young people, and specifically whether or not there is a need for specialist youth information services. More recently YARG looked at the role of local government in the delivery of human services in relation to young people, and that began recently. So the work of YARG has been quite wide-ranging and varied, but I think it has led to much more communication between the various Government agencies.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: From the document, I note that there has been a sizable increase in the grants to youth organisations from \$2 750 to \$123 000. Which youth organisations are to receive funding this year and what criteria will be used to determine the distribution of that sum?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The sizable increase under that line relates specifically to one project on which the Youth Bureau is working. That project, the Labour Market Awareness Program, was developed by officers of the Youth Bureau to provide much better information for young people about trends in employment and training opportunities. We succeeded in attracting \$110 000 of Commonwealth Government funding for that program. That accounts for most of the increase in that line for youth organisations. The State Government will match the sum provided by the Commonwealth Government.

Further, administration expenses amounting to about \$10 000 have been transferred for those purposes and this year we will again provide a grant of about \$2 750 for the Voice of Youth Rostrum organisation, the same as last year. That indicates what the proposed allocation of \$123 000 comprises.

Mr De LAINE: In view of the changes to the 18-year-old financial support scheme in the Federal Government's May economic statement, which highlights the potential

support gap, what steps has the Minister taken to identify any anomalies that may exist in the provision of youth income support?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This matter concerns me greatly as Minister of Youth Affairs because some of the changes made recently by the Federal Government to income arrangements for young people are in the area of support for young people who are undergoing education programs: for instance, the financial support provided under Austudy and the new arrangements for financial support for young people in the 16-17-year-old age group are likely to lead to the emergence of anomalies in some parts of the country.

Taking Austudy as an example, some young South Australians no longer qualify for that allowance because of the age criteria upon which it is based. So this, together with other issues that have already emerged and others that may emerge as a result of decisions taken more recently, has led me to establish a task force to consider some of these gaps and anomalies that are emerging in income support for young people. We are establishing that task force now. One of its roles will be to identify discrepancies both in eligibility for funding and also in the provision of income support, as well as to identify to what extent South Australians are either advantaged or disadvantaged by the existing scheme.

I hope that the task force, which is chaired by Dr Annie Yeatman of Flinders University and which comprises representatives of both Government and non-Government organisations that have some knowledge or interest in this matter, will report to me by about the end of this year. The report of the task force will help us in making recommendations to the Federal Government as to how some of these problems may be addressed.

Mr De LAINE: Page 529 of the yellow book indicates that, as part of its targets and objectives, the Government will undertake research on destinations and attitudes of young people at senior secondary school level. Will the Minister say what is intended to be achieved by this research?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The Youth Bureau has worked on a destination and attitude survey in the latter part of 1986 and also in the early part of this year. The aim of the survey is to develop a data base on senior secondary students across the State, so that we can examine the attitudes of those young people and the factors that influence them in their choice of future career paths or educational aspirations, as well as the actual destinations themselves.

In other words, we are trying to ascertain their views as to the future, where they expect to go, and what is influencing them in making their decisions about where they are and where they are going. The target population for this survey comprises students in years 10, 11 and 12 in secondary schools. Having already collected the data, we are analysing it and I hope that we can make the information available early next year.

Mr De LAINE: Can the Minister indicate the future role of the Youth Affairs Reference Group?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Earlier, I outlined the most recent work undertaken by the Youth Affairs Reference Group (YARG) since it was established in December last year. It has been an important organisation in bringing together the various Government agencies and it has identified a range of issues that need attention, whether through the work of the group itself or through work that should be undertaken by individual agencies that are responsible for the delivery of programs to young people.

The sorts of matters on which the group has been working include youth information needs, the role of local government in the delivery of services to young people, the work that we are doing in education training, and the creation of

employment opportunities for young people. I also expect that YARG will in future consider some of the health needs of young people. It has spent time on ways to develop multidisciplinary youth centres for young people in various parts of the State and, primarily through the work of the Youth Bureau itself over the past 12 months, there has been success in that area with the establishment of a good youth service in Whyalla.

Work was also done in Elizabeth in an attempt to establish a youth service there. However, for reasons beyond our control, it did not succeed—it fell through in the end because we were unable to get the sort of support for which we were looking from the local council. Nevertheless, much of the developmental work in attempting to establish that youth service is information that can be applied in other areas when we are assisting other community groups to establish services appropriate to their circumstances.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister has indicated that the youth affairs standing committee has been disbanded—am I correct in saying that?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I understand it has been replaced by another organisation. Government departments had to report twice a year to the youth affairs standing committee. That was quite a feature in the promotion of the policy in 1985. Does this new organisation require departments to report in that manner and, if not, why not, and for what reason has the promise that was made been broken?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The new youth affairs reference group is in many ways a better vehicle for providing information on what is happening in various organisations in Government than, I think, was the standing committee, with respect to the people who were on it. The officers who serve on the youth affairs reference group tend to be people who, although they are quite senior in their organisations, are more involved in the day to day work of the organisation in its delivery of youth services. Therefore, their working knowledge of what is happening within the organisation is, in some cases, better than perhaps that of the chief executive officers under the old arrangement.

Also, their time tends to be more flexible and they are available on a more regular basis for attendance at meetings and, therefore, for the exchange of information. The youth affairs reference group meets regularly and reports to me directly as Minister of Youth Affairs. I, in turn, keep the Human Services Committee of Cabinet informed about what is happening in the youth field, in fact, youth is a permanent item on the agenda of the Human Services Committee of Cabinet and, from time to time as the need arises, I present reports to that committee about what is happening in areas in which the youth affairs reference group is working and, where appropriate, those matters are taken to the full Cabinet, if a decision needs to be made relating to the Government as a whole.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Will the Minister make the membership details of that group available to the committee? I take on board her recent answer that Government departments are not required to report directly, so by what means is information gathered from the departments that do not have an officer on the representative group?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There are no Government departments responsible for directly servicing young people that do not have a member on the youth affairs reference group. If I run through the group of organisations represented on it, I think that the honourable member will see just how far-reaching is the work of that committee. Its representatives are from: Department of Premier and Cab-

inet; Department of Technical and Further Education; the Community Improvement through Youth organisation; Department of Housing and Construction; Department of Agriculture; Department of Recreation and Sport; South Australian Health Commission; Attorney-General's Department; Department for the Arts; Police Department; Department of Local Government; Education Department; Department of Community Welfare; and, of course, the Youth Bureau—in fact, the Director of the Youth Bureau chairs that group.

Representation on the group is very broad, so it is able to cover a full range of issues affecting young people. Of course, not every member of that committee works on every issue; it is a very large committee, as the honourable member can see, and the work practice that it has adopted is to form small working groups to concentrate on particular issues as they emerge. These groups, which are under the supervision of the whole organisation, usually comprise a small number of people with particular expertise in areas appropriate to work on special projects. They, in turn, report back to the youth affairs reference group as a whole and then, ultimately, to me as Minister of Youth Affairs.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Did the Minister or her officers have any input prior to the recent announcement by the Minister of Health about the Government's policy for city kids? Does the Minister support that policy in its entirety?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will ask the Director of the Youth Bureau to reply to that question.

Ms Webster: The Youth Bureau had considerable input into that process. The officer from the Department of Community Welfare who did the study commissioned by the Minister of Health and Community Welfare consulted extensively with a range of agencies in the city and talked at length with the staff of the Youth Bureau about what all the information meant in terms of having an overview involving the situation of city kids, as I believe they are now called.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is there total acceptance of that program?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. We certainly support the measures recently outlined by the Minister of Health to try to alleviate the problems of young people in the city.

Mr TYLER: The Minister would appreciate that I represent a seat with the youngest population in South Australia, if not in Australia: this is a young and rapidly growing population. To back up my statement, I refer to the 1986 census figures, which show significant increases in the youth population in my electorate. Those figures are as follows: under four, an increase of 19.9 per cent; five to nine years old, an increase of 35 per cent; 10 to 14 years old—even though this group declined in South Australia by 7 per cent, it increased by a whopping 77 per cent in my electorate; and in the group 15 to 19 years old there was also a significant increase of 74.7 per cent bringing the total population in my electorate under the age of 19 years to 14 200, just under 40 per cent of the electorate.

Therefore, the Minister can see that there is a significant number of young people in the area who have the potential to create quite severe problems, particularly in relation to employment. Can the Minister say whether her department has identified the Fisher electorate, and more particularly the Happy Valley area (where most of these young people are resident), as an area with a growing need? If that has been done, will the Minister explain what is happening in her department in relation to this matter and what consultation has taken place with the Happy Valley council?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We are aware of the demographic circumstances of your part of the State, and we

recognise that that very high proportion of young people brings with it not only some benefits but also some quite enormous problems and potential complications for those people who are responsible for the provision of services to such a population. The circumstances that apply in the Happy Valley area are not unique, although they may be more pronounced in some respects.

There is also quite a high proportion of young people even further south, in and around the Noarlunga area, and we have had very close contact with people in the Noarlunga area who have been providing services for young people, working with both the council—which has put quite considerable emphasis on youth and youth matters—and other community groups. I will call on the Director of the Youth Bureau to outline in greater detail some of the more specific work we have been doing in your part of the State.

Ms Webster: The Youth Bureau is involved in a project called the Coordination and Access Project, which is a joint Commonwealth-State project looking at how young people gain access to services within your particular area. During the course of that project extensive consultations have taken place with all services in the area which provide any kind of services to young people. The project itself is being conducted on a comparative basis, and we are looking at the area of the Marion council by way of comparison. I think that the two council areas just touch in one corner. We are looking at getting some kind of comparison of the extent to which there are services which need to be provided and how young people are accessing those services; how they get their information.

Mr TYLER: I think that the problem is compounded for two reasons: first, the area is young, hence we have many young people coming into the area, but the area is now very urban where it was once semi-rural, hence the lack of services, particularly for young people, for recreation and sport—especially recreation. The Education Department has done very well in the area and, even though we have full capacity in our schools, it is the recreation area with which we have great problems. Is there any consultation process with the Department of Recreation and Sport, and will the recreation needs of a community like Happy Valley be especially looked at?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not think that the specific needs of the Happy Valley area have been looked at by the Youth Affairs Reference Group, for example; whether the Department of Recreation and Sport has looked at it specifically, I do not know. I think that is a matter which could very well be referred to the Youth Affairs Reference Group now, to see whether there can be some measures taken in the short term which might assist in alleviating some of the problems you have identified. One of the good things is that the council in the Happy Valley area is a particularly good one with respect to its record in the development of human services in a whole range of areas.

I am sure that the council would be very responsive to any proposals that might be put to it about the development of services, whether it be in recreation or other youth services, if we were able to put some considered views to it on that issue. I suppose, more particularly, if there were State Government funds to be found that would assist it in providing those services. Whether or not there are, I cannot say, but it is a real advantage that the Happy Valley community has the council that is sensitive to those issues and will respond wherever it is able to do so. I think that is a matter on which we should concentrate some energy.

Mr TYLER: I agree completely: the Happy Valley council is a very good advocate for young people and has some excellent people employed in that area on its staff. Does

the Youth Bureau actually act as an advocate within the State Government circle for things like recreation? If it identifies an area that is obviously lacking, does it actually go out and promote support from the other State Government departments or identify the areas as potential high youth unemployment areas?

We do not have huge unemployment among our young people but, as you can see from the figures, most of them would still be at high school. Within two or three years I can see youth unemployment in the area exploding, and unless we grab hold of the issue very quickly we will have a potential social problem on our hands.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, the Youth Bureau does act as an advocate with other agencies of Government, and that is one of that bureau's prime functions. Wherever the Youth Bureau is able to identify a need that relates to some other agency's responsibility, efforts are made to draw the attention of that agency to the problem, and also to offer assistance in finding solutions to the problem.

A large part of the work of the Youth Bureau is to undertake research and to plan for the future. There have been a number of research projects that the bureau has initiated which have subsequently led to action being taken by appropriate organisations or, at least, have provided information that might not otherwise have been available to them in the planning of particular services. The Youth Bureau has quite some input, for example, into the process of such funding programs as community welfare grants. We have very close liaison with the Health Commission in identifying the health needs of young people in areas of highest need around the State, and at present we are doing a detailed study of the most recent census data to try to anticipate some of the future needs—the sort of thing you are talking about which relates to your specific electorate in Happy Valley—the future employment needs that might exist for young people in the age groups you have identified.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Page 529 of the yellow book, under 1987-88 Specific Targets, refers to researching the destinations and attitude of young people in the senior secondary school years. Who will be responsible for this research and will the results be made available publicly?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I responded to a question about the destination and attitude survey just a while ago. The survey was carried out by officers of the Youth Bureau under the auspices of that bureau. The data that has been collected is now being analysed in the bureau. I hope that we will be able to draw some conclusions after a final report and the findings of that survey are made available fairly early in the new year. That document will be publicly available.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Have the Minister's officers reviewed the operations of The Second Story and the delivery of services to young people? If so, what has been the result? Further, have any representations of youth organisations indicated to the Minister or her officers any dissatisfaction with the operation of The Second Story? If so, what were those areas of dissatisfaction?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There has not been a specific review of the work of The Second Story by officers of the Youth Bureau. I am not sure that it is an appropriate function for the Youth Bureau to undertake such a review, certainly not without the request coming from the Minister who is responsible for The Second Story and who in this case happens to be the Minister of Health. Officers of the bureau do keep in touch with the people working in The Second Story and they are kept informed of the various programs and services that are run from that facility. I have not received any complaints about the service that is sup-

plied to young people by The Second Story, and I also am not aware of any complaints that have come to the Youth Bureau.

There has been some controversy about the way The Second Story operates and some of that controversy comes from a misunderstanding of just what The Second Story is designed to do. Perhaps there are expectations that are not reasonable about what it can achieve but, as far as I am aware, it has provided a range of services to a number of young people. The services have been very valuable to them. I know that the Health Commission has the operation of The Second Story under constant review and, as and when necessary, the operation of the facility will be adjusted to cater for changing needs.

It is important to recognise that that facility is the first of its kind in South Australia and that, therefore, to some extent it is experimental. It was not clear at the time of its establishment exactly what demand there would be for the range of services that were being provided by the new facility or whether they were then in their entirety the most appropriate services.

These are things that are being learned as the work of The Second Story progresses and I am certain that the people who operate The Second Story will be sensitive to the emerging needs of young people and will adjust the services provided there as and when it seems appropriate to meet the broadest range of needs of young people.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: The Minister will agree that we are all aware of the growing national concern about the significant increase in the number of young people who are committing suicide. As it is of particular concern to me, can the Minister say whether any of the Minister's officers are involved in any specific work looking into that matter in South Australia or whether the officers of her department are involved in any way with any of the investigations being carried out at a national level?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No. The Youth Bureau was not involved in any investigations taking place into that matter, but I certainly share the concern that has been expressed about the number of young people who, for whatever reason, are choosing to take their own lives. It has to be of concern to everyone that any young person should feel that life is so awful and that prospects are so abysmal that there is no other solution than death. I do not know that we will ever know, no matter how studies are undertaken, just what the problems might be for the young people who are concerned with this matter. Certainly, if there could be a role for officers of the Youth Bureau, I would be very happy for them to be involved in any survey or study that might be undertaken. I imagine that such a study would be much more appropriately the function of people engaged in the health field, people like psychiatrists and other people associated with the medical field.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: As a supplementary question, I understand what the Minister says about the involvement through health facilities, but I would have thought that the involvement that the Youth Bureau had with different areas that involved youth might have been a valuable resource to assist in some of the work that is being carried out by the Health Commission.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: That could well be so. Youth Bureau officers have extensive contact with non-government youth agencies and organisations that are running accommodation facilities for young people, employment programs, and a whole range of activities, and that accumulated knowledge and experience could well be of use to people who are engaged in such studies. As I indicated, if at any time it seemed appropriate for that knowledge to be

passed on to those people, or if that knowledge was required, we would have no hesitation in participating.

Additional Department Adviser:

Mr E.McL. Miller, State Librarian.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am interested in maintenance of public record. The program under 'issues/trends' on page 532 states:

The development of records management program in each Government agency, and the establishment of document disposal schedules limit the accumulation over the years of large quantities of unwanted records and provide for the automatic retention of only those records which should be retained.

This highlights a fairly sensitive or important series of criteria that are required. Members of the House have recently been approached, whether in total or individually, to identify any documents that they may wish stored or correlated. Some present and ex-members have already taken that opportunity. Could the Minister give a critique of what is intended and any pitfalls that have already been identified? Has there been resistance in Government departments to give up what have been their traditional stocks of memorabilia? From a private member's point of view, is the material that is required for identification—and it may be through the library system that this has taken place—only to embrace certain parts of a private member's or ex-Minister's total documentation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will call on Ms Siebert to respond in detail about this. She is closest to the issue and has been involved in the negotiations with various individuals and Government organisations about the collection or disposal of records. All the Government agencies that we have been dealing with through the Public Record Office have been very cooperative about the collection of material. The arrangements that are being made about the holding of documents, the issues of confidentiality (where appropriate), the length of time for the retention of information and the guidelines that are being negotiated for the collection of some records and the disposal of others, and that sort of thing, have been proceeding satisfactorily.

Ms Siebert: As the Minister said, generally relationships with State Government and local government departments are very good. They are only too happy to negotiate about the transfer of quite large quantities of records and to try to develop plans for disposing of unwanted and unneeded records. The criteria for such disposal are looked into very carefully and take particular consideration of legal and audit requirements. If in doubt we always err on the side of the conservative decision.

As far as the papers of parliamentary members are concerned we have come to a standing arrangement with the Mortlock Library that, because of the complexity of the records of a member of Parliament (there is a mixture of private records in a member's role as a local member plus personal papers, plus records as perhaps a Minister), to try to split those papers neatly between public and private is messy at times. Generally the electorate papers of a member will be considered as private papers, and the Mortlock Library will be involved in that negotiation. However, where the member of the Parliament is a Minister and runs an office, then papers generated in that office are treated as public records of the office of the Minister. That seems to be working fairly well at present.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: What is an unwanted paper, having regard to the fact that quite often events 20 years hence will mean that a piece of paper is vital? I am not trying to be awkward; I am trying to identify some of the real issues that have from time to time evolved even in this

place, for example, in relation to the closure of roads where suddenly a paper has quite a degree of significance, and 80 years after the event that document is required. I had the same experience, as Speaker of this House, in relation to a document that was almost 100 years old suddenly being pertinent to an event. What is the fine line?

Ms Siebert: The archival art is an art not a science. There is always a degree of subjectivity. We look at the legal, administrative, audit and financial requirements and also attempt to make an assessment of the possible historical value of a record, and that takes into account known trends, historical research and cyclical trends over many years. As I said earlier, if we are in doubt about a particular class of records, we tend to keep them. The decisions are generally on the conservative side perhaps because we have only been authorising the destruction of records on any scale fairly recently. We are mainly dealing with huge quantities of accumulated records that have not been appraised very critically for destruction. I am not aware of any mistakes that have been made in the past five years. Of course, when one is deciding between records it is possible that anything could conceivably be of later interest. We are not presently dealing with the records of Parliament.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The matter of the disposal of records is ultimately referred to the Libraries Board. It is not a matter that is determined by personnel in the Public Record Office. There is that final process, with examination by the Libraries Board prior to the destruction of records.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Page 526 of the yellow book indicates that the area of responsibility has been something of a growth industry. I am not averse to that. In fact, the sheer volume of material that is around would suggest that it could be projected that there could be even greater growth. For example, in 1986-87 the proposed figure for FTEs was 22.4 (actual was 31). In 1987-88 the proposed FTEs grew to 34. What is likely to occur over the next five years? I appreciate that crystal ball gazing is not always a definitive art, either.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Although there appears in the yellow book to be an increase in staff in this area it should be pointed out that some of those changes come about because of changes in accounting methods. Actually, there has been very little movement in that area. I ask Ms Siebert to expand on the broader question raised.

Ms Siebert: The net increase in staff in the Public Record Office in the past two years has been two, and some of those staff work on our programs of conservation but are not actually in the Public Record Office. I would imagine that, while we could certainly be a growth industry, methods we are using to try to keep our work under control and more efficient, plus constraints of staffing, will mean that we grow slowly rather than rapidly.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: To make the record clear, I refer to the following table appearing on page 526 of the yellow book:

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STATISTICS

Program/Sub-Program Titles	Recurrent Expenditure (Recurrent Receipts) \$'000			Capital Expenditure (Capital Receipts) \$'000			Employment-Average of full-time equivalents		
	1986-87 Proposed	1986-87 Actual	1987-88 Proposed	1986-87 Proposed	1986-87 Actual	1987-88 Proposed	1986-87 Proposed	1986-87 Actual	1987-88 Proposed
	Maintenance of Public Records—								
Selection of material to be archived . . .	258	60	33	—	—	—	8.9	1.0	0.5
Conservation	457	794	1 031	210	384	390	9.0	29.5	33.0
Provision of access	182	39	35	170	—	—	4.5	0.5	0.5
Total Program	897	893	1 099	380	384	390	22.4	31.0	34.0
	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(11)	(-)			

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: This table concerns the employment average of full-time equivalents and is specifically related to the maintenance of public records. It shows, for example, that the conservation branch had expected employment of nine last year but finished up with 29.5, and it has a quota of 33 for this year. If there is an error in the record I think it should be explained at a later stage, but the document shows an increase in staffing for the maintenance of public records program from 22.4 to an expectation of 34 for 1987-88.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I will ask Mr Herrmann to respond to this question, because he has been very much involved in the preparation of the accounts for the Department of Local Government and I think he can explain it to the satisfaction of the Committee.

Mr Herrmann: The proposed figure of 22.4 for last year included only the actual staff employed in the Public Record Office. The actual figure for 1986-87 and the proposed figure for 1987-88 include other staff not directly employed in the Public Record Office, and principally those people are employed in the bindery and the micrographic and photographic sections of the State Library. Their work relates to the public record program but they were not included in the original 22.4 last year. The Manager of the Public Record Office has already indicated that actual employment has gone up by about two over the past couple of years. So it

is a method of counting employees. If the honourable member cares to check some of the other programs, for example, State Library and lending, he will find quite a reduction, and that is the offsetting amount.

Mr HAMILTON: I refer to program 2 on page 531 of the yellow book and ask whether there are any plans to introduce corporate sponsorship for the State Library and, if so, on what basis?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We are very keen to pursue this in the State Library, and it is certainly a matter currently being discussed by the Libraries Board. It follows on from the considerable success of the Mortlock Library during the past year or so in attracting sponsorship from individuals and companies, enabling it to make some major purchases and assist in its establishment. There is some discussion about what form sponsorship should take and I think that there is a tendency by some people when thinking about sponsorship in relation to libraries to confuse it with the issue of whether or not library services should be free to the public.

It is certainly my view and the view of the Libraries Board that services to users of the library (that is, the general public) should remain free, and I do not think that the two issues should or need be confused. The extent to which we will be able to pursue sponsorship in the development of library services has yet to be determined but, as I indicated, building on the success of the Mortlock Library, the Librar-

ies Board is now looking at this question of sponsorship for the State Library generally. I am certainly very supportive and enthusiastic for those discussions to continue because in difficult financial times any support that we can attract outside Government funding will be beneficial to us in maintaining and indeed extending our library services, and I think that there is considerable scope for us to attract financial assistance from outside of Government.

Mr HAMILTON: I certainly agree with what the Minister has said about sponsorship, and I think it is one area that has been overlooked in the past to a large extent. Referring once again to program 2, what is the department doing to meet the library service needs of our ethnic communities? As they are many and varied, it is obvious that they would have similar needs, so I would be most appreciative of any information that the Minister can supply in this area. Has this area been prioritised or, to put it another way, what groups are being targeted at the moment?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: South Australia spends more per capita on library services catering for ethnic communities than any other State in Australia—and that is significant. We are currently preparing an ethnic management plan. That may be a peculiar name, but the plan is designed to improve our efforts in these areas even more, so that we can be clearer about which groups in the community need more attention than we have been able to give them in the past. In addition, we have taken a number of initiatives to employ bilingual and bicultural staff, especially in the State Library, to meet the needs of ethnic communities: for example, we recently initiated a training program for seven Aborigines who are now employed in the State Library. The employment of staff without Anglo-Celtic background is one of the priorities that we are pursuing under the department's equal employment opportunity action plan. A number of initiatives have been taken to target specific groups of people in the community.

One of the most successful projects undertaken during the past financial year by the Public Libraries Branch was to attract Vietnamese women to increase their use of public library services in the Thebarton and Hindmarsh areas. That program was really quite successful. The Libraries Board has an advisory committee on multicultural library services, and that has been very helpful to the Libraries Board, providing it with considerable advice on how better to promote the use of libraries by various ethnic groups in our community.

During the course of last year an extensive review was undertaken into library services in South Australia by a group of people chaired by Jim Crawford, the former Chairman of the Libraries Board of South Australia. The review produced a number of recommendations relating to the use of libraries by ethnic communities in this State, but many of those recommendations will probably not be acted on because they have received no support at all from anywhere in South Australia, including the Ethnic Affairs Commission and various ethnic groups in the community who have examined them.

The most prominent recommendation was that a special multicultural library should be located in the city, but that recommendation was specifically and strongly rejected by various community groups on the grounds that they believed that we were much more likely to attract increased use by ethnic communities if we developed collections of appropriate material in local library services. So, that is one recommendation on which I shall not be acting.

In the State Library and in public libraries throughout the State, we now carry materials in 50 languages, as well as materials for students learning English as a second lan-

guage. During the past financial year, the Youth Bureau has been involved with the Ethnic Youth Advisory Committee in considering improving the collection of materials specifically for young people in ethnic groups in our community, and the Public Libraries Branch has reorganised staffing arrangements to allow for much better contact with public libraries around the State in order to help them make appropriate decisions to cater for specific ethnic groups where they perhaps predominate in parts of the metropolitan area or the rural area of the State. So, the work done the better to cater for ethnic communities in our State has been not only extensive but something of which we can be proud.

Mr HAMILTON: Referring to page 531 of the yellow book, will the libraries participate in the social justice program recently announced by the Government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, indeed we will. In fact, the library services in South Australia have a long record of providing facilities and services for numerous community groups and especially of making efforts to target some of the groups which have been non-users in the past but which could well benefit from closer contact with libraries and with the materials contained within those libraries. Especially during the past three years or so, we have made a considerable effort in these areas. To give some idea of the things that we have been doing for specific groups, in the area of services for disabled people, for example, the Libraries Board has been helped by the efforts of an advisory committee since 1981. Over that time, that committee has made recommendations that have helped us to promote better access for disabled people and to provide a better range of materials for them.

Concerning a special library service, the \$31 000 that has been given to the disadvantaged fund has provided for new initiatives in this area since 1975. As much as 12 per cent of the board's \$5 million allocation for materials is devoted to the needs of those people. I have already given the Committee a good idea of what we are doing for ethnic communities in this State. In the area of information services in general, many libraries around the State have had close contact with some of the community information services that have been established. In addition, many public libraries in South Australia provide their own community information service.

One recommendation of the recent review into library services suggested that there be even closer contact between libraries and those people involved in the delivery of information to the community, and we are currently examining that recommendation. In future, we will probably move to forging much better links and greater involvement by libraries in the provision of information to the community. This year, the Youth Services in the State Library will celebrate their thirtieth anniversary. They have done pioneering work in tackling some of the problems faced by young people, especially adolescents. Special emphasis has recently been placed on the needs of unemployed young people in order to encourage them to improve their job skills.

Last year we succeeded in pioneering a program in the Lending Services of the State Library whereby certain local companies donated computers that have been used extensively by young people. Further, courses have been conducted to teach young people computer skills, the possession of which makes them more likely to be able to compete for a range of job opportunities.

We have also tried to improve the collection of materials to assist certain groups such as farmers by providing in rural libraries access to information that will help them to find new methods and to overcome some of the financial difficulties that many of them have experienced. Recently,

there has been an enormous growth in services to business and industry. Indeed, the State Library has concentrated vigorously on that program. We have worked closely with the literacy unit of TAFE by providing material that will help develop literacy skills in a broader range of people in the community.

Our libraries contain information that is useful for both students and tutors. We have extended our library services in cooperation with educational authorities and the joint library services with TAFE and the Education Department in some parts of the State to try to reach the more isolated members of our community.

Looking at the whole picture of the development of library services and the collection of materials within libraries, we can see that libraries now play a significant role in developing at least one aspect of the Government's social justice strategy.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: At page 530 of the yellow book, the broad objective or goal is stated as the provision of a comprehensive library service for the informational, educational and recreational reading needs of the South Australian community. In that somewhat motherhood statement, with which I do not argue, the all important words are 'comprehensive library service'. Has that service, the Minister or the department identified any area of library service currently available elsewhere in Australia or overseas on which we are missing out? What examples should we perhaps be addressing, and are there any major new directions contemplated for the next three years?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In general terms, I think that it is true to say that the development of library services in this State has been excellent. I am advised by the State Librarian, who is much better informed on these matters than I, that the services we provide in this State are as good as, and in many cases better than, services provided in other parts of Australia and internationally.

It should be acknowledged that this service has developed in relatively recent times. The program to establish a State-wide library network began 10 years ago, so our library service is relatively young. We started behind some other States of Australia in the development of this service but have been fortunate in having both a Libraries Board, which is well informed and progressive in the area of library development, and a library staff in this State who have been very progressive in the policy directions that they suggested to the Government for the development of our library services. I think that we can be very pleased that the service we provide for the public of South Australia is up with the best in the world.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Included in the targets for 1987-88 is the development of an automation proposal for the Reference Library, the Mortlock Library, the Barr Smith Library and the University of Adelaide. This development follows implementation of such schemes overseas and elsewhere in Australia. Is this scheme in question as a result of the State Government's question mark over all automation processes? Has it been costed and, if so, what sorts of costs are involved by way of capital expenditure over the next three years? More specifically, can the Minister guarantee that it will provide a better service to the public?

I ask these questions because of the experience that some people have had when they have moved into automation or computer services only to find that they have been fraught with a number of delivery problems and that the perceived benefit has turned out to be a partial benefit only. To what degree was the matter researched before implementation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The automation proposal for the Reference Library and the Mortlock Library in conjunction with the Barr Smith Library is currently under investigation. Extensive research will be undertaken before we are in a position to act on the proposals put forward. I think it appropriate for me to ask the Director or the State Librarian to say what stage has been reached in the development of these proposals.

Ms Dunn: The department is considering the automation of its services, as is everybody. The honourable member will notice in the next program related to public libraries that an automation proposal is mentioned. This particular proposal is of a lower priority and not at the stage of investigation that the PLAIN system is. The honourable member's concerns are ones that the advisory committee is looking at seriously. We certainly would not recommend to Government that we proceed unless we are sure that it would be more efficient and would provide a better service to the State. It is in the development and investigation stage. The PLAIN proposal is in a quite different league.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Is there any indication of the likely cost of implementation of the system, or is the discussion not that far advanced?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We estimate that it will cost around \$160 000 to implement a scheme of this kind that is, automation of the Reference Library and Mortlock Library in conjunction with the Barr Smith Library.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I am staggered. In relation to the service of the State Library and the cross-reference to the next program relating to public libraries, I note that there has been a considerable impact on the procurement of books caused by inflation and currency changes. There are several references in the Auditor-General's Report to the fact that an additional \$240 000 was made available to meet a cost blowout.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It was \$218 000.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Yes. This matter is also referred to in the yellow book. The statement is made that action has been taken to ascertain whether there is a better way of purchasing and whether there can be a better costing of the eventual book stock for the department. Can the Minister give details of that consideration?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. This has been a problem for the past few years. The inflation rate and the decline in value of the Australian dollar have caused real concern in the purchase of books because the bulk of the material in our libraries comes from other parts of the world. South Australian library services have been much better off than have services in some other parts of Australia because of the central book buying system that we operate, so some of the problems that have existed for others have not been as severe for South Australia. Nevertheless, our capacity to purchase has been quite considerably affected by the problems created by the declining value of the dollar. We have had discussions with Treasury about ways of overcoming this problem. I understand that agreement was reached recently with Treasury about a scheme which will assist us in overcoming our difficulty. I ask the State Librarian, who has been negotiating on our behalf, to give further information on what has been agreed.

Mr Miller: We have had negotiations with Treasury and SAFA and the agreement is that a hedging arrangement will be developed for the library in this financial year which SAFA will underwrite. At present we are setting that matter in train so that we will have guaranteed stability in book prices this year.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Page 133 of the Auditor-General's Report shows that a consultant was engaged in

June 1987 to review the methods employed by the branch to acquire, record and process books. I take it that this is all part of a total attempt to bring costs into perspective and to allow a greater purchase than might otherwise be possible if you were just dealing on the open market?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The consultants employed by the Public Libraries Branch to look at the services have been concerned not so much in book purchasing capacity but, rather, with the problems of book handling once books have arrived in the warehouse at Norwood. We now have the report of the consultants, which is currently being evaluated in terms of what cost implications might be associated with it, but the report, primarily, deals with the problems in processing the books once they have arrived here, and recommends certain methods of mechanisation which will assist in faster processing.

The consultants have predicted that, should the methods they have suggested be employed, we would be able to cut down the processing time from 12 weeks to five days—which would mean a significant improvement in the work of the Public Libraries Branch and would also mean that the circulation of materials around the State could be much more effective. It would give people much better access to the book collection, much faster, than we have been able to achieve in the past.

When I visited the Public Libraries Branch some time ago, I was quite stunned to see just how the material was being handled through the various stages of processing. There is no doubt that a significant number of changes are required to improve not only the efficiency of the processing of books but also the working conditions and job satisfaction of the people who are employed on those tasks in the Public Libraries Branch. I hope that very shortly we will be able to introduce some of the equipment that is being recommended by the consultants.

Mr De LAINE: The budget papers referred to something which was mentioned a while ago, the commencement of the Public Libraries Automated Information Network—the PLAIN project. Can the Minister elaborate on what is envisaged in this project?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The PLAIN scheme is a matter which has been under discussion for some years now, and will provide a much improved service to libraries around the State. It will provide on-line access for the public to the entire 2 000 000 volumes which currently exist in our 132 libraries around the State. It means that we will be able to encourage a much better use of the existing collections, and it will enable borrowers to have access to material faster than otherwise would have been the case.

It is a very exciting development and means that the turnaround of material around the State can be improved significantly. The project will cost something like \$3 million to implement, and we have been negotiating recently with local government about the financing of its introduction. A scheme for financing the introduction was put to a meeting of local government representatives in June, and there has been very extensive support from local government for this new scheme. We are currently working on details for the management of the PLAIN scheme and for the commencement of the system.

It is a system which will be introduced over a period of five years but, once it has been implemented around the State, we will have a very sophisticated library system which will enable people who use our libraries to have access to a much broader range of material than they have had access to in the past.

Mr De LAINE: Can the Minister advise whether or not the popular video lending services have grown?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, in fact, they have. We have introduced a pilot scheme for the lending of videos, which has been in operation for about two years. Last year there were some 26 libraries lending videos; this year another 19 libraries have indicated an interest in joining the scheme, and the final number of participants will depend on the various priorities they set themselves. So far, it has been very successful and it will now become a permanent scheme within our library services.

The videos available to people range from documentary-style videos to various forms of educational material. It includes a range of things like information on hobbies, sport, cookery, crafts and that sort of thing, as well as history, music, travel, information about children's material, and so on. The introduction of this sort of material builds on the success of the music and spoken word audio cassettes that were introduced into our library services some years ago.

There is no doubt that there is a whole range of information which can be best communicated to people by way of video rather than books or cassettes and, since the introduction of the video lending scheme, we have been able to open up a whole new market, if you like, to library services, because it has been a very popular service and I think it is one that will grow. It demonstrates that our library services in this State are really keeping up with the times.

Mr De LAINE: Will the centralised library lending service operate in an integrated manner with individual local government suburban libraries, or will users have to attend a central location to borrow material? In other words, can people go to their local regional libraries and borrow materials through that centralised library?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Is the honourable member talking about the video lending scheme?

Mr De LAINE: No, the ordinary library lending service.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: We have a combination of services in South Australia. The central library—the State Library—is a combination of reference services and a lending service, and the Mortlock Library provides another facet of service which perhaps is not available in other parts of the State. But the development of the public library system around the State has been specifically designed to provide better access for individuals to library services. In many cases people are much more likely to go to or use libraries if they are close to where they live or work. Certainly, that has been the experience since the development of public libraries around the State. But I think there is still an important role to be played by the lending services in the city.

Since the development of the libraries program around the State we have found that the services of the State Library have been used much more by commuters, so that people already working in the city are using the lending services in the city rather than using their own local libraries. Of course, the lending service in the city also services the needs of people living in the city area and in areas close to the city. Only reference materials and private records that are located in the Mortlock Library are not available to people through their own local libraries. Unless it is that sort of material that people are seeking, they actually have access to a wide range of library material by attending their own local libraries.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: As to the program explained at page 531 of the yellow book, local, public and institute libraries, I note that under the 1986-87 targets a new role was implemented on a trial basis and in 1987-88 that new role is to be confirmed. Can we have information relative to the presentation of that new lending service and what is

to be confirmed; is it the scheme as originally implemented or some variation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A new role was established for the lending service on a trial basis last year and it has been operating according to the terms of that draft agreement since that time. I believe the lending service has been functioning effectively in the intervening period and, in fact, there has been an increase in the usage of the lending services, particularly in the latter stages of this last financial year.

There probably would have been an increase in the usage of the lending services in the earlier part of the year if it had not been for the fact that there was some dislocation in service caused by the relocation of the lending services and the upgrading and reorganisation of various facilities within the lending service facility itself. It has been functioning very satisfactorily. Confirmation of the role of the lending services was something I was not keen to pursue until I had the recommendations from the review committee that examined library services, because there might have been some recommendations in the report that in some way or another impacted on the services being provided through the State Library.

Indeed, the recommendations to which I referred earlier with respect to the establishment of a multicultural library could very well have affected the role of the existing lending services. As it turns out, I will not be acting on that recommendation, because I do not believe it is appropriate and my view is certainly supported by everyone else who has looked at and commented on it. Therefore, I am currently having discussions with representatives of the library and the Libraries Board with a view to confirming the role of the lending service as it has been operating during the past few months, and I hope to reach an agreement on that fairly shortly.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: What has the scheme achieved? We have heard that it has worked well and it is now to be confirmed, but what has it achieved that the previous system did not provide?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: There has been an increase in the range of services provided through the lending service. There has been a reorganisation of the services to young people, an increase in material directed towards women users and ethnic materials, and an emphasis on providing information for various people in the business sector, particularly small business. The matter to which I referred earlier, the introduction of computers into the lending services, has brought a range of new users into the State Library. Extensive use has been made of the library services by adolescents who are using it for homework purposes and, more recently, groups of retired people have received instruction on various equipment that exists within the service. A number of unemployed people in particular have come in to take advantage of available materials, which will assist them in broadening their potential job skills and assist them in retraining for other forms of work.

The emphasis that has been pursued by people working in the lending service has encouraged a wider range of people to use the services of the library and has resulted in increased usage. Some of the work that is being done in the State Library is quite innovative and will provide something of a model for some of the other public libraries around the State. There are ideas that perhaps can be piloted in the State Library, in the lending services, and later transferred for use in public libraries in other parts of the State. It has been a very successful operation.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The subsidies for local government libraries are contained under program 3, and there

has been a reduction in real terms of funds made available, the new figure being \$7 941 000 against \$7 697 000 actually paid out in 1986-87. That does not equate to the inflation rate. I am aware of some of the changes in the application of these funds. Have those changes been well accepted by local government, or are there furry edges?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The figures as they appear confuse the issue to some extent because there has been an increase in subsidies for maintenance of \$428 000. That is also accompanied by a decrease in the subsidies under the development program of \$184 000. The figure referred to is affected by those changes.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: It is still a reduction in real terms overall, by the Premier's own statement, working on a basis of approximately 7.25 per cent increase before one breaks even with inflation.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: First, I would argue with the honourable member and the suggestion he has made about the reduction in real terms because there has been an increase in the maintenance subsidies of \$428 000. The significant factor in the payment of subsidies is that the money we will be paying this year will be paid in advance. This means that councils will be able to benefit from that by gaining interest on the money that they receive in advance for those subsidies. Therefore, the disadvantage that the honourable member talks about is offset by the fact that councils will receive the money in two payments during the year: one in October and the other in April. This will provide the opportunity for councils not only to have greater autonomy over the decisions that they take but to benefit from the interest that they can attract by investing that money.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Where is that amount of money for maintenance contained in the appropriation put before the House? It is not immediately evident. Which two libraries are to be funded in 1987-88?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The two libraries that will be funded this year will be Hawker and Port Elliot/Goolwa. As to the area where that amount of money for maintenance is recorded, it is in the line referred to, in the \$7 941 000. That is made up of a number of issues, but maintenance amounts to \$7 771 000 and the development program for those two libraries to which I have referred amounts to \$170 000.

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

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I refer to program 5 at page 165 of this year's budget papers and also to certain items of capital expenditure at page 200. The figures for this year are bloated by the Commonwealth component. Indeed, that is a common feature of many of the figures. Last year, it was anticipated that more money would be available than was eventually received. The Commonwealth figure was down by about \$150 000 on expectations and to local government that is a sizable sum. From the Commonwealth Government \$50.252 million was received whereas, according to the yellow book, about \$150 000 more was expected. An increase is expected this year but, whereas the figure in the white book is \$55.6 million, in the yellow book it is \$55.727 million, so we do not know which is the correct figure. Will the Minister say what is the true position and why there was a reduction last year? What effect did that reduction have on the money distributed to local government? Was there a recall or will there be a reduction in the sum available for 1987-88 as a result of a departmental claim on the \$150 000 not received?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: In the budget, we provided for an estimated sum that we expected to receive from the Commonwealth Government by way of local government

grants. Since then, however, a total of \$55.863 million has been confirmed by the Commonwealth Government as the total of the general purpose grants to councils. Concerning the discrepancy between the total appearing in the yellow book and that in the estimates, the difference is due to the sum of \$129 000 for debt servicing charges that are now included in the subprogram 'Other specific purpose grants' in respect of the Outback Areas Community Development Trust.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Can the Minister identify the methodology that will apply for the distribution of Commonwealth grants through the State Grants Commission? Following a Commonwealth report, there is to be a change and, although at one time it was contemplated that the South Australian methodology might be used throughout the Commonwealth, I am not certain of the actual situation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The agreement reached with individual States is fairly similar. For the distribution of grants this year in South Australia, we will use average standards as the basis of assessment of the component revenue and expenditure grants to councils, as has been required by the Commonwealth Government and we will phase in this method of assessment over a seven-year period. The Commonwealth Government, I think, would have preferred a shorter period for phasing in whereas the Local Government Association would have preferred a longer period of about 10 years. However, the Commonwealth Government has agreed to a seven-year period for phasing in, so this year's grants have been determined by taking 80 per cent of the 1986-87 grants plus 20 per cent of the grants calculated on the basis of the revised principles.

That means that in this financial year some councils will receive more and others less, but no council will receive less than 10 per cent of the sum that it received last financial year. More specifically, for those 23 councils that will receive reduced grants the largest decrease will be 8.32 per cent and for the 102 councils that will receive an increase the increase will vary from 27.72 per cent to 0.03 per cent.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: As I understand the Minister, no council will receive less than 10 per cent of what it received last year.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No council will receive less than 90 per cent of what it received last year, so no decrease in funding will be greater than 10 per cent.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The department is to move to a new Taj Mahal at North Adelaide. Can the Committee be assured that that move will be cost effective and cost efficient in regard to the delivery of services by the department and therefore beneficial to local government as a whole?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: They were the sorts of question that I, too, asked when the idea was first put to me concerning the move to Norwich House at North Adelaide. With the assessments made at the time and, taking into account the various needs of individual agencies, I was convinced that, in the long term and in the interests of the Government as a whole, the shift to Norwich House would provide significant savings to the Government. I say that for a number of reasons, not the least being the request that has been made for some time by the Libraries Board of South Australia for a new floor to be built on the Bastyan wing of the State Library to provide adequate space for the various services that it provides.

The relocation of the Department of Local Government, the Public Record Office, the Youth Bureau, and the Waste Management Commission has meant, first, that there will be no need to build an additional floor on the Bastyan wing

for at least 12 years, and that will provide an estimated saving to the Government of at least \$6 million.

It was necessary for the Youth Bureau to move from the SGIC building because space was required for the Department of Labour to expand its accommodation. There was a need for additional space in the Pirie Street building for the Department of the Arts, which has been accommodated with the Waste Management Commission. The Department of Local Government has moved out of the Pirie Street premises. This move will enable us to relinquish space leased in Gilbert Street for State library storage which would otherwise have been required. This will provide a \$28 000 saving in a full year.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Immediately?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. On balance, I think that the move will provide significant savings for the Government. The Department of Housing and Construction has negotiated a much better rental arrangement with the owners of the Norwich Union Building than we enjoyed with the Pirie Street property.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister indicate what types of activities are planned to promote participation in local government? I suppose that I should also ask whether the arguments against compulsory voting are valid: can the Minister indicate whether those arguments are acceptable to the Government?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The participation of people in local government, whether as individuals willing to stand for it or as voters, is a matter of considerable concern to the Government, as it has been for a long time. The member would be aware that when the 1984 amending Bill passed this Parliament there was considerable debate as to whether compulsory voting should be included in the provisions of the Bill amending the electoral provisions of the Local Government Act. The agreement reached at that time between the Government and the Local Government Association was that we would attempt in the first instance to increase the voter turnout under the voluntary voting method and at the 1985 and 1987 elections we mounted extensive publicity campaigns titled 'Have a say.'

In the 1987 campaign, perhaps more than the 1985 one, many councils made extensive efforts to publicise the fact that an election was happening and attempted to give people better information about the work of individual councils. A number of open days were held around the State and overall there was a much greater effort to make people aware of the need to be involved in local government. Unfortunately, the 1987 turnout was not as good as the 1985 one under the voluntary voting method—it was nearly 2 per cent less: 17.1 per cent as compared with around 19 per cent for the 1985 election. Nevertheless, that represented a significant increase on the 1983 turnout.

There have been a number of encouraging signs emerging in the past few years. For example, the number of people eligible to vote increased to a record 75 per cent around the State. The increased number of contests this year also showed a healthy improvement, and the number of woman candidates standing for election this time was up, so there are good things happening. The fact still remains that 60 per cent of vacancies are filled without contest and some vacancies are filled by as little as a 6 to 10 per cent vote.

It is important that we study the figures of the recent election fairly closely before the Government decides what to do on the question of compulsory voting. There are a number of factors that need to be taken into account when we look at the voter turnout last time. First, because this was the second time that the new electoral provisions were in use, there was not the same degree of publicity about the

methods for voting as there was prior to the 1985 election, so there was not the level of public debate about the provisions. The candidates themselves were more familiar with the provisions and so in some areas did not put as much effort into their campaigns as they had in 1985 when they were not quite sure what the outcome might be. There was a minimal formal vote in 1985, which meant that councils did not publicise the election to the same extent because they were not so concerned about what might happen. The weather on the day was pretty miserable, which I am sure affects voter turnout under a voluntary system.

Another significant factor this time around was that fact that there was no Lord Mayoral contest in the city of Adelaide. In the past, when there has been such a contest, that has provided an opportunity for a much greater focus of attention to be placed on local government elections by the media. This time around, there was no opportunity for that to occur.

There are a number of matters that need to be taken into consideration before the Government decides whether or not it is appropriate at this time to introduce compulsory voting. At a recent convention of the Australian Labor Party a resolution was carried calling for a full review of local government electoral procedures and, in particular, the question of compulsory voting, what its impact might be on local government elections and whether it should be introduced. I would be reluctant to move on that issue until we have the results of that study before us.

Mr HAMILTON: I thank the Minister for that comprehensive response because one receives many inquiries, not only at one's electorate office but around the traps, about this matter. The other matter of equal controversy is that of cats. The registration of cats has been debated for a long time. Although there have been many control programs for irresponsible dog owners it seems that cat owners have usually allowed their cats to roam free and at will.

Of course, most of us at some time or another have received representations from constituents complaining about the breeding habits of cats. On numerous occasions, constituents have complained that these cats are found in drains, and so on, and the stench from them can be unbearable. I recall raising the question in the Parliament last year about a woman who lives in Seaton who had her rubbish bin torn to pieces by cats. The cats even had the temerity to get into her kitchen and eat the meat that was being thawed out at the sink.

I know that my constituent, who lives not far from where I live, will be most interested in this response from the Minister. I noted that recently a book was put out called 'You and Your Dog': perhaps we could put out a similar book called 'You and Your Cat'.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This is actually a very serious issue and a matter which has been of concern to a lot of people for a very long time. There have been a number of proposals put forward in the past about the registration of cats and about including cats in the dog control legislation, expanding the scope of the dog legislation to include cats. For various reasons it has been rather difficult to find an appropriate solution to the problems created by cats.

The most recent consideration of this matter has taken place as part of the work being done on the revision of the Impounding Act by a working party established in 1986, largely brought about by people's concern about attacks by dogs on livestock, and so on. It was suggested at that time that cats should be included in that legislation. The working party has recommended that that not occur because it would be much too difficult to do, but it has recommended that councils should perhaps be given the power to make by-

laws to regulate the keeping of cats, and it has also recommended that there should be an educational campaign.

I would imagine that the sort of publication to which the honourable member has referred concerning dogs would be the sort of thing the working party had in mind. Of course, the issues to be addressed are really quite different. Cats normally do not attack people or livestock unless they are feral cats which, in some rural areas, have certainly become a problem. Cats are much more difficult to control than dogs, because one cannot keep cats behind fences or gates. They are much more mobile than dogs. The problems of controlling cats are, therefore, quite complex. The efforts suggested by way of education campaigns for owners of cats and by-laws which might regulate the keeping of cats are matters that could very well be pursued by individual councils.

Mr HAMILTON: My next question relates to page 533 of the yellow book. Are standards being developed for relocatable homes in caravan parks?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. There is some work being done on this whole question because, in recent times, there is a much greater use of caravan parks by people looking for long-term accommodation, and it is becoming more and more evident that many of the long-term residents of those caravan parks are living in what could be more properly termed relocatable homes rather than caravans. The use of those relocatable homes for that purpose, therefore, is causing considerable problems with planning and building approvals for many councils. Consequently, we decided that a committee should be established to address those questions. It is a committee which has representation from various interested parties. It was established in September 1985 and is currently in the process of finalising its recommendations on that issue. We should be able to take action before much longer.

The fact that some caravan parks are becoming relocatable home parks almost exclusively has been recognised by that committee, and the appropriate standards will be developed to cater for that among the recommendations the committee will make. Those standards will relate not only to the construction of the relocatable homes but also to the amenities and services provided in caravan parks for the people living in those relocatable homes. As I have indicated, those recommendations are currently being finalised, and I hope that we will be able to take some action fairly soon.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister indicate when that report will be ready?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: No, not specifically.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The Minister may care to have some consultation with her colleague in New South Wales, because they have addressed this matter and have a very useful brochure in relation to the control of cats which I will provide to the Minister. In relation to the move to Norwich House, the Minister indicated that she had looked into the cost-effectiveness of that move and I interrupted and asked whether there was an immediate cutback on the cost of rental.

I say that against this recent experience in relation to the Motor Registration Division at Nuriootpa, which was closed down by ministerial or Cabinet directive, but it was found that rental on premises had to be paid until December 1989. A move to a better position is good as long as there is not a residual debt. Can the Minister indicate whether there is clearly no residual debt for rental of any of the properties that the Department of Local Government has been occupying? At the same time, will the Minister comment on the effect of the relative isolation of Norwich House compared

with being close to the hub of things in respect of other Government departments, recognising that so much of the time of top officers is spent in inter-departmental committees and discussions?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The lease rental arrangement for the Pirie Street premises of the Department of Local Government was terminated last Friday, so there is no overlap there. The staff of the department moved into Norwich Union Building over the weekend, so there was an immediate transfer. We will be leasing the Gilbert Street property until November this year because, I understand, there are still some records located there that will take time to move. The lease on another property at Somerton Park where other records are stored expired in August. In almost all cases, there has been an immediate transfer.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I take up the question asked by the member for Albert Park about voting and voting practices and so forth. I am pleased to know that the Minister will not move quickly into compulsory voting, because that would be a defeat situation for her. I am aware that the Minister and certainly the Premier have been prevailed upon by a number of councils or persons in local government to re-assess the effect of the voting process in multi-member electorates. The yellow book clearly indicates that there will be a review of the 1987 local government elections. I understand that that will be similar to the exercise undertaken following the 1985 elections, which produced a very worthwhile report: many of those suggestions have been incorporated into the Act. Is the Minister aware of the genuine concern that exists in local government circles about multi-member elections?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, I have received a number of letters from people primarily in the South-East who have expressed concern about that method of voting. This is an issue that those councils will have an opportunity to put before the new local government election working party which I will shortly establish to review this latest round of council elections in accordance with the practice established after the 1985 council elections.

I hope that that committee can be formed within the next few weeks so that some recommendations can be made either late this year or early in the new year and that any legislative changes required can be enacted shortly thereafter. It is significant that the inquiries and complaints forthcoming after this round of elections have almost exclusively come from the South-East. That is significant, because that was the first time many of those councils have had the opportunity to test the electoral procedures established under the 1984 amending Bill. There were very few contests in council areas in the South-East in 1985, so the issues that concerned people in other parts of the State after the 1985 elections and the debate that took place then about the new provisions are now emerging in the South-East.

The criticism expressed and issues raised by those councils—and I spoke to a number of them shortly after the May election when I visited the South-East and met with a number of councils—related to the concerns raised by various councils after the 1985 elections. They had not struck those problems or issues previously, because there had been no contests.

The methods of voting were examined extensively by the election review working party after the 1985 elections and it made certain recommendations about those issues. I would have to have very substantial and new evidence placed before me to convince me that the provisions should be altered. Certainly, if the election review working party was to look at that issue again and make new recommendations, I would be prepared to consider them. It may be that some

of those councils that have voiced criticism this time around have not yet fully realised the opportunity that they have to choose between two methods of voting. Once they are made aware of their options, perhaps the criticisms that they are expressing might be resolved, as they were for a number of councils in other areas that were concerned about the voting procedures after the 1985 elections.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: There has been a considerable move towards councils taking up entrepreneurial roles. Most of this seems to stem from a series of interstate seminars or courses that have been undertaken by members of local government; information has been made available to them by New South Wales and Victorian colleagues. We saw a fairly major debacle at Thebarton on that issue. What action has been taken to more positively bring into proper perspective the Thebarton option and extend it slightly?

Will the Minister comment on the fact that there have been a number of representations to her by various business associations and, indeed, some individual business organisations that the activities of councils in undertaking private works in direct competition to established businesses within an area are not necessarily in the best interests of local government or the relationship between local government and its electorate. One of the specific areas to which I draw attention is Mallala, where certain road works and machinery works have been undertaken. Going back further before the Minister's time there was the rather unfortunate experience of local government at Kadina undertaking a Highways Department contract at a considerable cost to the council.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I recognise that those issues have been very sensitive, affecting the relationship between individual councils and various private contractors in rural areas, particularly in respect of road works. The new thrust which is desired by local government—and which is largely supported by me as Minister of Local Government—to allow councils to be more entrepreneurial in the activities in which they engage is, nevertheless, a very difficult area. In the drafting of the new Bill, which will deal with the rating and finance provisions of the Local Government Act and expand the capability of councils to engage in activities in which they have not previously been involved, we will be seeking to provide checks and balances on the activity that can be pursued by councils.

The idea would be (and I stress that we are still in the development stages and we need to consult further with people who obviously have a direct interest in this question) that some activities would be prescribed, so that there would have to be an assessment of the project and ministerial approval would be required before certain activities could be pursued. The things that I would envisage we should prescribe in this way would be activities of a certain nature. For example, I refer to projects that would involve the setting up of new structures that might limit the accountability of the council; projects that have impacts relating to the coordination of public facilities or services; and projects that involve expenditure in excess of certain limits (so that the question of risk would have to be one of the issues of concern, particularly in some forms of commercial venture). There might have to be rules or guidelines about the proportion of expenditure that could be devoted to such activity or the way expenditure on such a project would alter the aggregate outlays of a council.

Obviously, issues relating to compulsory acquisition of land would also require fairly close scrutiny. A range of issues will need to be discussed and examined so that we can determine to what extent there needs to be scrutiny by the Minister of Local Government prior to a council taking

on certain forms of activity that has not been available to it in the past.

Mr TYLER: The member for Light briefly touched on the problems associated with dogs. This is a severe problem in electorates like mine where the urban area is encroaching on rural areas. We have seen ghastly examples of dogs attacking livestock, not only sheep and cattle but also domestic pets. The submissions of one constituent who has been active in this area (Mr Dud Nicolle) trying to promote the tattooing of dogs date back to when the Hon. Murray Hill was Minister of Local Government. He argues that tattooing would be in the best interests of all parties, whether the dog owner or the person who owns the animals that have been attacked. I know that the RSPCA is concerned about this issue, as are people whose livestock has been savaged by itinerant dogs. I know that the Minister will tell me that local governments now have power to instruct that dogs in their areas be tattooed. Has the department considered this question on a State-wide basis? If so, what conclusions did it draw? Are there complications in a scheme that encourages this?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The department has considered it. The Dog Advisory Committee has given consideration to this issue and recommended against compulsory tattooing of dogs. This issue is very controversial. A large number of councils and dog owners would be violently opposed to the compulsory tattooing of dogs. This matter is a very vexed question for the Government. As far as I am aware so far only one council in South Australia has indicated any desire to become involved in a tattooing program for dogs in its area, but it has not yet taken any steps to do anything about it.

The issue of attacks on livestock and people was of enormous concern some time ago and led to the formation of a committee to try to find some solutions to that question. That committee made recommendations to the Government about how we might be able to provide greater protection for both livestock and people. Some of those recommendations are now being included in the new amendments for the Dog Control Act along with various other amendments that will assist in streamlining the administration of that Act.

That procedure, working with Parliamentary Counsel, is pretty close to conclusion, and I hope that fairly soon I will be able to take to Cabinet a draft Bill for approval and introduction into Parliament. However, before I proceed to that point I want to consult further with the Local Government Association, the RSPCA, the Animal Welfare League and various other interested parties.

Mr TYLER: I acknowledge that any scheme would have to have the full support of local government, and I am aware that councils in my electorate have varied views on the subject. They all acknowledge that something needs to be done, but how to go about doing it is the problem. I certainly hope that the committee and the Minister's consultations with authorities such as the RSPCA and the Local Government Association will result in a solution. I acknowledge that it is a very vexed problem. I refer to 'Development and support of the local government system' on page 533 of the yellow book. Is the department actively encouraging equal opportunity policies within the local government sector?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, we certainly are. The Department of Local Government is one of the departments in the State Public Service which is participating in a pilot program to develop management plans and practices for equal employment opportunities, and we have proceeded quite some way down that track. We now have an equal

opportunities management plan for the Department of Local Government and equal employment opportunities committees have been established throughout the department. We have adopted a freedom from sexual harassment policy and considerable emphasis is placed on awareness training, senior management training, and so on, in relation to equal employment opportunities issues.

In addition, we will extend our interest in this field to people working more broadly within local government. This results from discussion on this question at the most recent local government Ministers conference when a number of principles were confirmed as to the need for equal employment opportunities in local government. Each State Minister was asked to take those ideas back to their own States and pursue the issue at State level. As to our efforts in this State. I recently wrote to the two trade unions involved in local government—the Municipal Officers Association and the Australian Workers Union—and to the Local Government Association, asking them to nominate representatives to sit on a committee to establish ways and means by which we might pursue the question of equal employment opportunities within local government, because there is no doubt at all that some effort needs to be made in this area.

If you look at the position of women just as one group that is disadvantaged in local government, you will find that at the most senior level there are only four female chief executive officers, and one of them is currently only acting in that position. I think only about 26 per cent or 28 per cent of people employed in local government are women, which is a very low proportion compared with, say, the State Government Service where just over 48 per cent of staff employed are female. So quite some work needs to be done both within the Government service and within local government but, with the awareness and cooperation of the people engaged in the industry, some changes can be brought about in this area.

Mr TYLER: I refer to 'Development and support of the local government system' on page 534 of the yellow book and the Aboriginal Employment Training Program. Can the Minister elaborate on what action has been taken or what is proposed to develop a strategy for an Aboriginal employment training program?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Through the Department of Local Government we recently established a training program for Aborigines who are now employed in the State Library under the National Employment Strategy for Aborigines (NESA), which is funded by the Federal Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Under the scheme six Aborigines are employed for 12 months as clerical officers at the CO1 level within the State Library. One other person employed at the CO3 level supervises the work of the six trainees and provides them with advice and assistance during the course of the training program. In return for the funding that we receive from the Federal Government for the employment of those six trainees the department has guaranteed permanent employment for them at the end of the 12-month training period, and we will be able to achieve that by holding open permanent positions which are currently vacant until we can place them. Some of them can be placed before the training program is completed if they are performing competently.

So far the scheme is working very effectively indeed. Enormous support has been provided by the supervisor of the six trainees, and that has been an important component of the training scheme. In some cases in the past such training programs have not been successful because the people involved have usually worked alone without the sort of support and advice that they need from people who

understand the circumstances in which they are operating. So in this scheme we have, first, a supervisor who can provide that support to the trainees and, secondly, the trainees themselves are working in pairs so that they can share the tasks and provide each other with support. During the course of the training program they will be exposed to all forms of clerical work in the State Library, including public contact work, and they will also learn how to use some of the automated office systems.

As I indicated earlier, the scheme is working well so far and the feedback and reaction from the people involved have been excellent. The program should lead to permanent employment for all those people. The officers of the State Library who are working closely with the trainees are doing a great job in providing those opportunities.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Under the heading 'Issues/Trends' at page 533 of the yellow book, the following appears:

There is general concern in local government that, because of the present economic environment, the ability of many councils to deliver an acceptable range and standard of services is in question.

When the Planning Bill was introduced in 1982 so as to give local government more responsibility in planning matters, concern was expressed at the time by the department concerning the added responsibilities being given councils, the cost, and whether in fact councils could equip themselves to discharge those responsibilities. Is the Minister satisfied that local government is now generally well equipped to discharge the added planning responsibilities that it now has?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Most councils are reasonably well equipped to handle many of the planning issues that are brought before them but, at the same time, many procedures that are involved in the assessment and processing of planning matters are complex and cumbersome and indeed have caused enormous difficulties for many councils in this State. The interaction between the State Government planning authorities and individual councils has also been a source of frustration to many councils and also to the people involved at State Government level in their negotiations with councils.

However, a request for a proper assessment of the relationship between the councils and the other planning authorities and the question of how those procedures are being dealt with would be better referred to my colleague the Minister for Environment and Planning, who is much closer than I to those issues.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I asked the Minister's colleague yesterday and I was interested in the Minister's reaction as Minister of Local Government. At page 533 of the yellow book, under the heading '1986-87 Specific Targets/Objectives', appears the following:

Introduction of standards for buildings in bushfire prone areas completed.

I referred this matter to the Minister's colleague yesterday in regard to the supplementary development plan that is currently before local government in finalising the Adelaide Hills bushfire prone areas SDP. Although I have had little chance to look at that document, because it is only before councils and has not been made public, it has been brought to my notice that councils are concerned about the liability issue. For example, it will now be necessary under the SDP, regarding property in the bushfire prone areas, for councils to communicate with the Country Fire Services. If the CFS says, 'No, the building should not be approved' but the council says, 'Yes, we believe that it should be approved with conditions' and there is a fire that destroys the house and results in loss of life, tremendous questions will arise

concerning the position of the council and its liability in that regard.

That is but one example and there are many other examples of where councils see the matter of liability as an increasing problem and are therefore looking for a way of reducing or limiting the council's liability. Have representations on this matter been made to the Minister?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I have received some representations on the issue and I suppose that the most obvious case has been that of the Stirling council with respect to its potential liability in the claims that have been made following the 1980 bushfires. This issue, which has also been raised with me by the Local Government Association, is broader than just one of concern to local councils. The issue of public liability and the extent to which public authorities should be liable for certain things should be of concern not only to local government but to other levels of government.

It was because of my concern about those issues that this matter was raised at the most recent conference of Ministers of Local Government, because I knew that there was also concern in other parts of the country about public liability insurance cover. As a result of the discussion at that conference, we have resolved, collectively, to initiate an inquiry into the question of the liability and local government and a study will be conducted during the next 12 months and a report submitted to the next Ministers conference on the whole question, including whether there are available options that might be pursued to deal with the question.

It seems to me that this issue concerns not only councils but also the community as to the extent to which the community expects its public authorities to go in covering themselves as public authorities against the various matters for which it may be held liable in future. This is a complex area and I hope that the study that we have commissioned will throw light on the situation as regards local government liability and lead to action being taken that will alleviate the situation for local government at least.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: By way of a supplementary question, is the Minister aware that already some councils are enforcing additional costs on persons who wish to build homes, on the basis of what the regulations pertaining to bushfire prone areas may contain, even though some of those buildings are being erected in vineyards that are part of an urban extension of an existing town? Tanunda is a case in point. It is not in a bushfire zone in the sense that it is on the hills face, it is not in open country but happens to be an urban development, a natural extension of a town. I heard recently of a quote for \$2 300 extra on a \$45 000 home, and for a young couple that creates a fairly disastrous problem.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not aware of extra charges being made by councils for structures erected in bushfire prone areas. If that is occurring, it is a matter of concern to me, because provisions for bushfire prone areas have not yet come into place. The Department of Environment and Planning has determined which areas of the State shall be categorised in this way, based on the information it has about bushfires, and certain standards are being developed. However, they are not yet in place and it would be inappropriate if there are councils making additional charges at this time prior to the adoption of the new standards. If the member has information about this matter that he is prepared to pass to me, I will ask officers of my department to investigate.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: The Minister would be aware that I recently brought a deputation to her and to the Minister for Environment and Planning regarding necessary amendments to the Building Act and changes to its regu-

lations to cater for people wishing to take in boarders on a bed and breakfast basis. The situation is becoming extremely critical with the Grand Prix imminent. I know of one council that is being persistent in suggesting that it will not bend the rules, but they are having to bend those rules at this stage to allow bed and breakfast facilities to exist without specific fire protection matters having been dealt with. Can the Minister give the Committee an update on what is happening with these amendments, recognising the urgency of the situation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, I can. The committee that I established some months ago, and prior to the honourable member's deputation coming to see me about this matter, has been working on a study of building regulations and planning provisions which might impact on the use of private homes as bed and breakfast establishments. It has now made recommendations to me about proposed amendments to the building regulations which are very much along the lines of the kinds of changes discussed with representatives of the delegation that I saw recently. Those regulations are being drafted and I hope to be able to present a submission to Cabinet soon in order to have them put in place.

There may be a need to change some planning regulations, as well, but the essential problems identified with respect to bed and breakfast establishments can be overcome by the proposed amendments to the building regulations. Any changes that might need to be made can be done under the building regulations, so I will be proceeding with them as a matter of urgency. I have asked my colleague the Minister for Environment and Planning to examine the areas for which he has responsibility to determine whether or not there need be changes there, as well.

Mr HAMILTON: The Minister would be aware that most members in this place are very much concerned about the Private Parking Areas Act. Can the Minister advise how effective the Private Parking Areas Act will be, when the regulations will be completed, and approximately how long after proclamation of the Act negotiations between shopping centre proprietors and councils will take before the regulations become operative?

The Minister would be aware that the member for Hayward and others have shown a strong interest in helping the disabled with parking at shopping centres, and so on. I find it galling to see an able person pull up and park a car in a designated area thereby disadvantaging a disabled person who is forced to travel a long distance to a shopping centre. As the member for Fisher has said, that is a disgusting act and I would have great delight in seeing someone pinged for doing that. That is why I would like to see this Act come into effect, as people who commit such acts should be fined heavily.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I agree entirely with the honourable member's sentiments. There is no doubt that there is a real need for this Act to come into effect as soon as possible. I preface my remarks by acknowledging the work done in relation to this issue by the member for Hayward, in particular. She was among the first people in our community to identify this problem and to recommend solutions to overcome some of the problems which emerged in relation to this matter. The first Private Parking Areas Act, whilst containing admirable objectives, was to some extent a toothless tiger because it was very difficult for the owners of private parking areas to enforce its provisions as they needed to do that themselves. The rewritten provisions of the Act will allow the owners of private parking areas to enter into an agreement with local councils in relation to parking provisions designated to be policed.

I believe that that is something that will be workable, enforceable and very effective in assisting disabled people and others who have been disadvantaged by careless and inconsiderate individuals who have used parking spaces inappropriately. Proclamation of the legislation is being delayed by the drafting of appropriate regulations. We are waiting for advice from the Crown Solicitor on some aspects of the drafting of those regulations.

We are hoping to have the regulations ready to be put in place by about November this year. One of the things the Parliamentary Counsel is working on which will be of enormous assistance to the owners of private parking areas is agreements with councils, using a standardised agreement form which will make it much easier for negotiations to take place and for agreements to be put in place quite quickly once the regulations come into effect and the legislation is proclaimed. We hope to have these prepared by November in order to allow the owners of private parking areas to reach agreements with councils before the very busy Christmas period, and we will be working diligently to meet that deadline.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister indicate what steps have been taken to implement the Local Government and Human Services Task Force Report?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes, I can. The task force report which was released by the Government in 1986 and which established some guidelines and a framework for the State Government to pursue negotiations with local government has now been widely circulated, and we have had quite a lot of feedback from councils as to their views on this issue. The views vary considerably around the State, depending on the attitude of individual councils to the idea of involvement in human services, and whether or not it is their province at all. Some councils in this State at this time believe that it is not their business to be involved in the delivery of human services.

To some extent, some of those councils are confusing the terminology, because many of those which do not think they should be involved in human services already are. They are providing aged care accommodation or facilities of that kind, and they are providing library facilities, but they do not view those as human services—although they very definitely are. Other councils in the State have responded positively to the ideas put forward in the report, and they are councils which already have very extensive involvement in the human services field. Since the release of that document, we have worked—through the Department of Local Government—with the various Government agencies which have responsibility for human services, to create the circumstances under which councils can assume a higher profile for human services within their own areas, and to encourage them to think about working in partnership in this field with the State Government.

We have been working with the State Government agencies to develop individual policy statements and action plans on the programs they operate, and to establish where they see a role for local government, whether it be by way of partnership in the delivery of service or simply as a community facilitation role for the delivery of human services. We have also been encouraging those agencies to develop negotiated financial agreements with councils for the delivery of some programs. There is no doubt at all that one of the reasons why many councils have held back in the human services area is their concern and uncertainty about the funding issue.

If we were able to offer to individual councils an agreement for a contract period of three or five years so that the funding arrangements have some certainty, there would be

a much greater willingness on the part of individual councils to become involved in these programs. With respect to our own activity in the human services field, we are reviewing our own programs and in one area have implemented a block funding arrangement. I am referring now to the subsidies paid to local councils for library services. For the first time this year there will be a block funding arrangement, which I know is very much welcomed by councils.

We are also coordinating two pilot programs, one in the metropolitan area and one in a rural area, to test approaches to more cooperative human services planning centred on local government. Much of our work in this area and the initiatives we can pursue are being affected by our need to constrain Government expenditure. The flexibility that we have in our funding to be able to pursue these issues with vigour is very much restricted by our financial capacity.

I imagine that the same applies to councils which, although they have received quite a favourable deal from the Commonwealth in terms of funding this year and have not been affected significantly by the downturn in State Government funding for various programs relating to local government activity, nevertheless, like all other levels of Government, have severe financial constraints and I think that, to some extent, this will hold back progress in this area of implementation of human services policy and local government involvement. There is still much that can be done, and we will be pursuing those ideas with councils, but I view this area as a long-term objective. It will take some time to significantly increase the involvement of local government in this human services field.

Mr HAMILTON: I refer to the pamphlet 'The Law and Your Dog' put out by the Dog Advisory Committee in association with the Local Government Dog Control Officers Association. In skipping through the pamphlet I did not see any mention about the responsibility of owners if a dog savages a child or an adult. Will the Minister take up the matter with the Local Government Association to see whether dog registration renewal notices can advise that, if a dog bites or savages a human, the owner can be up for a considerable sum if they are sued and should therefore consider taking out an insurance policy. I have taken out a large insurance policy to cover such an eventuality, because I have a rather alert blue heeler dog. I would hate the dog to bite anyone, but one could still end up in court.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I shall be happy to refer the suggestion to the Dog Advisory Committee, which, I am sure, in assessing such a proposal, would consult with local government. There is representation on the committee from local government. Also, the working party which reviewed the provisions of the Dog Control Act and made numerous recommendations about amending that legislation has recommended a fairly extensive publicity and awareness campaign to educate members of the public about their responsibility as dog owners. We have already embarked on such a program through the production of literature, and for the past couple of years there has been a stand at the Royal Show to inform people about their rights and responsibilities as dog owners. That has been very successful. The stand has been inundated with inquiries.

In addition, a number of seminars have been conducted for dog control officers employed by councils to better inform them about the responsibility that councils have for dog control in their area. That is leading to much better practices being pursued by officers employed by councils that have some responsibility for dog control. We will pursue these matters further in the future. I agree that we need to do as much as we can to make owners aware of their responsibilities in controlling their animals and of the poten-

tial liability that might accrue to them should their animals attack either livestock or people.

Mr BECKER: What difficulties have occurred in preparing the regulations for the Private Parking Areas Act? Can the writing of the regulations be attended to as a matter of urgency and, if necessary, any amending legislation be brought into Parliament as soon as possible? The reason I ask these questions is that property owners, retail and commercial property owners in particular, have been concerned for many years about the difficulties with the old Act and welcome the new Act, which was assented to on 18 December 1986. They had hoped that it would be in operation by now. I understand that there is some difficulty in writing the regulations and that relates to the clear definition of the owner of the motor vehicle or the person who drove it at the time. One of the other problems experienced in the past is that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles does not give to the public the name and address of the owner of the motor vehicle. I wonder whether that is part of the problem as well.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am not sure whether the honourable member was in the Chamber a little time ago when I addressed the question of the private parking areas legislation and the drafting of the regulations. Rather than cover the same ground, I suggest that he look at *Hansard*. The drafting of the regulations is proceeding. We have had to seek Crown Law opinion on some issues. However, the question of the identity of the owner and driver of a motor vehicle is not one of the problems that has emerged in the drafting of those regulations. What we are attempting to provide for in this respect, and also in the regulations that have been drafted to accompany the parking provisions in the Local Government Act for public parking areas, is the opportunity for the owner of a vehicle to identify the driver of a vehicle at the time of the alleged offence should the driver and the owner not be the same person. That is not to say that at law the owner will not ultimately be liable for the payment of any fine that is incurred by the offence, but it will allow for the owner of a vehicle to identify another person should they not have been driving at the time the offence was committed, so that that person can be pursued in respect of the fine.

We have introduced this provision because there has been considerable complaint in the past from owners of vehicles who in their view have wrongly been made liable for a fine perhaps after a vehicle has changed hands but before the registration of the new owner has occurred or where a parent has lent a vehicle to one of the children or a relative. In some cases there are problems concerning estranged married couples. These people feel that it is unreasonable that they should be held liable for an offence that they have not committed.

So there will be that provision in both the private parking areas regulations and in the public parking areas regulations. I do not anticipate that there will be any problem in drafting those regulations and we hope to meet the deadline of November for their completion and proclamation of the legislation.

Mr BECKER: Have you found any deficiencies in the legislation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: The legislation has been completely rewritten.

Mr BECKER: I realise that, but I refer to the new legislation that you are working on now. I understand that it still contains deficiencies.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Not that I am aware of. The new legislation has not yet come into force, so it has yet to be tested. As far as I am aware no problems have been

identified from any quarter but once it comes into force, if new problems emerge, I will be quite prepared to consider amendments at the appropriate time.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: I refer now to the Waste Management Commission which has seen a number of actions and reactions over the past three years. There have been amendments to the Act to increase the number of members on the commission, but subsequent comment suggests that perhaps it now has too many members. There has been extremely poor public relations relative to the Waste Management Commission to many of its users, particularly in the local government area; and there was a complete lack of communication by the former Director (not the ultimate Director). Have we learnt from the problems that existed for three years and are we in the process of reassessing and approaching anew the activities of the Waste Management Commission, acknowledging that it is an important part of the total protection of a community?

Additional Departmental Adviser:

Mr M.D. Madigan, Director, Waste Management Commission.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I agree with the sentiments expressed about the importance of the work of the Waste Management Commission: it plays an important role in our community in the protection of our environment, people and property. In the past I think that there was considerable misunderstanding about the work of the commission in the community at large and certainly among individual councils around the State. I also acknowledge that there has been something of a public relations problem at various times in the past with respect to communications between various commission representatives and councils in particular. However, I think it is important to say that from the beginning there was considerable hostility on the part of some councils about the establishment of the Waste Management Commission in any shape or form, so it was difficult for personnel within the commission to establish good relations with some council representatives.

When the new fee structure for the Waste Management Commission was being introduced during 1986 it became very apparent to me, as I travelled around the State and attended Local Government Association meetings, that the relationship between the commission and various councils was less than satisfactory. Apparently, there was also considerable ignorance of the role of the commission and the function that it was designed to fulfil.

I welcome very much the new Director of the Waste Management Commission (Mr Mike Madigan), who is with us this evening. He shares my concern that it is important for the future that the commission should communicate more regularly with local councils and do a better job than has been done in the past in publicising the work and achievements of the commission, not only to councils but to the community at large. So, I expect that the relationship between local government and the commission will be much more satisfactory in future than it has been in recent years.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Can the Minister say how close is a decision on the fee structure in respect of the activities of the Waste Management Commission and the interface with local government? The Minister said that there was a misunderstanding and considerable concern on the part of local government and subsequently she said that the fee structure would stand but that a working party comprising representatives of local government and her department would consider where any future thrust might be. Has that come to pass and are those the only discussions that have taken place or has a restructuring of the commis-

sion been discussed by representatives of the Local Government Association and of the Minister's department?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I did not ever agree to establish a working party to reconsider the restructuring of the fees charged by the commission, although I had considerable communication from councils when the new fee structure was put into place. As I indicated then, however, that was not a decision that I was prepared to review or alter. So, that fee structure stands. However, we have had considerable discussion with the Local Government Association and individual councils about the drafting of amendments for the Waste Management Commission Bill, which I hope to introduce this session.

The Local Government Association itself established a working party to determine its own position on some of the issues raised, because we circulated the drafting instructions for the Bill not only to the Local Government Association, but also to the Waste Disposal Association and to other individuals and groups, such as the conservation organisations, that had an interest in the matter. We have had extensive feedback from those organisations on some aspects of the legislation. Those discussions have continued over the past few months.

I hope that we can resolve any outstanding issues. If a misunderstanding still exists about this matter in any part of the State, or about the Government's intention in amending the Waste Management Commission Act, I am certain that the Director of the Waste Management Commission will be happy to talk with anyone who wants these matters clarified.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Obviously there is some misunderstanding on my part about the degree to which the working party was to proceed. I was certain that a statement was made at the time of the fee debacle that local government had been promised that there would be no negotiation on the fee but on the future of the Waste Management Commission and that moving on from there there may be a possibility of influencing a reassessment of the fee structure. That may not have come about; I do not know.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Following the introduction of the new fee structure, the Local Government Association sought a meeting with me to discuss concerns raised with it by councils. I had a meeting with the then President and the Secretary-General of the organisation to discuss those concerns and some options, but nothing resulted from those discussions. I think that the matter has now been resolved. I know that there are still a number of rural councils that are not particularly happy about the arrangement, but they have accepted that this is a new structure and all councils in the State have paid the contribution for which they are responsible.

Mr De LAINE: Has the department reviewed the effectiveness of the Swimming Pools (Safety) Act?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Yes. A working party was established some time ago to consider the legislation. A report on the recommendations made by that committee and a subsequent review in relation to various other aspects have been prepared and a number of changes have been suggested. One of the things suggested is the inclusion of a specification of what is a 'safe fence' for swimming pools. We would make reference to Australian standards in developing such a specification. There has also been a suggestion that local government should accept responsibility for administration of the Swimming Pools (Safety) Act. Recommendations have been made about increasing the fine and penalty structure of the Act. Recommendations were also made that there should be extensive education of swimming pool owners about their responsibility to protect the

lives of people, particularly small children, who might be in and around their pool.

They are among the recommendations which have been made, and we will shortly be asking Parliamentary Counsel to draft appropriate amendments to give effect to all or some of those recommendations. We will then be consulting with various interested parties including, of course, the Local Government Association and various other groups in the community which have expressed some interest in this matter.

Mr De LAINE: What action is proposed to determine to what extent the earthquake code should be applied to existing buildings undergoing renovation?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: This is a matter which the Building Advisory Committee has been examining. It established a working party to look at the issue. A project brief was prepared calling for expressions of interest from consultants specialising in this area to do investigative work as to whether or not there needs to be some change in this area. Concurrently with that, the Australian Uniform Building Regulations Coordinating Council has taken an interest in the whole question and, as a result of representations that were made by officers of the Department of Local Government, that council has agreed to fund the research project which has been initiated by the Building Advisory Committee. They have been able to attract \$13 500 for the purpose. The consultants will commence work in approximately one month's time, and I hope to see the results of that and to hear whether or not it is necessary for us to take some action in this area following the receipt of that report.

Mr De LAINE: In the capital works program an estimated amount of \$481 000 was allocated for the upgrading of air-conditioning equipment in the Parks Community Centre. Completion was due in August 1987, but I believe that some problems were encountered with this work. Is the work now complete?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: Malcolm Herrmann is the department's representative on the Parks Community Centre Board, and I will ask him to deal with that question.

Mr Herrmann: As the honourable member mentioned, funds were allocated for the installation and upgrading of the air-conditioning system at the Parks Community Centre. The project was tendered through the Department of Housing and Construction and, due to reasons beyond their control, it had been delayed. I was advised on Wednesday that the final work should be completed within a month.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: In relation to waste management, it is obvious that when a new authority is under way it has to set its priorities. In the early stages I understand that the control of toxic waste was of lower priority than getting the system established. Overseas one is constantly aware of a great deal of money and attention being directed to toxic waste products. How high on the list of priorities is that in respect of the South Australian Waste Commission?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It is a matter of considerable concern to the Waste Management Commission, but I cannot think of a better person to answer the question of priorities in more detail than the commission's Director.

Mr Madigan: I presume that by toxic waste the honourable member means intractables rather than infectious waste. You would be aware that that is a national problem and there have been attempts by a number of States to set up a high temperature incinerator to deal with that problem. In just about every case they have met with quite vociferous opposition from residents who find themselves within cooe of such an installation.

A number of States, particularly Western Australia and the Northern Territory, developed proposals to the late stages and then discovered that opposition was so strong that they were loathe to continue with their plans. The Federal Government has now set up a task force with representatives from Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, I think, to investigate that whole question once again—to look at the economic feasibility of establishing such an incinerator and to try to find a suitable location. At present all the wastes of that nature are stored and subsequently shipped to the United Kingdom where there are presently two high temperature incineration facilities for that purpose.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: Local government amalgamations remain a question in the minds of some communities who find themselves disadvantaged. I am presently aware that there has been much concern expressed by the Georgetown and Laura communities, even with statements by the Chairman of at least one of those councils that he is unable to gain access to the Minister for discussion about the decision that has been reached. I am also aware that in recent times there has been the culmination of a number of amalgamation discussions involving Snowtown/Blyth, Clinton/Central Yorke Peninsula, the two councils in the Mount Gambier area and the combination of Laura/Georgetown and Gladstone.

Waiting in the wings are the issues of Clare, action involving Hallett and Burra—and I do not know whether that has been resolved—and the Crystal Brook/Redhill proposition. The two councils in the Naracoorte area are at arm's length and getting further apart, according to newspaper comments. Has the Minister any second thoughts on the practicality of some form of consultation with the parties concerned before public announcement of the result, as opposed to a public announcement and then standing back and watching the wrath of some of those communities that are not able to make a final expression of opinion?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I would like to separate the two issues regarding the points that I think the member was alluding to with respect to this latest amalgamation concerning Gladstone, Laura and Georgetown. I know that considerable dissatisfaction was expressed by two of the councils involved in that amalgamation. They learnt of the amalgamation because of a telephone call from the press, as I understand it, rather than receiving information from officers of my department. I must say that that distressed me enormously when I heard of it, because it is quite inappropriate that public announcements should be made about issues as important and as sensitive as that without at least the office holders in the councils concerned having received notification first.

In this instance it was really an accident that it occurred as it did. Contact had been made with a number of other council officials who were involved in the amalgamation but, unfortunately, there were two mayors with whom contact had not been made prior to the matter becoming public. That is of some regret to me and I certainly hope that it will not happen again.

With respect to the general question of further consultation with individual councils prior to my decision on recommendations put to me by the Local Government Advisory Commission, at this stage I am certainly not of a mind to change the practice that I have adopted in this respect. I say that, because I think that the procedure that is adopted by the commission which allows for very extensive investigation of the proposals before it and the views of the numerous interested parties in an amalgamation proposal is such that there is little or nothing to be gained from

providing yet another opportunity for a round of discussions to be opened up.

It is important to remember why this procedure was adopted in the first place. There was some concern in the community, particularly in the local government community, about the procedures that were previously used to assess amalgamation proposals. The old commission did not work terribly effectively. The select committee process, while being in some ways quite an effective vehicle for the consideration of amalgamation questions, nevertheless, in the minds of some people, called into question the idea of political interference with the issues involved.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: The member for Hayward and I experienced such a case.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I do not know about that. For that reason, the Local Government Advisory Commission was established. The idea was to provide an independent body that was able to assess these issues, which I acknowledge in many cases are very sensitive issues and can create enormous local community emotion in a relatively emotion free environment. People who are removed from the local controversy can be involved.

The Local Government Advisory Commission so far has demonstrated that it is able to fulfil that function. It is only fairly recently that it has had the opportunity to assess amalgamation proposals, but so far I am satisfied with the process that is being adopted. Members of the commission have shown the sensitivity that is needed in making a proper assessment of all the points of view in a local community and a proper assessment of the evidence put before them, whether it be written or verbal evidence. They have made balanced judgments in each case on which they have made recommendations. I am confident that the recommendations that come to me have been assessed appropriately. Therefore, I see very little to be gained from providing yet another opportunity for the proponents in an amalgamation issue to re-state the case. That is what the commission is for.

I certainly trust the judgments that it has made. On the issue of the amalgamation proposal involving Georgetown, Gladstone and Laura, I suppose to some extent I broke my own rule when I received a deputation of representatives of those councils prior to the commission making its recommendation to me. The deputation was very keen to be sure that I was aware of the strength and level of feeling within the local community. Because I knew that it was a

very sensitive proposal it seemed to me to be appropriate to receive the deputation and hear at first hand the views of the representatives of those communities. I did that and subsequently the commission made its recommendation to me and I accepted it.

I believe that was the appropriate course of action to follow because the commission has a responsibility, as has the Government, to consider not just the wishes of individuals within a community but what is in the best interests of the system of local government in this State and the interests of the community at large in the longer term. I think that those issues and the wishes of the local community in that case were weighed up very carefully by the commission and the decision it took was correct. I also believe that, although some people in that area will not be happy that this decision has been taken, they will nevertheless cooperate and ensure that the establishment of the new council of Rocky River will proceed smoothly and that they will ultimately work well together.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Earlier I referred to the deputation that I brought forward relating specifically to the bed and breakfast issue. The other matter discussed with the deputation related to the difficulty being experienced, particularly by planning authorities within local government, as to the conflicts between the Heritage Act and the Building Act, mainly with fire control problems. I believe that the Minister and the Minister for Environment and Planning suggested that the Building Advisory Committee was currently considering amendments to the Building Act to improve the situation. Can the Minister provide the Committee with an update on that?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: I am afraid that I have not yet received a report from the Building Advisory Committee on that matter, so I do not know exactly what stage its deliberations have reached, but I will be quite happy to take the question on notice and reply later.

The CHAIRMAN: Due to the effluxion of time, I declare the examinations completed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Friday 18 September at 9.30 a.m.