

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 24 September 1985

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

**Chairman:**

Mr G.T. Whitten

**Members:**

Mr S.J. Baker  
 Mr R.J. Gregory  
 Mr T.R. Groom  
 Mr G.M. Gunn  
 Mr K.H. Plunkett  
 The Hon. D.C. Wotton

*The Committee met at 11 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Does the Minister wish to make an opening statement?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** First, I convey an apology from the Director-General, Mr Ted Phipps, who is interstate today attending a very important meeting. As has been my usual practice in relation to the Estimates Committees, I am not at all shy or apologetic about deferring to my advisers on matters of fact. I assume that the Committee would welcome the opportunity to question these people directly on various matters. On matters of policy, I am responsible and I make the usual disclaimer that any author of a book does that, despite the excellence of the various sources available, any errors are entirely my own.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I advise that all questions from the Committee are to be directed to the Minister; the Minister may at any time refer questions to one of his advisers. Initially, questions must be directed to the Minister. I would like some intimation of a timetable for the Committee to deal with the various lines so that the Minister can make arrangements for his officers.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I suggest that we will probably be considering environment and planning up until about 3 p.m. and we will then move on to police and other matters.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The Minister, the member for Murray and I will review progress during the luncheon adjournment. In relation to tea breaks, I have arranged with the Chairman of Committee A that we will break during the afternoon at 3.30 p.m. and Committee A will break at 4.00 p.m. If other breaks are considered necessary, that can be arranged at the time. During answers to questions the Minister may state that he will obtain information at a later date. That information should be in a form suitable for insertion in *Hansard*, and submitted by the date required. It is my intention to enable, first, the member for Murray to make a brief statement, which I suggest should be about 10 minutes and not more than a quarter of an hour, and then to enable the Minister to make an opening statement.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am here to ask questions and not make a statement. I will defer my privilege.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I have no statement. It is better that matters come out by way of questions.

**The CHAIRMAN:** It is also my intention to proceed by the usual method adopted: three questions from the Opposition side and then three questions from the Government side.

Environment and Planning, \$25 385 000

**Witness:**

The Hon. D.J. Hopgood, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment and Planning, Chief Secretary and Minister of Emergency Services.

**Departmental Advisers:**

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

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

Mr Norman Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr John Hodgson, Director, Development Management, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Colin Harris, Director, Conservation Programs, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Geoff Inglis, Director, Pollution Management, Department of Environment and Planning.

Dr Brian Morley, Director, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Nicholas Newland, Acting Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mr Garry Stafford, Director, Technical Services, Department of Environment and Planning.

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

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** The first matter I would like to deal with concerns national parks and is in relation to both the line and the program estimates. I will probably be concentrating more on capital works rather than general matters. How much land has been added to the parks system in the term of the present Government?

**Mr Newland:** I do not have that figure in detail. Additional land added to the parks system is approximately 1 million hectares. I can obtain the exact figure for the honourable member if he requires it.

**Mr Hill:** There is a reference in the Auditor-General's Report to land additions during 1984-85.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I would like the total figure.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** From my recollection it is marginally below 1 million hectares, but around that figure. I will obtain that information.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I know that staffing is referred to in the Auditor-General's Report and the yellow book. What is the current staffing position with national parks? I would like a breakdown in relation to the specific positions. I note that it is suggested that we are looking at an increase of 12 positions for 1985-86. Recognising the land that has been added to national parks, does the Minister consider that the increase in staff is adequate to cover the increase in land?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I do not know that one can directly equate so many hectares of land with a particular staffing demand. To take the extreme example, when the unnamed conservation park was added to the national parks system, whenever that was, it probably doubled the total amount of the State under reservation. It did not necessarily follow that one had to have twice the number of rangers because one is dealing with a very remote area to which very few people get. It is the pressure of human impact on those areas that usually requires ranger services rather than the size or the scenic attractions of the area, although the latter has some bearing on visitation.

Similarly, it does not follow that when we added the Gosse crown lands to Flinders Chase National Park there had to be more rangers in that area, although it increased the area under park on the island by about one-third, so

although no Minister is ever happy with the staffing resources that are available to him—and at present the national parks service is under some strain from the responsibilities that it has to undertake—I would not suggest that that really arises so much out of the additional land that has been added to the parks system as it arises out of the increased interest that there has been in the national parks system—the additional tourism and so on that we have had to cater for.

As to the total establishment of the national parks system, in the past year we have had some accession of weekly paid staff by way of transfer from the E&WS Department. That has not, therefore, meant a net increase in the overall Government budget, although it has meant an additional accession to the national parks system.

**Mr Hill:** As at 1 July 1985 the establishment of national parks was 173 Public Service Act employees, 88 full time equivalent weekly paid—there is a nucleus of casual in that to cater for the varying workloads of peak visitation during holidays and the like—24.5 contract employees and 18 other category, to make the total of 303.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Are you suggesting that there are 303 currently employed in the national parks system?

**Mr Hill:** As at 1 July 1985.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I take it that that will be the limit on the staffing for the next 12 months?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** We have funds for an additional ranger position for the Mount Dare property, which has been acquired. That is an example of the point that the honourable member was making about an additional acquisition of land requiring some staffing, or at least care and maintenance at this stage.

**Mr Hill:** The additions to the 1985-86 estimates are included in those numbers.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** That means that with any further addition of property to the national parks system there will not be further staff allocated. I take it that because it is proposed that there be 303.5 employed in 1985-86 you have obviously reached that level.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** Yes, that is right.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I take it then that there will be no further staff?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** That is right, unless the Government grants me additional money by way of supplementary estimates.

**Mr GREGORY:** On pages 9 and 10 of the yellow book there is reference to flora, fauna and park management. There is a proposed increase of personnel from 291 to 303 and a suggested increase of recurrent expenditure of about \$1.5 million. Can the Minister explain how these extra people will be employed and how that \$1.5 million will be spent?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** The additional 11.9 staff is made up as follows: an additional 2.6 contract planners for the preparation of fire protection plans; an additional two transferees from E&WS; an additional five, which is, in fact, the full year effect of the previous seven transferees from 1984-85; an additional ranger for Mount Dare station, two reductions in contract employment for management plans transferred to the fire protection plans; an additional proposed employee for the maintenance of the old State Planning Authority reserves, as they are called; and, two additional trainees under the NESAs program.

On the other point, I can provide details for the honourable member, if he requires them, but in so far as the \$1.240 million is concerned, the honourable member would have realised that there is not \$2.4 million worth of salaries in the figures I have indicated. Included in this is the \$1 million notionally set aside at this stage for the payment to farmers for the retention of vegetation under the new leg-

islation, which has just passed both Houses. Above and beyond that, the most significant expenditure is the full year effect of salary and wage increases and provision of cross charging under superannuation of \$463 000.

**Mr GREGORY:** The yellow book (pages 9 and 10) shows that \$1.8 million was proposed for pollution management in 1984-85. Actual expenditure last year was \$1.4 million and \$1.6 million is proposed for 1985-86. Staffing levels will be one down on plan and two down on action. I note that pollution management involves noise abatement, hazardous chemical management and marine pollution management, those factors being very important to the environment. Why will costs be reduced and why has the number of staff been reduced?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** The most important factor is the transfer of what is effectively \$395 000 to the South Australian Health Commission. That sum was to have been a charge against my lines but was, in fact, a charge against the lines of the Minister of Health. That sum is made up of \$68 000 for salaries and \$327 000 for contingencies. The proposed allocation has been increased in comparison with last year's actual expenditure because of a carry over on wage and salary increases, \$18 000; provision for superannuation cross charges, \$86 000; a carry over plus replacement of plant and equipment purchases, \$59 000; an inflation provision, \$6 000; increased CIS provision, \$14 000; and other minor expenditure, \$5 000, making a total of \$188 000.

I agree with the honourable member that this is a very important part of the Government's environmental thrust and it is true to say that we in this State have been receiving services in an extremely efficient manner. I would imagine that in most jurisdictions around the country the amount of effort put in would be achieved only by a considerably larger number of staff than the number provided here.

**Mr GREGORY:** I note that staffing levels for 'Development Management' will be increased by five; what will those five additional people do?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** There is one additional person for the Greening of Adelaide project and four additional people on contract employment in relation to Murray River studies, the second generation parklands and the inner western suburbs project. Mr Hodgson will expand.

**Mr Hodgson:** There will be an increase not of permanent staff but of contract personnel who will be taken on for varying periods to undertake particular tasks. The Murray River review was initiated at the beginning of this financial year and will involve taking on two to three additional personnel at various times for specific research and studies. I anticipate that those people will be employed for periods of up to three to six months in each case.

The inner western suburbs have consistently had three to four contract personnel assisting on various parts of that project. In future, we anticipate that funding assistance provided directly to the Hindmarsh and Thebarton councils will include an allowance for engagement of contract personnel so that they will no longer be registered against the department's total numbers.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** The Minister has indicated that there will not be an increase in staff in the national parks area. He must be aware of the concern that is being expressed about the lack of management in a number of parks, particularly when it comes to adequate weed control, and you do not have to go very far from Adelaide to notice that. I guess it relates to policy more than anything else in this instance, but what plans does the Minister have concerning weed eradication particularly?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** We certainly recognise this as being a responsibility that we have. I would ask Mr Newland to comment on the specifics of that question as it relates

particularly to parks close to Adelaide where perhaps weed infestation is more serious than out in the Mallee or somewhere like that because of the impact of human activities in these park areas.

**Mr Newland:** The parks service is very aware of its responsibilities in protection management—those issues of land management associated with fire, weeds, vermin and soil erosion. In relation to the question on weeds, this year the service has set aside a specific level of recurrent funds for each regional office at \$8 000 initially to allow each regional office to plan a comprehensive program of weed control for its particular region. In addition, a level of funding has been set aside under capital works to continue existing weed control programs which are of a capital nature, particularly the removal of box thorns in the Coorong National Park and to continue the program of reduction of gorse in the Deep Creek Conservation Park.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I take the point that Mr Newland makes, but I note that in the yellow pages, one of your Issues/Trends under 'Flora, Fauna and Park Management' is 'Efficient deployment of resources to facilitate effective management of areas dedicated as national or conservation parks'. Without extra staff and with a proposed addition to national parks, I see some real problems. I recognise the sensitivity within the professional staff of national parks, but has the Minister or the Government given consideration to bringing in outside assistance (for example, the people under the Community Service Orders scheme) to pull weeds in the parks close to the metropolitan area?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Generally speaking, there have been problems in relation to the use of Community Service Orders people in areas like this, but I might ask Mr Newland to indicate whether we have had any specific experience in the Community Service Orders area. I am not opposed to outside effort being provided. We have a system of close consultation with the trade unions involved—the PSA and the Miscellaneous Workers Union—in relation to the use of volunteer effort. We have the basis of an agreement as to when it is appropriate and when it is not appropriate. I am not aware of any specific involvement of Community Service Orders people.

**Mr Newland:** There are two elements to that question. Concerning the Community Service Orders scheme, last year we initiated discussions with those people who actually run that scheme. Some work has been done in what we describe as the Black Hill district with work being undertaken on the Black Hill and Morialta Conservation Parks. We intend to develop the relationship with those people a little further. Concerning the second part of the question, the services encourage very much the use of philanthropic *bona fide* organisations such as the Nature Conservation Society and a number of schools to undertake weed control work, particularly weed pulling. As the Minister has already indicated, these projects are done in complete consultation with the trade union movement involved.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Mention was made of management plans in answer to the member for Florey. I note that 32 conservation parks and game reserves have completed management plans. The yellow book states that draft management plans for 32 conservation parks and game reserves have been completed. How many management plans have been actually completed and are not in draft form at this stage?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I refer the question to Mr Newland.

**Mr Newland:** Once again, I cannot give an absolute figure. An indicative figure would be in the order of 60.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** How many have been completed in the past two years? What employee resources were involved in the preparation of these plans?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I ask Mr Newland to respond to the first part of the question.

**Mr Newland:** About 35 management plans have been completed in draft form in the past two years. If the honourable member wants an exact figure, I can obtain that for him.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I have already indicated that two people have been transferred from this area to work on fire protection plans. I do not see very much distinction between the two areas. Fire protection is clearly one of the most critical areas in relation to the management of parks. I make no apology for the fact that we have had to pick up our game in this area. There is certainly the possibility of some slowing down of the overall thrust towards completing the task. The timetable is not altogether related to the amount of staffing resources that we put into the matter.

Outside assistance is available from the Commonwealth, for example, in relation to the preparation of some of the plans—and that has been very useful. Secondly, the time taken in the necessary and desirable consultative process once a draft plan has been prepared adds considerably to the overall time frame before we finish up with a finalised plan. In some fairly delicate areas, such as the Coorong, it can be expected that the plan will be in draft form for some considerable time before it is finally accepted. In relation to management plans, it is proposed that for 1985-86 five contract positions will be employed in this area but, of course, that does not represent the total staffing effort.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** That is separate to the two positions that have been transferred?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** That applies once the two transfers have been taken into account.

#### Membership:

Mr Hamilton substituted for Mr Plunkett.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I refer to pollution management—noise abatement on page 9 of the yellow book. The Minister would be aware of my interest in this area over the years. Has there been an increase or a decrease in the number of complaints over the past financial year, and how does that compare with previous years?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I refer the question to Mr Inglis. If he does not have the exact information, I am sure we can obtain it. He may be able to comment on any apparent trends.

**Mr Inglis:** I do not have an exact number, but there has certainly been an increasing trend. The number of complaints in the past financial year is up on preceding years—probably about 5 per cent or 7 per cent. However, I will obtain the exact figures.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Like many members of Parliament, particularly during festive occasions, I receive complaints from time to time from residents about excessive noise and, in fact, there are even complaints during the day time. However, the majority of complaints usually relate to a Friday, Saturday or Sunday night. I have experienced some difficulty in trying to advise my constituents about the best person or persons to direct complaints to. It has been alleged to me that (and I place it no higher than that) on a number of occasions when the police have arrived my constituents have not received satisfaction.

What is the best advice that I can give my constituents in terms of to whom they should direct their complaints, particularly on a weekend? The question of excessive noise during the day time is also a problem, and I raise that because there are many shift workers in South Australia

who work at night and are subject to excessive noise during the day.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** I will divide the question into three parts: first, any industrial noise comes under the control of my department, and complaints should always be directed there (but I do not think that is what the honourable member is talking about); secondly, any purely domestic noise is handled by the police. It may be that the honourable member will want to direct a similar question to me later in the day when I am wearing one of my other hats. It is clear that in this area the responsibility resides with the police. The police have a difficult job to discharge in this matter. I can understand why, from time to time, people feel a little frustrated—but so do the police. Thirdly, there are large celebrations of one sort or another which usually operate under exemption.

There are well recognised rules which now apply in relation to exemptions. For example, they apply in relation to pop concerts and things of that nature at Memorial Drive, and they have been put in place in other areas. Ethnic festivals tend to be an area which draws complaints from time to time. If at, say, 10 p.m. or perhaps even more likely at 11.45 p.m. (by which time the event should have wound up) people have problems with excessive noise, there is very little anyone can do at that time. However, on the following Monday they can report their complaint to my office, to Mr Inglis's people.

Because the people responsible for the excessive noise operate under exemption, I have the power to withdraw the exemption or enforce the conditions placed on the exemption. Inevitably, conditions are placed on any exemption granted, so there is a deterrent effect which can be brought into operation. People are aware that if they create excessive noise they could be operating outside the law because the Minister has given them an exemption, and they know that they may not receive an exemption next time they apply. Purely domestic noise is a matter for the police. I am interested, and I am sure the police would be, in any suggestions that the honourable member might have as to how we can improve performance in that area.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I would certainly like to know the answer to that problem. If I have any suggestions, I will certainly convey them to the Minister, because of the difficulties being experienced by some of my constituents in this area. I also refer to noise control mechanisms that I have seen installed in some places of entertainment. I refer to a device which has a light that goes from, I think, green to yellow and then to red.

Is it presently a legislative requirement that these devices be installed in places of public entertainment? If not, has the Government considered this aspect in relation to certain hotels and places of entertainment where regular entertainment is carried on? Will the Minister elaborate on the consideration that has been given to those areas? I find that the noise of some pop bands is rather excessive and is pretty hard on the ear. What consideration is the Government giving to using these devices?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** I know them well. Not only pop bands are noisy. There was a famous occasion on which I and certain associates unwittingly pushed one of these devices into the red. They are extremely efficient because all the electrical circuits cut off and that is the end of the noise; it is also the end of the illumination in the establishment for some period of time, and it then automatically comes on again. There is no legislative requirement.

What has happened is that local government has, in some cases, made it a condition of approval for the entertainment to proceed (I guess under the Building Act or Planning Act) that such a device be installed. This is probably following pressure from local residents who saw the public notice that

the basketball stadium or whatever was to be built in their area, and local government take the attitude that to protect themselves from local citizens it be a condition that such a device be installed. Certainly, there has been no consideration at Government or Cabinet level for it to be a requirement that such devices be installed.

**Mr Inglis:** They are commonly called 'peace pulses'; to try and obtain some peace from the noise. They have been a mixed success in that it is fairly easy for unsupervised people to obviate them by putting an overcoat or other device over the microphone so that the sound is damped. In relation to more serious problems, at certain types of venues the customers get very angry if the music cuts out. This can lead to crowd control problems that are really very serious. There have been no actual disturbances in South Australia but the use of the device in New South Wales on two occasions caused damage to the premises in which it was installed, as the patrons removed them.

**Mr GUNN:** I am not the number one critic of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I believe that it is necessary to have, within this State, a series of national parks and conservation parks for the enjoyment and pleasure of the community. As the Minister is aware, many of those national parks and conservation parks are located in my electorate. However, there have been problems in relation to management and providing facilities for the public in these areas. Wilpena is one of the most scenic and important areas of this State, and the property alongside has just been added to it. What stage has the Government reached in upgrading the facilities, in particular, supplying 240v power to Wilpena and up to Blinman? The Minister will be aware that the caravan park is not powered. There has been considerable speculation recently, particularly following a visit of the Hon. Mr Keneally and his committee to the area, and the local community, including the clerk of the council, were of the view that action would be taken to extend the three phase power line to Wilpena.

I have canvassed this matter at some length in the House. It is important to the local community and tourists. Yesterday I went through Hawker and was advised that this year there are many tourists in the area. They normally go up to Wilpena, Blinman and, hopefully, Arkaroola and beyond. As a first stage in upgrading these facilities I believe it is essential that the 240v power supply be extended. A couple of years ago when inquiries were made we were advised that it would only take three or four years and the capital cost would be recouped.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** I do not have any final advice for the honourable member. It may be that he will want to take the opportunity of quizzing my two colleagues, the Minister of Mines and Energy and the Minister of Tourism, about this matter. We are, in effect, one of the proposed customers of the Minister of Mines and Energy and he will, I guess, have the final say—apart from Cabinet—as to how and when these things should happen.

We are conscious of our responsibility, particularly following the purchase of the Wilpena station property, in relation to the work that needs to be done in upgrading facilities at Wilpena, not only for tourists but also for the general population of the park.

**Mr Newland:** In relation to the energy issue at Wilpena, we are aware of the problems we have as far as managing the resort with the current system that the honourable member is aware of, which is a generating system. Two things are presently happening about which the honourable member will be interested. First, the department, in conjunction with the Department of Mines and Energy, is examining the possibility of alternative energy sources for Wilpena. In conjunction with that department and by funding being made available through the Commonwealth (Department for

Resources and Energy) we are looking at the possibility of introducing a battery inverter system at Wilpena and also, at the same time, looking at the possibility of using some sort of solar system.

This project is very much in its infancy and I am unable to give further details. This year the department will be contributing a certain amount of its capital funds to have certain installations made at Wilpena, so that this project can be examined on a pilot basis. This project is an Australian first. It is the first time that any energy source of this type has been established at a tourist resort. It is the view of the Department of Mines and Energy that we should investigate this particular source of energy before we commit ourselves to any other form, particularly the extension of the electricity grid system from Hawker.

**Mr GUNN:** I am keen to see the facilities upgraded. As someone who has lived in a situation where I have had to generate my own electricity, and have then come on to the grid system, I appreciate the benefits. My next question concerns the management of controlling bushfires. I do not intend to deal with personalities even though I think I have good reason to do so. I am concerned that when there is a bushfire there appears to be too many chiefs. I have received a number of complaints about what took place during the fires at the Mount Remarkable National Park and the repeat performance at the Department of Woods and Forests national park at Wirrabara. Has the Minister considered resolving this matter once and for all and placing the ultimate control of bushfires through the whole State under the control of the Country Fire Service, and also giving the CFS the authority to give directions to the Woods and Forests Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to carry out preventive measures?

My inquiries and research show that the Director of Country Fire Services and the board have authority to direct private land-holders to take action to reduce flammable material and reduce the fire risks. The Minister would know that I have raised the matter in the House on a number of occasions. I have been involved in public discussions, and I know that some of his officers are not particularly pleased with me, but that is one of the roles of the member of Parliament. I do not renege from the action that I have taken, but I want to see the matter resolved so that we do not have repeat performances and so that when fires occur we do not have disputes in the local communities. What took place at Mount Remarkable was very bad: people got very annoyed about the break-up of the control. I know that we have a new Director of Country Fire Services, and that may improve the situation. The Minister would be aware that I have taken a couple of legislative initiatives in the House: currently, he has the numbers to prevent that, but the objective in this exercise has been to get the matter resolved once and for all so that we do not have any repeat performances.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I have had discussions with Mr Macarthur of the CFS in relation to the direction of the control of fires at the fire. It is clear that apart from the special case of Woods and Forests and National Parks there have been problems at the fire front in relation to who gives directions. The honourable member would know, for example, that local government in many rural areas has appointed people as fire supervisors and that from time to time there have been problems between the CFS management and those people: we are moving to address that as soon as we possibly can. If the honourable member is still on the Committee later in the day he may want to raise that again in relation to CFS concerns.

I can only speak for National Parks rather than Woods and Forests, but problems arise when one is dealing with attractive native vegetation. Our concern as managers of

this State resource is for the capacity of that land to regenerate following the fire. From time to time, that may indicate that the preferable option would be to allow an area to burn, provided that other measures are taken to ensure that the fire does not spread to the danger of life and property, rather than putting in heavy machinery, which would have the effect of vegetation clearance, which may make very difficult the regeneration of the scrub in the area.

That is basically the problem that has arisen in areas such as Mount Remarkable. My information is that in the Mount Remarkable fire the concern of my officers was not simply for the native vegetation and the responsibilities that they have there, but also for the safety of individuals who had been invited by others to go into an area using machinery that would have put those lives at peril. It was a matter of judgment as to the safer thing to do for both National Parks and the CFS people who were fighting the fire on that occasion. That is some time ago, and I cannot comment in greater detail except to say that that was the advice given to me by officers at the time.

We have to take certain considerations into account where an area is understood by the general community as being set aside for the enjoyment of people because of the native vegetation there. In summary, while it is desirable when one is fighting a fire and there are people from National Parks, CFS, etc., that there should be one person in charge, it is too early for me to say exactly how that will operate, although I would have thought that, being Minister for both CFS and National Parks, I am in a position to eventually secure that sort of direction.

Finally, in relation to the Danggali fire—and I am aware of the sensitivities there—despite initial indecision, the then director of the CFS made a decision that had the effect of bringing about the situation that the honourable member is looking for. Mr Fitzgerald was sent there and took charge.

**Mr GUNN:** I think at my suggestion.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Okay. It can happen.

**Mr GUNN:** I do not think that there is a great deal of argument about what the Minister says about allowing areas to burn off in parks. The argument is to make sure that proper measures are in hand to make sure that the fires do not get out of the parks and that one suddenly does not have a fire burning on a 10 kilometre front. In Wirrabara, the fire got out of the forest and park and burnt private property, when local suggestions had been put to the people in charge that would have prevented that taking place. That upset the locals that local advice was not heeded and that people from Adelaide, and others, did not know what they were about.

For a long time, it has been evident to me and to other people who have studied this matter that there has been an urgent need for some controlled burning off in national parks. Last year, I saw that in Colorado, where this is done regularly, and I understand more so in California. Could the Minister address that further? It is essential that there be properly maintained fire access tracks through these parks so that people can safely get through in vehicles and not get trapped. What the Minister says about people going in is true. We have to be very careful about sending people into difficult areas. They can get cut off. I have some personal experience of lighting large fires and burning off, so I appreciate what has been said, but it concerns me that there appears to be no program of controlled burning off in national parks.

It is clear that if they are not occasionally burnt off in controlled situations they will go up every now and then, with lightning. In the Flinders Ranges, one day if one burns it could hit the sea and there will be a disaster. Have the Minister and his officers addressed this matter and will they

take positive action on it? I suggest that the person who ought to have ultimate control is the Director of the CFS.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** We have talked about the transfer of contract people for the preparation of fire management plans: that is really what it is all about. There has to be a contingency plan for every park in the State so that we know exactly where we are going: that is in preparation. Cold burns occur in the parks, which we institute to try and reduce fuel, particularly that introduced by weed invasion and things like that: that is important. I do not pretend that in the past it has been done as well as it could be; if it had, we would not be going into the plans, but the plans will give us a basis for operating.

Without wanting to rake over old coals, the honourable member has mentioned the matter of Wirrabara. I understand Mr Newland has some information that may be pertinent to the specific matter about which the honourable member is questioning me, as it relates to what we do in the future. With the indulgence of the Committee, I will ask Mr Newland to comment on that, and any other matter in relation to the fire management plans that he thinks might assist the Committee.

**Mr Newland:** In relation to the issues raised by the honourable member about the fire in Telowie Gorge in Wirrabara, it was unfortunate that the fire ultimately got out of both the park and the forest reserve into lands to the east of both parcels of land. The National Parks and Wildlife Service had no ultimate authority over the passage of the fire through the forest reserve. The honourable member will also be interested to know that last week a public meeting was held at Melrose or Wilmington to discuss the fire protection plan for the Mount Remarkable National Park and the Telowie Gorge Conservation Park. That public meeting was well attended, and the advice that I have is that the provisions contained in the fire protection plan were accepted almost entirely by the local community, and the degree of co-ordination and liaison between that community and the National Parks and Wildlife Service has improved substantially, and is much more evident now than was the case when the honourable member and I were at a meeting up there two years ago. Therefore, I think that some substantial progress has been made in that area in the State.

The honourable member referred to fires coming out of national parks. I do not have the statistics with me—I can provide them to the honourable member if he wishes—but they show clearly that the number of fires that come out of parks and burn private land relative to the number of fires that come out of private land and burn parks is disproportionate—something like one in 12. The service can stand on its record as being able to deal with that particular problem as well as it can.

The Minister has already indicated that the service undertakes controlled burning in those parks where high value assets are likely to be threatened by the passage of wild fire through the park. The service's policy on controlled burning is quite simple: it will undertake controlled burning within those reserves where high value assets are adjacent. The service is not prepared to undertake what might be described as broad scale controlled burning within the park system as a whole until it can be satisfied that the medium and long-term effect on the native vegetation contained within that park is minimal.

Obviously the service has statutory responsibilities for managing vegetation in its existing form, so we are placed in a dilemma where a park, by its very nature, carries a high fuel load. We obviously have a responsibility under our fire management policy to attempt to deal with that problem but, until we can be sure that the fire management activities we undertake in those parks are legitimate in terms

of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, we are reluctant to move into any broad scale controlled burning.

**Mr GREGORY:** I ask the questions in respect of pages 16 and 17, which refer to Aboriginal heritage and European heritage. In 1984-85 there was a proposal to spend almost the same amount of money in each area, although the amount was slightly more in relation to Aboriginal heritage. There is now a marked difference in expenditure as far as Aboriginal heritage is concerned. Why has the emphasis changed and what will be the effect?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The honourable member is referring to the increase from an outcome of \$176 000 to \$317 000. The big increase in the Aboriginal heritage area is under the national estate program of \$102 000. There is also \$23 000 extra under the State heritage program and \$16 000 for purchase of motor vehicles. The Government has put some effort into this area, which was languishing somewhat and one of the few which received any sort of accession of staff. The new manager of that branch has been appointed. I will have to get specific details for the honourable member in relation to that \$102 000.

**Mr GREGORY:** On page 15, I notice that the Botanic Gardens, has fixed assets—it has two fire engines. Where are these fire engines, and what is their role? Are they part of the National Parks and Wildlife Service equipment and operate similarly, or do they slot in with the CFS units?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Dr Morley, from the Botanic Gardens, is with us and I will ask him to give details on that.

**Dr Morley:** The fire units are part of the Botanic Gardens vehicle complement and are operated through the Minister and the board of the Botanic Gardens. Very close liaison is maintained between the Botanic Gardens' staff, who operate them, and their colleagues in the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the CFS.

**Mr GREGORY:** I do not think that answered my questions. I want to know where they are and whether they are treated in the same way as are the National Parks and Wildlife Service engines and come under the direction of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and not under the direction of the CFS, or do they come under the direction of the CFS when there is a fire? The member for Eyre was raising the problems that some people perceive in relation to fires in National Parks when the CFS people do not have control and direction. It is only when the fire hops out of the park that they have control and direction.

**Dr Morley:** Arrangements are made when a fire is threatening Botanic Gardens property but is not threatening other areas. Those Botanic Gardens units then operate in the Botanic Gardens. In a situation such as 1983, it is slightly more complicated in that, should a threat be occurring in a national park, those Botanic Gardens units come under the National Parks control, as it were, and the Botanic Gardens units are used in that context. My understanding is that in an emergency situation where CFS would require all units those Botanic Garden units would come under CFS control.

**Mr GREGORY:** Whereabouts do you keep them?

**Dr Morley:** The units are kept at Adelaide Botanic Gardens and Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** They were very important in the fire at Mount Lofty last year.

**Mr GREGORY:** The other question is that I notice the staff was down in the gardens operations of the Botanic Gardens; does that mean that the gardens will still be maintained in the way which the public has become accustomed?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There has been a slight adjustment downwards, but they will certainly be maintained. The problem will be that we have one or two gardens that we would like to have open to the public for longer periods

than has been the case in the past and it will not be possible to have them open for the longer periods. We will have to continue to operate much as we have in the past.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Reference is made under the Agency overview, in relation to flora, fauna and park management, that major variations include an additional \$1 million for vegetation retention agreements. Under which line does that \$1 million come? Does it come under operating expenses of the National Parks and Wildlife Service?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** This is not regarded as a capital item but as a recurrent item.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What is the likely program for the establishment of the authority and what is happening in the interim regarding applications for clearance?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** The Bill was passed only in the last few weeks and has not yet been proclaimed. The Vegetation Retention Unit has continued to process applications under the previous arrangements. As soon as appointments are made to the new authority the new arrangements will take over. We are attempting to ensure that the operations of the unit will be seen as coming under the new authority rather than the way in which it operated previously. Nevertheless, the unit as a whole is still involved. Mr Harris, as Director of Conservation Programs, to which the unit was transferred from the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the past 12 months, will expand.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Before Mr Harris comments, I note that one of the targets for 1985-86 is to provide financial support for the vegetation retention scheme and implement a financial support scheme for landowners. Is that the same scheme? I take it that the old heritage agreements principle has gone out the window. From where does the money come for this scheme?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** A voluntary heritage agreement is still possible.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** But not very likely.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I guess it is unlikely because of the legislation; a person who wants to undertake above what would normally be a voluntary heritage agreement will simply make an application under the new legislation, that application being processed accordingly. A person could be embarrassed by an approval to clear and in those circumstances would simply prefer to come to us and say, 'I want a straight up and down, old-fashioned heritage agreement.' Mr Harris will also expand in that regard.

**Mr Harris:** In answer to the first question, regarding the setting up of the authority and the timing of the proclamation of the new Act, at this stage we hope that that will occur in late October or early November. It depends on how quickly we receive nominations from the various organisations that will be represented, particularly on the authority. At present we are thinking in terms of four to six weeks from now. Letters are about to go out to the various organisations that will be represented inviting them to nominate representatives and to put forward nominees for the authority in particular.

It is intended that the \$1 million will be devoted to two principal areas, first, to provide financial assistance where farmers have been refused approval to clear. Funds will also be made available for management of areas set aside under heritage agreements. A condition of the new Act and the new associated arrangements is that a person must enter into a heritage agreement prior to receiving any financial assistance and, once that heritage agreement has been entered into, the property owner is eligible for various forms of management assistance, similar to but broader in scope than the old heritage agreements.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** To be perfectly frank, this is finger in the wind stuff. At this stage we really do not know whether \$1 million-worth of payments and protective meas-

ures will be generated by what comes forward—whether the sum will be more or less. We do not know what the impact of the new legislation on the flow of applications will be. The Government is quite clear that whatever account is rendered by applicants will be met—that was a provision of the legislation that has been passed by the Parliament.

There could be quite a variation in terms of that \$1 million regarding what we have to meet, but I do not know how else we can do it except to plunge into the sea and see how we go. This sum is based on our overall estimate of the cost of the total program, given that it is a finite program and that we will get to the stage where every blade of grass and every twig of native vegetation in the State that can be treated under the legislation will be so treated. People cannot come back for a second drink at the trough.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Given that there is a commitment that the money will be provided and if the account is substantially higher than \$1 million in the first financial year, what action will be taken? Where will you get the additional money?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I will return to the Treasurer. Obviously, there is no capacity anywhere else in my lines to generate the money. We were thinking in terms of a \$10 million program over 10 years and we were assuming that, since these things take a little time to build up a head of steam, in the first year we would expect expenditure to be below what would be an average annual program for that period. It would build up to some sort of above average program in two to five years and would then start to tail off. It may be that the \$1 million is an over-provision.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I note that a specific target is the construction of houses for rangers in the Gammon Ranges National Park by June 1986. How is the Aboriginal training program going? How many of the original trainees under that program are still in the service? What stage has been reached with the construction of those houses and what is the estimated cost of the houses?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** Four men were trained in the original program and three graduated. As far as I am aware those three men are still involved in the national parks system and have rendered excellent service to that system. Mr Newland will elaborate on the construction of the houses. We have been somewhat alarmed about the cost, but it appears that there is no abnormality: when one is building in the arid and semi-arid parts of the State well away from population centres, one finds that construction costs are fiercer.

**Mr Newland:** The three Aboriginal rangers are still in the system. One is working in the Flinders Ranges National Park in the Oraparinna system; one, who has just returned from leave, is working at Port Augusta; and the third, who is resident at Nepabunna, is working in the Gammon Ranges National Park. In relation to the houses, we are proceeding this financial year to build four houses on the park. The estimate for the cost at this stage is \$480 000.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** From the figures that I have, for 1985-86 there is \$240 200 and for 1986-87 \$192 000. \$47 800 has already been spent.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Can the Minister say how much it cost to construct the visitor interpretation centre for the Coorong National Park?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** \$129 000.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Referring to pollution management on page 9, what activities is the department involved in regarding marine pollution management? What liaison occurs between the Minister's department and other departments in terms of hazardous chemicals and marine pollution? My district includes a section of the metropolitan coastline and the question relates to the dissemination of excess waste from the Port Adelaide sewage treatment works and the

West Lakes waterway. The question of pollution, including spills of hazardous chemicals, has been of concern to me over many years. Going back some time ago there was one spill on Woodville Road which I understand was satisfactorily contained. However, it is of concern to me that some of these chemicals may enter the West Lakes waterway and of course create considerable problems in that 17 kilometres of inland sea. What involvement and liaison is there and what does the Minister's department do in those areas in relation to hazardous chemicals and marine pollution for both inland and gulf waters in South Australia?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** There is a good deal of cooperation between my department and other departments, specifically E&WS and Fisheries, in relation to the potential for marine pollution. The Coast Protection Board gets involved if we are talking about the Adelaide metropolitan coastline. Particular responsibilities in relation to the monitoring of the upper Spencer Gulf arose out of a specific recommendation of the Select Committee on the Stony Point project. We have responsibilities in relation to the seagrass meadows along the metropolitan coast; from time to time there has been comment about the reduction in the area of seagrass meadows. There have been suggestions that that may relate to outfall from sewage treatment or may simply relate to the discharge of rainwater at particular points; this diminishes the salinity of the ocean at that point.

More recently there have been the discussions that I and the media have had with divers concerned about the condition of the Aldinga reef. That possibly relates to the diminution of salinity as a result of stormwater runoff or metals being taken into the sea as a result of that same runoff. We have all of these responsibilities which we try to discharge. An officer from the Fisheries Department, Mr Ian Kirkegaard, was seconded to us last year to assist with these programs.

The question of hazardous chemicals is not altogether a separate matter, but it is a topic which has received considerable examination by the Australian Environment Council and the Commonwealth and State Governments over the last two or so years. What we are moving to is a package of legislative measures which will be introduced by the Commonwealth and by the States. The Commonwealth's responsibility relates to the identification and notification of hazardous chemicals and the States' responsibility will be perhaps the more traditional policing functions, ensuring that these are stored safely and are properly disposed of. The honourable member would be aware that the Department of Labour has an interest in this because of the health, welfare and associated matters of people dealing with these materials.

New South Wales has already passed legislation in this area. The feeling of the other States has been that perhaps this is a little premature and that it is better for the Commonwealth to finalise in consultation with us its attitude towards the proper notification and identification of hazardous materials, and then we can determine just what amendments are required to our own legislation to ensure that these things are properly addressed. There is a problem at present and a situation could arise where there was considerable pollution of say West Lakes as a result of spillage, although I understand that there is not a high volume of industrial traffic, particularly around the southern part of the area. The penalties, for example, that would be involved as far as I am aware would be laughably small, so we are looking at all of these things with a view to developing this legislative package. I hope that the whole matter as between the States and the Commonwealth may be finalised at next year's Australian Environment Council meeting.

**Mr HAMILTON:** There has been media comment in which I was involved relating to the influx of fresh water

into the West Lakes waterway. The Minister may have read that, and it has been of concern to me that this may pose a problem to both residents and visitors to that area after there has been a heavy influx of water from the stormwater drains into that waterway. Some time ago I had a meeting with the Minister of Marine and other interested representatives of organisations involved in that waterway. It was suggested in a document from the Corporation of the City of Woodville that signs be erected in and around that waterway to warn people that it may constitute a health hazard after there has been a heavy influx of fresh stormwater. At that meeting, it was put to me that, if signs were to be erected in and around the West Lakes waterway, they may well be necessary for every inland waterway or every stream that flows into the sea for the protection of residents and visitors in South Australia.

Has the Minister looked at this issue, particularly in view of his comments about problems at Aldinga? What is the relevance to the problem in my area, and how is the Government addressing the problem? I am led to believe that the Upper Thames Authority in the United Kingdom has been involved in a large reduction in the pollution of that waterway to such an extent that trout are now returning to the Thames. For obvious reasons, I am most concerned to find out whether that has any relevance to the problem in South Australia, particularly in terms of inland waterways.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Some work has been done on this. I think that I can give the honourable member half a reassurance. If we are talking about the coastline, and if we are talking about hazards to human health, there is no problem from stormwater run-off. It is yet to be established whether there is a long-term environmental effect on sea grass, meadows and things of that nature—and that is what I was referring to in answer to the previous question. There is sufficient tidal energy for any contaminants not to hang around in the inter-tidal zone. The gulf is a large body of water and there is a considerable exchange of water between the gulf and Investigator Strait. There is very little possibility of there being a hazard to human health in the ocean.

It is a different matter in relation to West Lakes, because the amount of exchange of water between the lake and the gulf is limited. It may well be that after a storm, with a good deal of flooding of the lake from fresh water carrying contaminants, people would be ill-advised to swim in it. The Adelaide City Council has taken that attitude in relation to a lesser body of water, the Torrens River, for quite some years. I think that people would be ill-advised to swim at West Lakes after a storm. Perhaps there should be some sort of sign posting to that effect. I think I can give some assurances in relation to the coastline, because I think the tidal energy largely resolves that problem for us. We are not talking about high level contamination, but when human health is involved we would always err on the side of caution.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I point out, as an aside, that at the meeting to which I referred the company involved said that, if signs were erected, it may consider taking legal action. The Minister would be aware of my interest in urban and regional development. Some years ago I visited Victoria and inspected granny flats provided by the Victorian Housing Commission. Although my initial inspection of the units encouraged me to pursue this matter in this State, I understand that the Government has some reservations about the design of granny flat accommodation which could be made available by the South Australian Housing Trust.

What progress has been made by the Minister with his colleagues and with local government authorities in respect of agreement in relation to the building of granny flats in built-up areas and in some middle or upper class areas? I understand that many councils are strongly opposed to the



provision of granny flats in South Australia. I believe that this matter should be considered very carefully. At the same time, in terms of the needs of our aged in the community, I believe it is important that each and every application for a granny flat should be considered on merit to provide continuity of retention of the family unit. Too often we see an elderly parent or parents severed from the family and placed in a nursing home or something similar on the opposite side of town. I make no reflection on nursing homes, but I believe that this matter will have to be addressed by successive Governments in future years.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** Broadly speaking, in most parts of metropolitan Adelaide some encouragement in this area would be desirable. It certainly means some change of urban form and some marginal increase in population density. However, most planners would say that that is to be preferred to the continued onward sprawl of metropolitan Adelaide across the broad acres. Of course, that will have to continue to a degree, anyway. The wholesale building of granny flats would not address that sort of problem, but it would lengthen the planning time involved in having to get areas such as Munno Para and Evanston into urban use.

The problem is that for the most part local government perceives a degree of opposition to granny flats on the part of ratepayers. Accordingly, it is very conservative about changing planning documents to allow this sort of development. It is true that the State plan in some areas does allow this sort of development being handled by consent use by local government authorities. That sometimes means that, when faced with a consent application, local government simply gives the thumbs down. To address this problem requires supplementary development plans which would allow for greater flexibility in the handling of applications, and the wording of the Act is such that they must be initiated by the local government authority concerned, unless it invites the Minister to prepare a plan on its behalf. The Government's attitude has been to discuss the matter with councils that are interested in this area and to give assistance in the development of such plans where that seems to be appropriate. To come in with a heavy hand in a delicate area like this would almost certainly invite a backlash from local government which would probably put any progress in this area backwards somewhat.

**Mr BAKER:** I refer to the Botanic Garden and the conservatory. In recent months there has been a number of media reports about the possibility of the conservatory being placed on the STA land at Hackney. What is the estimated cost of providing such a facility, and what is the current situation in relation to funding from the Commonwealth? I think the Minister will recall that some time ago I placed a Question on Notice about this matter. I am interested to know the cost of the conservatory, the likelihood of federal funding, the amounts involved, the timing of such a development if current plans proceed, and the sort of establishment the Minister envisages being placed on this site.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** When talking about the bicentenary program we are talking about a substantial allocation of Commonwealth moneys to it. There is no doubt we will have a bicentenary and I have no doubt money will be spent in the furtherance of that aim. Who spends it is another thing. I have no qualms about there being any adverse impact, from what has happened in the past couple of weeks, about what we intend to do in South Australia under the bicentenary program. The initial design for the conservatory is subject to modification for two reasons. First, it is not to be built where it was originally planned to be built by the architect, which was in Botanic Park, although that was never accepted by the Government. Therefore, there is some redesign required. Secondly, the amount of funds available under the bicentenary program

for use in this project has been reduced by the fact that there has also been a decision made for the locomotive museum or the steam rail museum, whatever one likes to call it, at the Port Dock Station at Port Adelaide.

Therefore, the amount of money available from the Commonwealth for the bicentenary will have to be split between the two projects. By far the larger proportion of the money will go into the conservatory project. The honourable member may have seen the map in the *Advertiser* a day or so ago which indicated the new location of the conservatory on the Hackney site where the existing sheds are being demolished, which is very close to the eastern boundary of the gardens.

**Dr Morley:** Given the successful obtaining of funds for its construction, the estimated time of completion is December 1987. The estimated time during which it will be necessary to grow plants for the internal landscaping we reckon to be five years so that, although the conservatory may be completed for the bicentennial year, the growth of plants within the conservatory will take another five or so years to come to maturity.

**Mr BAKER:** I asked about the approximate costs. Obviously, the Minister would have had some discussions about these matters. What is the all-up cost to December 1987? Given that the grant is to be shared with the museum, what will the Commonwealth put towards the project?

**Dr Morley:** My understanding is that the conservatory will cost \$5.48 million at present prices. That will be inflated and subject to indexation. My understanding is that the cost of the conservatory is a fifty-fifty split between the State and Federal Governments.

**Mr BAKER:** The yellow book (page 10) shows that both pollution management and development management have an upsurge in receipts on the proposed 1984-85 figure of approximately \$100 000, and then there is a slow-down in 1985-86 proposed receipts. What contributed to this large increase in receipts during 1984-85 and why is there a fall-off in 1985-86?

**Mr Hill:** Under pollution management the proposed 1984-85 recurrent receipt was \$80 000 and the outcome was \$192 000. Clean air registration fees under the new Act from August 1984 were due on 30 June each year. Therefore, the 1984-85 outcome includes fees collected for 1984-85 and fees relating to 1985-86. There is some duplication of those new fees under the clean air regulations in that regard.

Under development management the proposed 1984-85 recurrent receipt was \$90 000 and the outcome was \$185 000. The budget included an anticipated \$60 000 of income from application fees and that was exceeded due to buoyancy in the building industry. Land division fees received and then paid to councils were not budgeted for. They are the major differences. It is generally buoyancy in the industry and a change of the accounting system that accounts for those variations.

**Mr BAKER:** In relation to noise pollution, what efforts are being made to push an N1 noise limit on motor cycles? I take it the Minister was saying that Australian design standards are a Commonwealth responsibility. However, I understand that much activity has been happening at the State level. To what extent is the N1 being pursued at the State level albeit in the terms of making representations to the Commonwealth? How much discussion is taking place with members of the motor cycle retailing industry to understand a little of what is happening in the market today?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** I apologise for the fact that Mr Inglis has had to leave us temporarily but he will be available shortly after the luncheon break. It is not so much a Commonwealth responsibility as it is the necessity to have uniform legislation between the States.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** In fact, it is a State responsibility.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** That is right. Obviously, it is important that the Australian Environment Council comes to some agreement about this matter. My advice is that there have been discussions with industry in relation to it. At this stage I have not been directly involved in those discussions. I anticipate being involved prior to finally giving a commitment at AEC on uniform legislation. At this stage we have an open mind about what design standards should be adopted. It may be possible, depending on where we are in the estimates, to obtain more specific information from Mr Inglis a little after the luncheon break when he returns. Alternatively, I can take the question on notice and provide a considered reply for the honourable member.

**Mr GREGORY:** The yellow book (page 21) shows the lines 'Coastal Management Policy and Research', 'Coastal Protection', and 'Coastal Restoration and Development'. If one adds the three lines together it shows an increase of \$76 000. What will that do?

**Mr Hill:** Was the question about recurrent or capital expenditure?

**Mr GREGORY:** Recurrent.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** The \$61 000 increase consists of: full year cost of salaries and wage increase and provision for superannuation cross charge, \$43 000; increased replacement of plant office equipment, \$3 000; cost related to completed capital works, \$5 000; inflation provision, \$6 000; other minor, \$4 000.

**Mr GREGORY:** I notice that in the list of fixed assets there is only one boat. The coast is rather long: how do they get on for transport?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** I do not know that this matter has arisen. For the most part, the board's responsibilities run out at the low water mark. Although we have been involved below that in the search for offshore sand deposits, a search that has not proved very fruitful, nonetheless, for the most part the Coast Protection Board does not get involved in the marine area: the littoral zone is its bailiwick. There is no problem, in relation to land-based operations, in being able to get up and down the coast, given that for the most part we are dealing with the metropolitan coast. The board has responsibilities throughout the State. Now, all parts of the State are part of a coast protection zone, but for the most part our responsibilities have been directed to the metropolitan coast.

The other area where special effort has had to be put in is along the south-east, particularly the upper south-east coast, where again there is a high level of wave energy that can affect the environment. In the upper gulf areas, where there is a significant population, particularly on Spencer Gulf, there is very low wave energy and therefore little problem with storms and the deterioration of those coastlines.

**Mr Harris:** The boat referred to there is very small. Where there has been a need to work offshore to any extent—infrequent, as the Minister has mentioned—that need has been met by borrowing boats from elsewhere in the department, which has boats in other divisions.

**Mr GREGORY:** You do the same with motor vehicles, because you do not have any?

**Mr Harris:** They are accounted for elsewhere. The Coastal Management Branch uses vehicles from the central Government fleet.

**Mr GREGORY:** On page 23 there is a significant increase in expenditure for the South Australian Flora Collection and for survey and research. Yet, there is no increase in the number of employees. Will you explain what that increase in expenditure will do?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** There is only a \$3 000 increase in all. The full-year wage increases and provision for superannuation cross charge is \$59 000 of that, but there is also a reference to increased proposed expenditure from the Botanic Gardens account: Commonwealth assistance, \$21 000.

**Dr Morley:** My understanding is that that is a Commonwealth assistance grant for preparation of *Flora of Australia*, so that it is a one-off. It is a publication that deals with the means of identifying the various flowers in South Australia and in other States of Australia.

**Mr GREGORY:** Is that the multi-volume publication, for which there is a program for publishing over five to 10 years?

**Dr Morley:** The honourable member is correct.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Going back to the Hackney development, we have just been told that we are looking at an expenditure of \$5.4 million on the conservatory, that it is hoped that it will be finished by 1987 and that the cost is to be shared between the Commonwealth and the State. Can the State Minister accept that \$2.7 million is to be required by the State in the provision of that facility?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** The basis of the Bicentennial program has been that there are those projects that are funded by the Commonwealth and those projects that are jointly funded. In addition, there has been a country and a metropolitan program, so it has always been understood that this proposition that we have put together over some considerable period is a jointly funded metropolitan program.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** The reference in the *Advertiser* the other day to the likely program for the Hackney bus depot suggested that the National Trust will take part of the Goodman Building. Does the Minister know when that is likely to happen? Is it possible, for example, for the National Trust to move in there in its present state? Secondly, the diagram in the *Advertiser* showed no reference to the tram barn which, as the Minister would be aware, is on the State Heritage Register. Will that be added to the Government's appalling record in heritage matters and join the ranks with A division and the stable in being demolished?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** When the Premier announced the program he said that we would look at about a five-year staging program for the quitting of the site by the State Transport Authority. The location of the conservatory has been chosen in such a way that that can proceed while the STA continues to occupy the site. That would have to include the continued use of the Goodman Building for the STA, so, although part of the ultimate use of that building is for the National Trust if it wishes to take up the option, that will have to wait until the STA has sufficiently quitted the site that the ground floor would be available for National Trust activities. I expect that the conservatory would be substantially completed before the National Trust is able to occupy part of the building.

Without commenting on the polemical comment of the latter part of the honourable member's question, I simply say that sometimes it is necessary that there be a trade-off between one aspect of heritage and another. If the honourable member shares my perception that that area should be substantially returned to botanic gardens and parkland use, it cannot be littered with buildings. Obviously, the Goodman building is a high quality building, which should be retained and which fits in with the general scheme of things but, if we want to do what has been already applauded by the people of South Australia, other structures will clearly have to go.

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

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Under 'Heritage Conservation' I notice the reference to increasing concern by Aborigines for the preservation of sites and items of importance to them. Why has the Government failed to introduce legislation to protect Aboriginal heritage in this State? The Minister, during his previous period in opposition, criticised the previous Government for not bringing down legislation and, in fact, when legislation was brought down, indicated that his Government would be bringing in its own legislation. If I remember correctly, it was a pretty high plank in its policy platform in 1982. It is pretty obvious now that it is finding it too difficult to do so. Why has it not occurred?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I have not taken the step of actually introducing legislation. I think the problem that the honourable member found himself in was that on a couple of occasions he introduced legislation and then took further counsel about whether it was appropriate to introduce legislation in that form. I do not criticise him for doing that; I simply point out that, having introduced a Bill in that form, it tended to perhaps upgrade the expectation that something was to happen.

When I came into Government I had a very early meeting with Aboriginal people, who indicated that their preference between haste and full consultation was for the latter and what they required was, first that there should be very full consultation as to the content of the legislation. That would then be put in the form of a proposal that could be taken back to them for further consultation: in other words, they did not see one round of consultation as being sufficient. I said that the Government was happy to proceed along those lines, and that is what we have done. My advice is that, in fact, the second round of consultation is the point we have reached. Consistent with my commitment to those Aborigines, I will not introduce legislation until they signal to me that they are happy that sufficient consultation has occurred.

I regret that the consultative process has taken as long as it has; that has largely been out of my hands and out of the Government's hands. The honourable member would know (and this is no criticism of Aboriginal society by me) that it takes some time in any consultative process with Aborigines because they perhaps think in a different time frame from Europeans. Consistent with my commitment to those people, if I could have introduced legislation last year or early this year, I would have done so. It has not been possible, for the reasons I have indicated.

We are still very keen that it should happen. Again, I make the point that I would have thought that the people who on other grounds have been most impatient on this would be Aborigines themselves, and they have indicated their preference for the full consultative process.

**Mr HAMILTON:** On page 20, referring to specific targets and objectives for coastal management in 1985-86, the yellow book states:

Continue implementation of the five year rolling program for protection, restoration and development of various areas (50 projects), including provision of recreational facilities.

What are those 50 projects? What are the major projects? I should also like more information in relation to the reference to the inland waters recreational boating program.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** In the second case we respond to initiatives from local government and I do not have that information immediately before me. As to the recurrent expenditure, practically the whole of the increase relates to superannuation cross-charging, the full year effect of wage and salary increases and matters of that nature. The specific assistance that is given to local areas and local government is in relation to capital projects and I am quite happy to make that information available, but it is more appropriate

that that be done under the capital lines rather than the recurrent, because that is where it resides. We will take that on notice.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Did the Minister elaborate on the inland waters recreational boating project?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I do not know at this stage whether we have any outstanding projects before us but, as they arise during the year, this would be the bucket of money from which that subsidy would flow.

**Mr HAMILTON:** The Minister once put it that Fort Glanville was a jewel in the crown in terms of my electorate. I believe this Government has done a tremendous job in terms of Fort Glanville Conservation Park, particularly in relation to the consultative committee on which I serve. That has been an enlightening experience for me. What is the program for the completion of Fort Glanville Conservation Park?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** As the name implies, the management of Fort Glanville, as advised by the local committee, is in the hands of the National Parks and Wildlife service, so perhaps Mr Newland may be able to provide more specific information than I have in front of me.

**Mr Newland:** Funds have been provided for development at Fort Glanville under the Jubilee 150 arrangement. This department is contributing \$20 000 capital funds to allow for the construction of a visitors centre at Fort Glanville. I assume that this is the project to which the honourable member is referring. My understanding is that this work will be completed under 12 months, hopefully before the end of this financial year.

**Mr HAMILTON:** At page 24, there is reference to completion of interpretive displays at high visitation parks. Could the Minister elaborate on those specific locations and those being considered? Indeed, what is the program for the upgrading of office accommodation and bus site toilet facilities at those specific locations?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Again, Mr Newland will be able to give us the specific information.

**Mr Newland:** The completion of interpretive displays at high visitation parks relates to displays currently being arranged for the new visitors' centre at the Coorong National Park and also the new district office and display area at the Belair Recreation Park. In relation to the question relating to upgrading office accommodation and bus site toilet facilities, that relates to the Flinders Ranges National Park. It is our intention to upgrade the office accommodation at the Wilpena Motel expending \$120 000 of capital funds, and \$26 000 of capital funds on upgrading the bus site toilet facilities at the Wilpena camping ground.

**Mr BAKER:** My first question to the Minister relates to the communications tower saga. In response to a question I put on notice some time ago, the Minister said an anthropologist was being appointed on contract to look into the particular site in question to ascertain whether, in fact, it was an Aboriginal site. Can the Minister report on the findings of that study?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I understand that the matter in relation to Mount Barker has long since been resolved. I will take that question on notice and bring back a reply.

**Mr BAKER:** I note that less money has been allocated in 1985-86 for sand replenishment on Adelaide beaches, although there was an over expenditure in 1984-85. Part of the explanation is provided at page 20 of the yellow book: it is stated that some of the moneys previously allocated were for the Witton Bluff project. How much of the \$606 000 will be spent for sand replenishment on Adelaide beaches, and how does that allocation compare with the cost for last year?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I am happy to supply that information, although technically this involves capital expenditure.

**The CHAIRMAN:** It would be more appropriate if the honourable member asked that question in relation to the next line.

**Mr BAKER:** I note that the member for Albert Park has asked a number of questions about pollution management, and almost two years ago I asked when all the agencies of Government would get their collective acts together so that pollution management was the responsibility of one agency. I know that there are impractical aspects, but a lot of people seem to be involved in similar activities in this area.

Two years ago the Minister gave an assurance that there would be significant break-throughs and that there would be no duplication of effort. I noted from the response to the question asked by the member for Albert Park about water pollution that there are two if not three agencies involved in that area. Given the concerns expressed right around the world about pollution management, I believe that it is about time South Australia got its act together. How far advanced are we in making one agency responsible, so that inter-acting agencies can have an input?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I do not know that it is necessary or indeed desirable that the one agency has to have responsibility for the monitoring of all the activities that cause pollution of one sort or another. For example, the E&WS Department has a long history of involvement in the monitoring of the processes that affect the Murray River, and the fact that that department has prime responsibility in respect of Murray River pollution and my own department has responsibility regarding air pollution does not matter all that much. What is important is that there is proper coordination of activity in all these areas. The honourable member may or may not have heard of the Marine Environment Advisory Committee. I believe that Mr Inglis from my department chairs that committee. It brings together the various agencies that have responsibility for the marine environment—the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Marine and Harbors, my department and the E&WS Department. That seems to me to be reasonable and adequate machinery for dealing with these cross-disciplinary questions.

In addition, through the assessments branch of the Development Management Division of my department, there is the capacity for the impact of any proposition for development to be measured, requiring that the Planning Act be brought into force. My feeling is that, although one can always improve in these matters, we have a small Public Service in this State and people are in reasonable contact with each other: the officers concerned in the various departments know each personally and work together. Basically, my department provides a policy input, with implementation and management being the responsibility of the particular agency, whether the Department of Marine and Harbors, the E&WS Department and so on.

If I misled the honourable member in any way in reply to his question two years ago by hinting that there may be a complete amalgamation of all those various units in Government that have responsibility for pollution control, I apologise, because that is not what I had in mind. I believe that our system is working reasonably well at present. As I said in answer to other questions, more resources could always be provided, but it is a matter of responding to problems as they arise and amending the mechanism to address those problems.

#### Membership:

Mr Plunkett substituted for Mr Groom.

**Mr BAKER:** Much has been said about the sensitive area of vegetation clearance in the past 18 months, and there has been reference to the performance of some officers of the Department of Environment and Planning. Members would be aware that certain officers of the department acted very sensitively, and I know that farmers and my colleagues praised the efforts of some officers of the department. I believe that the farmers on Eyre Peninsula were treated very well, but in some other areas the treatment was somewhat poor. Because of the criticisms of the actions of some of the officers, what action has the Minister taken? Has he taken some officers off the job, retrained them or given them better advice about how to handle the farming community?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** A comprehensive report was prepared by my officers in regard to every allegation that came before the select committee. I was completely reassured by that report, and it is to be found in the papers of the select committee. In the light of that report I saw no reason for any further action on my part.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Members would have noticed graffiti on buildings and fences around Adelaide referring to the banning of noise pollution, and I take it that it refers to trail bikes, motor vehicles and so on. What, if anything, can be done to reduce the noise that emanates from trail bikes in particular? What action has the Government taken or considered to reduce the offensive noise, which I, personally, find hard on the ears? What effect do dune buggies have on the environment in South Australia and what action should be taken to reduce the noise? How successful has the action taken been?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The Committee has already considered the question of noise from moving vehicles, and I can only reiterate that the only way in which we can tackle this problem properly, given that the sources of the noise move from State to State, is by uniform State legislation negotiated, of course, with the Commonwealth. We are moving along those lines.

I anticipate that recommendations will come out of next year's AEC meeting. The problem with dune buggies is not so much noise as their impact on the natural environment. There was a good deal of interest in this matter in the mid to late 1970s and at one stage a set of drafting instructions was prepared, probably under the ministry of Don Simmons. There was a good deal of public comment and controversy.

The decision was finally taken that, before proceeding with such legislation, certain areas of the State should be set aside for the use of off-road vehicles because, without that, the law would probably simply be disobeyed. I cannot comment on what happened between 1979 and 1982. I do not know that there was too much activity in that area, but I do not know. Since that time, work has been done with the Department for Recreation and Sport in relation to this matter and there has been a considerable amount of work done on an area at Port Gawler for the setting aside of an area for off-road vehicles; this would be seen as the first of a considerable number of such areas set aside for this type of activity. I understand that Mr Harris may be able to assist us a little further on this.

**Mr Harris:** A number of areas have been looked at as potential off-road areas for enthusiasts. The Port Gawler area is certainly one where a lot of work has been done, but others have been looked at. More recently, however, there has been some evidence to suggest that there has been, at least in localised areas, an upsurge in activity with trail bikes and off-road vehicles, and some reassessment of the

whole issue is being undertaken at the moment within the department.

**Mr HAMILTON:** It has been put to me that, in other States, various Government departments have what they call a public liaison officer; members of the public can ring a specific number and speak to a specific person. Has the Minister given any consideration to this aspect, because I have been informed that in Western Australia this works very effectively? I am not reflecting on any of the employees of the Department for Environment and Planning, but it might be appropriate if we had such a person in South Australia. I am aware that that would have wider connotations for every other Government department, but could the Minister elaborate on what consideration has been given by the Government in terms of his and other departments?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** We have, of course, the Community Information Service of the department set up in the basement of the department, and possibly the honourable member has visited that on several occasions. I guess that that is the public face of the department. It is from there that a lot of information is directly available and lots of publications—maps, pamphlets and whatever—can be obtained. That is not open on weekends or in the evenings, but I believe that the phone number of the Director of CIS is published and therefore there is an after hours contact that is available. Our people maintain a continuing exchange of information and materials with the general Government Publications Office which is situated in the basement of the Stock Exchange tower. I am no longer Minister for that facility as I was when I was Minister of Lands through the Department of Services and Supply, but I know that there are very close links between the two.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Referring to development management, what is the number of people who have left the Development Management Division in the last three years and what was their position at the time that they left? Could that information be provided if it is not available immediately?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Yes. We do not have it now. In passing, the biggest rearrangement that has occurred in relation to staff in that area would be when it was amalgamated with the old Department of Environment and Conservation.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am talking about that time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I ask that questions taken on notice be replied to in a form that is appropriate for insertion into *Hansard*.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I recall that last year a specific time was set down.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes, the clerks are ascertaining the time for me.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** My second question relates to the Issues/Trends under 'Development Management':

Achievement of an appropriate distribution of responsibility for the regulation of development between State and local government.

It would appear that some of the responsibility that had been handed out to local government might be in the process of being pulled back in again. We also find:

The impact of development in water catchments in the Adelaide Hills.

The Minister would be aware of the controversy surrounding that subject, particularly as it relates to the issue that I referred to earlier with the appropriate distribution of responsibility between State and local government. It can be said that local government in the Hills generally is very much opposed to the direction that the Government is taking. I have had the opportunity to speak to most of the councils and almost all of them, with the exception of Stirling, would be against the proposal. There is an absolute necessity to determine the direction that the Government

is taking in this regard because it is felt very strongly that the Government is in fact hiding behind the water catchment regulations to halt some development in certain parts of the Hills, particularly, for example, in the Bakers Gully area where there is yet no reservoir. Water is let go into the sea, yet the people there on the land are under the same regulations. To top it all off, I was advised this morning that a major bicentennial road project is going right through the middle of it, which would seem to put a stopper to any future dam development in the area, so the people are being disadvantaged.

How genuine is the Government about that, because we continue to hear the Government making these sort of suggestions that that is the direction that we should be taking, yet local government is very much of the opinion that it is being given a raw deal?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Regarding the road project, I know nothing of it at this stage. That would have to be handled as a section 7 application under the Planning Act and, as such, I have the power to have some control over it. Let us not just assume that it is going to happen because someone said that there is a project around the place.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** It is being assumed by a lot of people.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Neither the honourable member nor I have much control over those sorts of assumptions that people make. All I say is that there is a mechanism available for us to operate if we are concerned along the lines that the honourable member appears to be that, if that road is built, then it certainly would have an impact on the future plans of the E. & W.S. Department for that area. Further, in relation to the Bakers Gully area, I would hope that that reservoir is never built on general environmental grounds. I hope that our water management practices would be such in the future that we would avoid the enormous cost both in dollar terms and possibly environment terms of having to have a further water storage on the Onkaparinga.

It is not true to say that the Government is hiding behind the general water catchment policies in order to simply satisfy its lust for power *vis-a-vis* local government. It is certainly true to say, however, that our general water catchment policies mean that we are very concerned that there should be some uniformity of development control procedures in those Hills areas in the public interest. The E. & W.S. Department is very concerned about the continued deterioration of water quality for the metropolitan area. I am sure that, when the Minister of Water Resources is sitting either in this chair or the one in the House of Assembly, wherever his Committee is, he will be only too happy, either directly or through his Director-General, to give some specific information to honourable members about the results of the monitoring that is being carried on. Ideally, there is little doubt that development controls should be operated in these areas by local government.

Our sole concern is that the control should be uniform between various local government areas for equity reasons and, secondly, should reflect our environmental concerns, particularly over the quality of Adelaide water. We continue to discuss the matter with local government. I defy anyone to be able to identify a trend away from local control in the past couple of years of my administration of this portfolio. However, because of what is at stake, I have been understandably cautious as to the way we should go.

**The CHAIRMAN:** In reply to the member for Murray's query in relation to the date for responses from the Minister to questions on notice, I point out that the deadline is 18 October. They may be available before that date, but they are to be in by then.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Another issue under development management is the bushfire hazard in the Adelaide Hills and the effectiveness of related planning controls. In February I received a letter from the Minister indicating that a supplementary development plan was being prepared for the Adelaide Hills fire-prone areas and that it would focus attention on special policies relating to development in fire-prone areas. The letter went on to say that the Minister was keen that the Government's desire to ensure that all councils with fire-prone areas will have the means to control the siting, layout, building design and construction materials of dwellings in fire-prone areas of the Adelaide Hills. There has been a lot of discussion about that. With the fire season just about on us, what is the current situation?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I refer the question to Mr Hodgson, who will describe where we are with the supplementary development plan.

**Mr Hodgson:** I cannot give exact dates, but the plan has been completed in draft form. Following consultations with the affected local authorities throughout the hills fire prone (as defined in the plan), areas we expect that the plan will go on display shortly.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Is that consultation with councils taking place now?

**Mr Hodgson:** It will take place very shortly.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I was very interested in a statement attributed to the Minister this morning in relation to cardboard containers. Can the Minister elaborate, particularly in relation to milk containers? What discussions have occurred with the industry? What is contemplated in this area?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I have had no specific discussions with the industry at this stage. In fact, the whole point of the inquiry is to give industry a forum to make its viewpoint known on this and all other aspects of the beverage container legislation. The suggestion arising from the statistics is that something like one eighth of all litter is made up of waxed cardboard cartons. This almost certainly results from the very successful efforts of the industry to make milk 'sexy'. It means—

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** How do you do that?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** In days gone by milk was consumed in the home and, therefore, the container was tossed in the rubbish, resolving any litter problem. With Choc Shake and bikini girls on television telling us to drink gallons of it, in fact people are drinking more of the flavoured beverage. By its very nature it is drunk out in the environment rather than in the home, on picnics and at the beach, and it creates a litter problem. From our experience with the beverage container legislation we can say that one of the reasons that it is littered is that as a package it is worthless to the consumer. If it had an attribution of value, such as a deposit of 5 cents or something like that, people would return it to the point of sale or to some sort of depot.

Given the fragile nature of cardboard milk containers, I am not too sure that it is appropriate to deal with this problem and the question of a deposit under the beverage container legislation. I can only say that this problem has developed over the past four or five years. This form of packaging was not seriously envisaged when the beverage container legislation was introduced—basically, it was to cover glass or metal. We must get on top of the problem either through legislation or in some other way. The advantage of the legislation is that it provides an incentive to return the container to an area where it can be properly handled for recycling or disposal; whereas, litter fines are a punitive measure which must be administered in some way, and for the most part not many people are caught.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I am interested in the continuing Port Pirie lead monitoring program, as described on page 28 of

the yellow book. As a person who lived at Port Pirie for 11 years, I retain an interest in the city, despite the fact that I have lived in Adelaide for a number of years. What monitoring of lead levels from motor vehicles is carried out in the metropolitan area? Which areas have the worst results in relation to this problem? What areas, if any, are under review in terms of lead level problems? Is any remedial action contemplated or currently in vogue?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** In view of the specific nature of the question, I refer it to Mr Inglis.

**Mr Inglis:** Lead levels are monitored in metropolitan Adelaide at Thebarton, West Terrace, and at Northfield. Because of the high volume of traffic, we expect to find high lead levels at Thebarton and on West Terrace and, in fact, they attract the highest readings in the metropolitan area. Almost all lead readings in the metropolitan area can be attributed to motor vehicles. No other source admits lead to the atmosphere. The agriculture station at Northfield gives us a background reading, because there is not much traffic passing close by. Therefore, we can compare the two sets of readings. In relation to remedial measures, lead is being phased out of petrol. In fact, in the lead-free petrol now on sale in South Australia the residual lead content is extremely low. It is expected that the market share of that petrol will grow from the present 8 per cent to about 90 per cent over the next 10 years. As a result, there will be a continuing decline in the amount of lead admitted to the atmosphere over the next 10 years. That should bring it down to a level far below any health concern.

**Mr HAMILTON:** In terms of lead pollution, I suggest that a quantity—if not the majority—would end up on the roads. I refer to a catchment area from Hindmarsh, along Port Road into the West Lakes waterway and from other areas through drains which flow into the waterway from what I know as the Henley and Grange waterway. What monitoring, if any, is conducted and what effect does it have on the amount of lead in the waterway?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I refer the question to Mr Inglis.

**Mr Inglis:** There is only spot monitoring of lead entering the drains and waterways. It has been monitored both here and overseas for a long time. We can predict from the traffic volume and the amount of petrol consumed just how much lead will enter the different waterways.

It is fair to say that any lead emitted from motor vehicles eventually ends up on the ground and is washed down the stormwater drains. Almost all of it eventually ends up in the sea. We have not been able to detect any elevated areas of lead off the metropolitan coast except in the very near vicinity of some sewage outfalls, because some lead is also discharged through the sewage system. Again, as far as we are able to differentiate effects from lead on other pollutants entering the sea, we see no real cause for alarm from the levels of lead that are presently entering the sea along the metropolitan coast.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I have a supplementary question. What would the considered harmful level of lead be, in terms of what you have spoken about?

**Mr Inglis:** I am not sure I can answer that. I could obtain figures that are recognised as the normal background ocean levels. However, I do not think it is relevant to the metropolitan coastline. I can only draw a comparison with the Port Pirie discharge figures, which are much higher than the figures around Adelaide. We are not able to detect any real harmful effects on the flora and fauna in the sea from discharges of lead at Port Pirie. Because the metropolitan coastline discharges are so much lower, we have very little cause for concern. I will obtain the specific readings if that will help.

**Mr GUNN:** In relation to the Burra copper interpretive centre, yesterday I received a letter from the Premier which stated:

I refer to your letter of 10 September 1985 enclosing a copy of a proposal from the District Council of Burra Burra.

I met with the Jubilee 150 Board on Wednesday, 18 September, at which time they reported to me their concerns regarding the proposed copper interpretation centre. However, I have decided to seek an urgent report from the Minister for Environment and Planning on this issue and have referred the matter to his office.

I hope that the matter can be quickly and satisfactorily resolved. I will keep you informed of the outcome of the Minister's investigation.

Yours sincerely,  
J.C. Bannon,  
Premier

A copy of this letter went to the District Clerk of Burra Burra and the Leader of the Opposition. I further draw the Minister's attention to an article that appeared in the *Advertiser* of 20 September 1985 which caused me considerable concern. It states:

Top public servant joins fight for Burra project

A senior public servant has expressed concern at plans to reallocate funds for a major Jubilee 150 project at Burra in South Australia's mid-north. The Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy expressed his concern in a letter to the Chairman of the Jubilee 150 Board, Mr. G. Mulvaney, and has sent copies of the letter to the Premier, Mr Bannon, and the Federal Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism, Mr Brown.

The Burra Council also has stepped up its fight to keep funding for a copper museum and tourist information centre... The \$210 000 centre was to have been part of a \$470 000 Burra heritage project approved by the board.

I raise this matter with the Minister not because I am dissatisfied with the action that the Premier has taken. The Premier and his staff have been most cooperative and understanding. However, my concern is that the board may have made a decision to reallocate the funds to Port Adelaide without giving proper consideration to the Burra application. The Minister will be aware that Burra is one of the most important heritage areas in South Australia; it goes right back to the early period of South Australia.

It is fair to say that the District Council of Burra Burra has been very keen and concerned to ensure that the heritage of the area is preserved. It has encouraged tourist interest in these facilities and, to put it mildly, it is most unhappy with what has taken place. The council believes that it has not been properly informed by the Chairman (Mr Mulvaney), and that is putting it very mildly. I bring the matter to the Minister's attention in this way so that all concerned will be aware of the high priority that the Burra people place on this matter. The Minister will be aware that the Burra council has made representations to the Federal Government, and I understand that federal members are showing a considerable interest in this matter. I also understand that heritage people have been involved. I am looking forward to obtaining a further report from the Premier. However, I believe that I would be failing in my duty if I did not raise the matter in this forum, because the District Council of Burra Burra and its executive officer have been very diligent in this matter.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I know a good deal about this and there is cause for concern, although I do not think that anyone in particular is to blame. I will outline the cause for concern shortly. I do not know whether the Premier has yet received the solicited report from me and my officers in relation to this matter. However, I have, at his direction, undertaken investigations and I have had a meeting with the Chairman and the Executive Officer of Jubilee 150. This is part of a broader project, as the figures quoted by the honourable member indicate, and there were four components to that project. I understand that three are beyond doubt and that one or two of those may even be completed, although I am not sure about that.

Therefore, we are talking about one of four aspects of the project. From the figures quoted by the honourable member it is the largest of the four projects. Quotations have come in for this project and they are way beyond what was envisaged. As I understand it, Jubilee 150 has reluctantly recommended to the Premier that that part of the overall project not proceed. Prior to making a decision on the matter the Premier asked me to look into it from the point of view of heritage and what have you, which I have done. There is little doubt that the inauguration of this project would do much, so far as my departmental officers are concerned, to enhance those heritage matters that we have worked so hard to bring before people's attention.

However, if the money is available from the Commonwealth—I am not quite sure what the honourable member is referring to when he talks about federal members—that would make good the shortfall from Jubilee 150, the Premier might be prepared to look at it in a different light. That is, as far as I see it, where it starts and ends. We see it as a desirable project, but we also accept the contingency of Jubilee 150 that the probable outcome would be a considerable overrun of budget and, in those circumstances, it is really for the Premier to determine whether or not it is possible for the project to proceed.

I regret the strong possibility is that this component of the overall project will not proceed. However, it relates to purely the fact that the costs have come in well above what was indicated. The same sort of factors, perhaps to a lesser extent, are operating here as operated in relation to that figure about which I startled the Committee this morning, about the Aboriginal rangers' houses at Balcanoonna.

**Mr GUNN:** I have a supplementary question. Is the Deputy Premier aware of a submission by the District Council of Burra Burra dated 21 August addressed to Mr G. Mulvaney for the attention of Ms Beth Hourigan re the Burra Burra heritage town project? That letter sets out in detail the submission and states:

Approval is sought for a slight variation in use of the major component of the Burra Burra Heritage Town Project allocation of \$470 000.

Will the Minister ensure that this report is brought to his and his officers' attention? The letter went to the Premier and would be in the file. I believe that the matters contained in it would go a long way to resolving the concerns that have been expressed about doubts in funding.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I am happy to take that up. Mr Mulvaney is not my officer. The member for Eyre is a considerable ornament to this Committee and we would not want to lose him for five minutes. However, he may want to slip along the corridor and ask the Premier the same question. I do not know at what stage during the day Jubilee 150 comes before the Premier, but that is another possibility. If that is not possible I am only too happy to take the matter up. I am not sure whether that report from Burra indicates how we overcome the budget problem that it basically is.

**Mr GUNN:** For some time there have been discussions and suggestions that a major tourist resort would be built somewhere in the Flinders Ranges. An article dated 17 September from the *Flinders News* states:

Resort will benefit Flinders Ranges: the study looking at the prospects of a tourist resort in the central Flinders Ranges represents the most effective action the Department of Tourism can take to foster economic benefits for the whole Flinders region.

In view of the fact that the Minister's department has a considerable involvement in the Flinders Ranges, with its planning and with various restrictions placed on people—and I could go into detail on the problems that people have had in relation to other controls—has the department been involved in these studies, and is the Minister able to give

any indication of whether there will be a major tourist development in the Flinders Ranges?

Obviously, it will have to be developed by private enterprise. Will it be outside local government areas? If it is inside local government areas, will local government be involved? Another document has caused concern, particularly to the District Council of Mount Remarkable, where there have been some concerns that the State Planning Commission may endeavour to take the administration of the Flinders Ranges away from local government. I raise these matters in relation to the development of a tourist centre. I am not in any way knocking it, but I want to know where the Government, particularly the Department of the Environment, stands at this stage.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** There is little doubt that the Department of Tourism sees the Flinders Ranges as being a prime location for a major tourist development. I guess that the general Wilpena Pound area has attracted most attention. My department has not undertaken any specific studies in relation to this matter; our involvement has been through the joint committee that my colleague the Minister of Tourism and I have between our two departments. Should a specific proposition emerge, there is little doubt that we would have a very close input into the matter because our major concern would be that such a development would not have the sort of impact on the immediate environment as to bring about a deterioration of the very values that have attracted the development in the first place.

As to the location, certainly if it was within the incorporated areas of the State, local government would be involved. Unless special arrangements were involved, such as an indenture, local government would be the development control authority in relation to such a development, for the most part, although, as the honourable member knows, there are special arrangements between local government and the South Australian Planning Commission in respect of the environmental A class areas in some, but not all, of the ranges. The areas that we are talking about probably fall into that former category.

**Mr Newland:** There is little more that I can contribute. The additional information that I can contribute is as a member of the National Parks Tourism Liaison Committee, to which the Minister has referred. We have been advised on that committee by the tourism representative that the study being undertaken by consultants for the Department of Tourism on the possibility of establishing another tourist facility in the Flinders Ranges is likely to bring down its report to the Minister of Tourism some time in the latter part of the year—about October or November.

**Mr GUNN:** In view of comments made to me, I have no alternative but to ask this question to get the information: can the Minister explain to the Committee whether his Ministerial assistant is given time off from her duties assisting him to attend public functions in the electorate that she intends to contest at the next State election? I ask these questions because the Opposition has had comments made to it. I put these questions in the most reasonable fashion that I can. I am not attempting to carry out any personal denigration, but the matter has been raised.

I understand that Ms Gayler is the ministerial assistant. The Opposition has been advised that on 1 November 1984 she attended a community luncheon in the Newland electorate. On 6 November there was a child care function. On 11 December, there was a senior citizens meeting; on 12 December between 9 and 10.30 a.m. the opening of the Tea Tree Gully Community Welfare Centre; on 29 March 1985 between 1.45 and 3 p.m., a meeting in the electorate; on 3 April a public meeting organised by TAFE; on 3 April an afternoon function at the Tea Tree Gully council; on 19 June she led a deputation from the local residents to the

Minister of Water Resources; on 21 June between 9.15 and 11.30 a.m. she attended a north-east welfare and education team meeting. On 11 July 1985, between 9 and 11.15 a.m. she attended a local early children's services meeting. On 24 July, all day, she attended an extended O'Bahn inspection with the Minister of Transport. On 2 September she spent all the afternoon at a senior citizens function. On 3 September she spent all day at a Tea Tree Gully TAFE conference. On 20 September she spent all day with the Premier and other Ministers in the electorate and made an announcement about the new police station at Tea Tree Gully. The Opposition is interested—these matters have been brought to its attention—as we understand that the person in question is a full-time employee. Therefore, we want to know whether she is given special time off to attend these functions or whether she has done it at the request of the Minister.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** First, the *Hansard* record will now testify to the extraordinary activity of that individual in her attempt to win that seat: it is an interesting chapter.

**An honourable member:** At the expense of the taxpayer: that is very good!

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** The honourable members who interject do not understand that people who have been in employment for some time accumulate leave. Provided the proper procedures are gone through, that leave can be taken. On every occasion on which Ms Gayler has taken leave a piece of paper has been placed in front of me requesting that leave be taken. It has all been done properly. Should Ms Gayler exhaust the leave that is available to her she would be required to take leave without pay if she wanted to take additional leave. No entitlements have been taken that were not entitlements.

**Mr PLUNKETT:** My question concerns coastal protection and takes in the area that is closest to my district: between Henley Beach and Glenelg. Can the Minister say what sort of project his department has for erosion protection over the coming period, and also for sand replenishment, mainly in the West Beach area? I was very surprised when two days ago I went there and saw the damage that has been done to the sand dunes. I presume that part of the damage would be because of the recent storms. The sand dunes there have been taken a long way back. I have worked in the area for 13 years and it is the worst I have ever seen. What work has the department planned for the replenishment of the sand and also for protection against further storm damage?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** The worst time to see our beaches is at the end of winter. The energetic wave movements of winter have the effect of scouring the beaches and transporting the sand offshore to form an offshore bar. The quieter water movements of summer return almost all of this sand to the beach and to the remnant dune system; so that the best time for seeing the beaches is at the end of the summer season and before winter.

There is a further specific problem in relation to the West Beach area and that is that it is immediately north of the breakwater at the Patawalonga outlet, which acts as a groin and builds up sand and therefore tends to interrupt the natural replenishment which the longshore drift—the south north movement along the coast—would otherwise make available. A good deal of work has been done along this section of beach over the years. There has been replenishment, and the rip rap walling has been constructed. There are some dramatic photographs to show the improvement that has occurred, particularly in the Henley Beach South area immediately north of the Torrens outlet, as a result of that rip rap walling and planting project. As for the specific plans for work to be done in advance of next winter, I



would have to refer to Mr Harris, if, in fact, he has the information with him.

**Mr Harris:** There is a general program of sand replenishment for the metropolitan beaches and we can provide specific information for the honourable member in relation to the area in which he is interested. In addition, specific rock walling protection is programmed for the Henley Beach area in the forthcoming financial year. Again, we can provide specific details for the honourable member at a later stage.

**Mr PLUNKETT:** The area I am referring to is a little farther down from Henley Beach. I am aware of the great job that is being done there by the department, but does the department intend continuing that work farther down near the West Beach Caravan Park, as West Beach is probably one of the most popular beaches in Adelaide, mainly because of the caravan park situation. Are there any plans to rip rap that section, because there has been a lot of talk about the \$1 million development program near the boat haven? I do not think that would do the sand dunes any good, either. What talks has the department had with the developers of that project near the boat haven?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** In relation to specific programs, that actually comes under capital items and we may have to get that information, anyhow. However, in relation to the project immediately north of the Patawalonga outlet, I have to say that probably as much of the discussion between the developer and the Government as on anything else has been on the question of the impact that this would have on the beach. The honourable member may know that there has been talk about replenishment programs. In particular, a sand pumping method has been talked about that could work in one of two ways: by providing for the sand to be pumped around the Patawalonga outlet and this development on to West Beach so that the littoral drift could continue; or, alternatively, it could be pumped back in the Brighton direction so that, in effect, the Adelaide seafront is divided into two separate cells with a natural replenishment from the north occurring at Brighton beach. We would then no longer be involved to any great extent in the sand trucking operation to Brighton but instead we would concentrate on the West Beach area. Those talks are continuing and, so far as I am concerned, a successful solution of that problem is really my condition for the approval of the project.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** On page 36 there is a reduction in the recurrent expenditure in relation to technical advisory services and community awareness promotion. I also note on page 41, in relation to professional and technical support, the following reference:

The need to develop a complementary marketing plan to the department's community awareness program to ensure the most effective targeting and delivering of the department's information and community education services.

How do these two tie together? Obviously, there is a reduction in resources in one area, and yet the need is there as a major issue.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** In relation to the specifics of the allocation, it would be necessary for us to take that on notice. All I can say to the honourable member is that it does not always follow that, where a thrust is made in a particular direction, that has to imply additional resources. It may be possible to do what is required in a different way with the same, or even marginally reduced, resources. I apologise for the fact that we do not have the specific details for the subprogram; we will obtain them.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I make the point that I recognise the need as spelled out as an issue, and it seems a bit strange when emphasis is placed on that as an issue that it is being cut back in recurrent expenditure.

The Minister would obviously be waiting for me to ask him a question about the situation that has occurred at the

Belair golf course and reported in tonight's *News*. Is the Minister aware of that situation, and does the Government support the construction of the fence?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The problem seems to have arisen over the definition of the lease, and that occurred before my time. It would appear that there was misunderstanding about whether the Tea Tree Oval was or was not included within the lease. It is now clear that whatever the intention of the department at the time or, indeed, the honourable member, as the Minister, technically Tea Tree oval is in the lease.

The proposition of the lessee is that this area should be developed as a golf driving range. There is concern, because trees would have to be chopped down, including some fairly recent plantings, and I have decided this morning that I will oppose the development of that range. That will be of some disappointment to the lessee, I have no doubt. Let me say that this person has done a very good job during the time that that lease has been available; however, I do not believe that it was ever really the intention that this portion of the park should be developed for that purpose. Before expectations are heightened, I have a responsibility to put the record straight. The appropriate approval will be withheld.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** The yellow book refers to the need to identify options for future metropolitan growth beyond the existing planning area boundary. Recently there has been reference in the media to that subject. The *News* stated that the UDIA was calling for strong planning decisions to avoid shortages and price escalations, suggesting areas where the Government might move into urban development. The *Advertiser* recently stated that major decisions on Adelaide's future urban development that could lead to areas such as the Southern Vales being turned into housing estates could be made by the State Government early next year. I would like more detail about that. Specifically, who will be given the responsibility for putting together that report? As the Southern Vales has been referred to, what is the position in relation to the supplementary development plan for the Southern Vales which is under the responsibility of the Willunga council?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I promise to control myself in regard to this matter, because I could go on for hours and I know that members have other questions. There has been a degree of editorialising in headlines regarding the UDIA document, and I regret that, as possibly does the UDIA—I am not sure. Anyone who took the easy conclusion from that headline (that this Government was suggesting that the Southern Vales be developed) was involving himself or herself in a *non sequitur*, because I have made perfectly clear that in searching for further development options for Adelaide, first, the use of the Southern Vales should remain horticultural and agricultural and, secondly, the second generation parkland exercise must also be taken into account. I see that as an early stage in the development of our future options.

There is little doubt that the UDIA, quite properly, as an industry sees areas like the stock paddocks, Craighburn, the Southern Vales and, indeed, Glenthorne (which has been referred to) as prime areas for residential development. Certainly, they are prime areas for residential development, but I believe that the expectation of people in the metropolitan area is that these areas should retain their essential open character, given that there are other tunes to play. My departmental officers are involved basically in the preparation of material that will enable the Government and the Urban Land Trust to make the appropriate decisions in relation to land banking, and those decisions must be made fairly soon.

However, I point out that we are talking about supply of and demand for land in the late 1990s and beyond the turn of the century. This is a quite separate debate from the one that emerged a couple of years ago about immediate stocks of land. The action that was taken then seems to have satisfied the market in the short to medium term and some people say that we will be back to a situation of over-supply of allotments in the next year or so if the heat comes out of the market in the way that everyone is expecting.

Let us not confuse the two issues. There is the short to medium term issue, which we as planners do not have to address but which, as those concerned for the servicing of allotments (for example through E&WS and ETSA) we may have to address. Secondly, there is the long-term issue, where we have some elbow room for looking at these broader issues. Obviously, the Government accepts its responsibility to make decisions as soon as possible so that the Urban Land Trust can purchase land for its essential land banking activity and people can be reassured that areas like the hills face zone, the second generation parkland area (as it will eventually be defined) and the McLaren Vale area will remain in their essentially open character.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What has happened in relation to the supplementary development plan?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I understand that it has been referred back to the Willunga council for further consultation. Clearly, there are differences of emphasis between the Willunga council and the Government in relation to the way in which that area should be developed. First, I think we both accept the necessity to ensure that the coastal strip, which, with the exception of the Aldinga scrub, has the general designation of 'living', should be refined according to the normal sort of zoning regulations as R1, R2 and so on in most council areas. There is also an acceptance that the area to the east of the McLaren Vale to Willunga road should remain as horticultural.

It is in relation to what the Willunga council calls the cereals belt, basically between the Willunga and the Yankalilla roads, that differences arise, with the Willunga council envisaging a closer scheme of subdivision than the Government believes is reasonable if we are to retain that essentially open character. Before I conclude on this point, I might say that the Primary Producers Advisory Committee of the Advisory Committee on Planning is at one with the Government about the desire to retain as much as possible of present primary producing land in primary production rather than that land being sacrificed to hobby farms and other sorts of peri-urban activity. In deciding to go back to the council and say, 'There are still areas of concern and disagreement', we have largely been operating on the advice of Mr Pfitzner's committee.

**Mr GREGORY:** The Black Hill nursery operation is referred to at page 25 of the yellow book, and an increase of expenditure is indicated. Are the sales of plants from that nursery increasing or remaining steady, and where are the plants propagated?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Mr Newland will answer that question.

**Mr Newland:** I understand that there has been a slight increase in the sale of plants at Black Hill. The plants are propagated in the nursery complex at Maryvale Road, Black Hill.

**Mr GREGORY:** Why will the allocation for Program Management and Administration be increased considerably?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** In relation to the Black Hill nursery, I have figures of income from sales at the nursery which indicate that in 1983-84 sales amounted to \$66 479 and in 1984-85 they amounted to \$76 169. That bears out

Mr Newland's contention that there has been a modest increase in return.

The only aspect that would excite any interest in relation to Program Management and Administration would be a proposed expenditure through the Community Information Services of \$19 000; otherwise, superannuation cross charges, workers compensation premiums, inflation provisions and the like are involved. We will provide information on the CIS.

**Mr GREGORY:** On page 27 there is a slight increase in recurrent expenditure with a reduction in staff. That line covers law enforcement: the evaluation of applications and permit administration; inspections, investigations and prosecutions; holding and disposal of confiscated fauna/firearms. Could the Minister state how many firearms were confiscated and how much fauna has been confiscated and if there have been any successful prosecutions in the last 12 months?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I will refer that to Mr Newland. In relation to fauna confiscation, we have a special facility available for the care and control of the fauna so confiscated, so there is a good deal of that occurring.

**Mr Newland:** I do not have specific information in relation to the honourable member's question but, if we take that question on notice, we will provide that information for him.

**Mr GREGORY:** If you are taking it on notice, then how many animals are being held from people without licences—that is, backyard breeders as opposed to persons actually trapping in the wild?

**Mr Newland:** I think that we could get that breakdown.

**Mr GUNN:** This is the first opportunity that I have had to ask the Minister and his officers face to face questions on the Flinders Land Management Plan, about which there have been some concerns. A letter from the District Council of Mount Remarkable, dated 8 August 1985, states:

Further to recent letters to you in the matter of the Flinders Land Management Plan, I enclose for your information, copies of:

- (a) Letter from the Department of Environment and Planning replying to specific questions raised by council with officers of that Department.
- (b) Letter from the Minister for Environment and Planning to Mr Gunn, in response to his question on notice.
- (c) Briefing notes circulated by the Project Manager at the last Land Management Plan meeting held in Port Augusta on 17.7.85.

It is noted that in the Minister's letter to Mr Gunn, it is stated that two groups to oversee the preparation of the plan are to be formed—one based in Adelaide, the other in the Flinders.

This suggestion was made by the Project Manager, P. Simpson, at the last Land Management Plan meeting held on 17.7.85. The suggestion was vehemently opposed by all local groups present at that meeting. Their reasons being:

(1) The Minister stated in his letter to councils when inviting their participation:

I invite your council to become fully involved in the work on the plan and to treat this invitation as one to a 'working partner'.

I have said enough, because there is concern from the councils and other people in the area that people living in the Flinders Ranges may have imposed on them a set of conditions and requirements with which they do not agree. They believe that they are unrealistic and in their view may be contrary to long-term proper working of the Flinders Ranges. People engaged in the pastoral or tourist industry may be affected. The Heysen Trail is one example. I have had local people come to me in anger because there have been iron posts driven in on the Heysen Trail, but they believed that wooden pegs would have been the correct material to use to designate the trail.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The honourable member will have to take up the matter of the Heysen Trail with the Minister of Recreation and Sport, because that is his par-

ticular area. This is, of course, a matter of the classic dilemma that we have between what might be called State objectives and responsibilities on the one hand and local concerns on the other. Throughout the State, people are faced with the situation where there are general State controls that apply that they perhaps do not like too much but they are justified in the general public interest. A couple of examples could be given. People in the hills face zone no doubt would like to be able to be far more free with what they could do with their properties than current regulations permit. Similarly, people in that Willunga basin to which we referred recently would like to be far more free in the scheme of subdivision that applies. If you allow that, you would finish up losing that area as a primary producing area.

The problem at Mount Remarkable, as I understand it, is that the council has said that it regards that area as being environmentally different from those areas to the north, and the way in which the environment class A areas are being handled in the north is not really appropriate to an area such as this where there is high rainfall, where perhaps it is an environment that is able to regenerate more quickly. As to the specifics of where we are with negotiations, I would ask Mr Hodgson to comment. Again I make the point that, if it is possible to secure State concerns and policies through local government administration, I am only too happy that that should happen, but I have that wider responsibility.

**Mr Hodgson:** The honourable member will probably be aware that there has been a separate policy document prepared for the Mount Remarkable area in close consultation with the council and the department. That is likely to be authorised very shortly. In fact it is being considered by the advisory committee on planning this week, if I am not mistaken. The difference of opinion with the council essentially turns on whether or not there is some guarantee once that SDP is authorised that the policies contained therein will be locked into place for the indefinite future and will not be affected by the wider review of land use and land management policies that is being set in train at the moment. The advice that we have given to the council is the SDP that is likely to be authorised fairly shortly will provide us with a useful base line against which to measure some of the ideas that may be thrown up in the course of the wider review. Certainly we would need to be satisfied that the policies as they are actually put into practice by the council are adequate before any longer term commitment was made. The current review is going to be looking closely at the experience with the Mount Remarkable SDP and it is not possible at this stage for the Government to commit itself to no change in that SDP, but it is more than likely that that will prove to be the case.

**Mr GUNN:** I am happy for this question to be taken on notice if the information is not immediately available. As I understand it, it is the policy of the Government and the department that approximately 5 per cent of the total land mass of South Australia should be set aside in either national parks or conservation areas. Is this still the policy and, if so, does the Government still have areas of land which it intends to set aside for national parks and has it carried out any review of areas which were purchased early in the piece for national parks some of which, in my judgment, would not be particularly suitable? Has the Minister and the department come to a successful conclusion with the Calca tennis club and the District Council of Streaky Bay in relation to resolving that particular matter? Finally, can the Minister have included in *Hansard*, so that everyone can understand, the Government's intentions in relation to the quota for harvesting kangaroos for this financial year?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** Perhaps I might put my officers on notice in relation to Calpatana but, in relation to the general question, there has never been any actual adoption of policy that 5 per cent of the State set aside for national parks is appropriate. I think that that is something that came from conservation bodies outside the department. I would prefer to look at each piece of land on its merits to determine what is the appropriate way to go. We still have areas of the State that we are interested in. Some of the unallotted Crown lands, for example, one of which was subject to a policy announcement of mine a while ago about the Tirari desert. That is an area which we see with the bed of Lake Eyre as being appropriate for national parks treatment.

I agree with the honourable member that there are some small areas of the State that perhaps should never have been placed under reservation. The question is: what should we do with them? A couple of years ago I was shown an area known as Pike River. The very name conjures up all sorts of pleasant images, but in actual fact it is a bare and barren part of the environment which runs down towards the Murray River. The area was apparently purchased some years ago with the assistance of Commonwealth money. No one has been able to tell me why it was purchased for national parks purposes and placed under some sort of reservation. However, that is the situation and we have a continuing responsibility for it. I do not know, if we absolved ourselves of that responsibility by a motion of both Houses of Parliament, that that would have much impact on land management practices over the whole of the State.

I believe that at the present about 4.6 million hectares of the State is actually under reservation. I think that in excess of 5 per cent has been purchased (or there are policy decisions in relation to reservations but the purchase has not technically happened). In relation to kangaroos, no decision has been made about the next harvest (as some people call it). I do not anticipate, in the light of information that I have at present, that we would be likely to recommend an increase in the quota from what has obtained in the past 12 months. As the honourable member would know, this is something that is now negotiated with the Commonwealth, although almost invariably the State recommendation in this matter is accepted by the Commonwealth.

**Mr Newland:** The aerial surveys for the counting of kangaroos in the commercial zone of the State have been completed, and the figures are currently being compiled by Sydney University. The information that I have so far is that generally the trend for both red and grey kangaroos and for euros is upwards. On the basis of the extent of the upward trend, it is likely that we will recommend to the Minister an increase in the quota on last year. As the Minister has already pointed out, the quota is subject to sanction by the Commonwealth. Therefore, we are not in a position to be any more definitive than that at this stage.

In relation to the Calpatana water hole conservation park and the future of the Calca tennis club, the honourable member would be aware that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has almost finished a draft management plan for the conservation park which, of course, picks up the particular issue of the future of the tennis club. My reading of the management plan, which has not been referred to the reserves advisory committee and therefore to the Minister, indicates that we suggest excision of the area currently occupied by the Calca tennis club so that the land can then be vested in the District Council of Streaky Bay.

*[Sitting suspended from 3.37 to 3.52 p.m.]*

**Mr GUNN:** In relation to the Calca tennis courts, Mr Newland indicated there was to be a recommendation to take some of the area from the current park. Will that

include enough to extend the area for an extra tennis court and some parking?

**Mr Newland:** I understand that the area proposed for acquisition of the park will allow for the establishment of an extra tennis court.

**Mr BAKER:** Will the Minister table the lead documents on the dates outlined earlier for Ms Gayler in relation to functions she attended as the ALP candidate?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I guess that they are available. I will chase them up with the Public Service Board and see where they are.

**Mr BAKER:** Will the Minister indicate, in relation to the question he has already taken on notice, whether a summary could be made in relation to whether or not a leave pass exists for those functions?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Of course.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Will the Minister advise what quantities of materials are dumped at sea—whether or not this comes under his jurisdiction I am not sure—and the types of materials dumped (liquids, toxic wastes, etc.)?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** That specific legislation is committed to my colleague, the Minister of Marine. However, as I indicated earlier, Mr Inglis is involved with SAMEAC (the South Australian Marine Environment Advisory Committee) and he may have some information for us arising out of his involvement with that committee.

**Mr Inglis:** Over at least the past 10 years no material has been dumped in South Australian waters nor in offshore waters from South Australia, other than dredging spoils. No toxic wastes are disposed of in South Australian waters from South Australian sources and, as far as I am aware, there has been no dumping of interstate materials off the South Australian coast.

**Mr HAMILTON:** In terms of monitoring discharges and the dumping on land in South Australia, what types of materials are involved in relation to toxic wastes and whereabouts are they dumped?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Again, this is waste management authority stuff, and that is committed to my colleague, the Minister of Local Government. Again, the very busy Mr Inglis is my representative on that authority and I will defer to him.

**Mr Inglis:** I would prefer that a specific answer was sought from the Waste Management Commission. Very little dumping of toxic material occurs in South Australia.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** How is the review of the National Parks and Wildlife Act proceeding in relation to deregulation? How much longer does my colleague, the shadow Attorney-General, have to go through all the traumas of getting a permit to keep his two tortoises? I have raised this matter for the past three years. The shadow Attorney-General has given me information relating to the annual saga of renewing his permit to keep the two tortoises. He has just received a departmental form showing the current status of his children's tortoise herd. He then has to return the form. He will then be sent an application form for a renewal of the permit. He will then forward a cheque with the application and finally receive a permit.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I am interested in knowing that the shadow Attorney-General still has two tortoises. I assume that they are of the same sex. Perhaps I should defer to Mr Newland in this matter. Part of the problem is that as we get somewhere near to a draft someone finds other suggestions that should be considered for incorporation in the legislation. Mr Newland may be able to assist with a timetable so far as the department is concerned.

**Mr Newland:** There are two aspects to this question: first, the National Parks and Wildlife regulations; then the Act itself. The service has committed itself to provide for the

Minister a package to amend the regulations by Christmas and a package to amend the Act by March/April 1986.

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

Works and Services—Department of Environment and Planning, \$4 533 000

**Chairman:**

Mr G.T. Whitten

**Members:**

Mr S.J. Baker

Mr R.J. Gregory

Mr G.M. Gunn

Mr K.C. Hamilton

Mr K.H. Plunkett

The Hon. D.C. Wotton

**Witness:**

The Hon. D.J. Hopgood, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment and Planning, Chief Secretary and Minister of Emergency Services.

**Departmental Advisers:**

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

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

Mr Norman Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr John Hodgson, Director, Development Management, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Colin Harris, Director, Conservation Programs, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Geoff Inglis, Director, Pollution Management, Department of Environment and Planning.

Dr Brian Morley, Director, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Nicholas Newland, Acting Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mr Garry Stafford, Director, Technical Services, Department of Environment and Planning.

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

**Mr BAKER:** In relation to sand replenishment on Adelaide beaches, I note the change in the amount allocated for 'Coastal Management'. Will the Minister indicate what was spent last year and what is intended to be spent this year on this program?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Under the general heading 'Coastal Protection' the position for 1984-85 was: Adelaide metropolitan general rip-rap bolstering \$40 000; metropolitan sand replenishment \$396 000—I will return to that figure in a minute when we look at the figures for 1985-86; Witton Bluff rip-rap protection \$360 000; Onkaparinga River cliff erosion control \$34 000; Robe town beach groin (about which there was considerable comment) \$77 000; other minor projects \$99 000.

The other projects this year total \$50 000: beach stabilisation at Kingscote, \$24 000; North Shields protection, \$40 000; Henley Beach rock wall, \$32 000; Witton Bluff protection, \$60 000; metropolitan sand replenishment, \$400 000. The specifics of the honourable member's question were, \$396 000 last year and \$400 000 this year: we are

talking about roughly the same figure. It relates very much to the number of storms that we had in the winter.

**Mr BAKER:** Why is this treated as a capital item? It is ongoing, almost a maintenance item. Why is it not in the recurrent budget rather than in the capital budget?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** These are sometimes matters of fine judgment. The Committee will have noted that the vegetation retention scheme was put under recurrent rather than capital this year. I am in the hands of Treasury in relation to these matters. The metropolitan sand replenishment has been seen as securing other assets: the assets of the property holders who front the coastline. As such, it is not inappropriate for it to be included under capital; it would not be inappropriate, however, for it to be included under recurrent along the lines that the honourable member has indicated.

**Mr BAKER:** Will the Minister ask the Treasurer whether it is still appropriate to have that item shown under the capital budget? The other question is whether it is appropriate for the vegetation heritage money to be shown under recurrent. I consider that it is inappropriate, given the way in which the funds are being spent.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Yes. I discussed the vegetation matter in some detail with the Under Treasurer when these estimates were being formed.

**Mr Hill:** As it relates to the sand replenishment program, it is funded from the coast protection fund, which is deemed to be a capital fund in its totality. We are not aware of the source of those funds as it relates to Treasury's provision to us. It could be that they are provided from recurrent sources, but it is managed as a capital fund.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** As I mentioned very early in today's proceedings, I am particularly concerned about the ramifications for national parks as a result of the significant reduction in the capital expenditure. We note under 'Park Management Planning Research and Information' a drop from \$1 555 000 to \$1 096 000. I am aware of the concern that is being expressed, both by people who work in those parks and by the community generally, about what that reduction will mean. It has been put to me that it will virtually mean that no new capital works at all will be carried out and that in some cases it will be difficult for the work currently being carried out to be completed. I referred earlier to some of the problems being experienced within national parks, and I do not want to go through all that again. I see it as being very serious. I find it hard to accept that, just because of the lack of loan funds available, such dramatic cuts are being made this year.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** One of the problems that we have had to deal with is the identification of the additional funds under recurrent—but the honourable member's colleague has already indicated that there is a degree of greyness there—for the vegetation retention scheme. There is little doubt that the \$1 million a year that we will spend possibly for the next 10 years under that line is securing a nature conservation asset and also a degree of management, which will occur outside of the national parks system by private land-holders, but which, nonetheless, is akin to what happens within the system. We will secure, as it were, a second string national parks system with management in the hands of private landowners, with support being provided from resources. We have been forced to move into that area as a result of a decision of the High Court, and we accept the necessity to move in that direction.

While it is true that, initially, there will be one or two problems in relation to some of the work that would otherwise have been carried out on parks, we have to accept that if we are now moving on this new front we cannot always do as much in proceeding under the old front as we would like to do. These reductions do not impact on the

overall program in relation to the contingent expenditure under national parks. That is something that we have already dealt with under the recurrent lines, and in the past couple of years additional moneys have been built on top of the base to assist the rangers in their operations—to ensure that they do not run out of petrol money, and those sorts of things. All of that can continue, but we will certainly be pulling in our horns a little in relation to land purchases and some capital projects, although a sum of money is still allocated, which will be spent in the most efficient way possible.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I do not find that acceptable. I understand what the Minister is saying about the need to find that additional money, but we have already discussed in an earlier line a situation where we will find that for years to come that sort of money, and probably more, will be required to fund the Vegetation Management Act. Does that mean that we will not see any further capital works of a significant kind being carried out in national parks while that happens? We have already indicated that none of us knows how long that situation will continue and how long we will be required to put money in towards that fund to pay for that compensation, etc.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I certainly hope not. I hope that in future budgets it will be possible to provide additional loan funds to national parks, particularly in relation to capital works. I would like to see considerably more work done on interpretative areas in national parks, and that requires some building funds to be made available. We have ongoing responsibilities in relation to fencing and roads in some national parks areas, and one could go on multiplying these examples. Some of that work can be done with the money that has been allocated, although not as much as I would like any more than the honourable member would like.

The matter of future budgets has to be left to future budget-making exercises, but I would not see that the total allocation to the overall national parks cum vegetation management area is fixed for all time. I hope to be able to persuade Government in future to provide a considerable increase of resources in these areas.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Under heritage conservation, I have noted that there is a slight increase in capital expenditure. Consideration has been given for some time now to the need to provide further incentives to people who have heritage properties. I am aware of the report that has been commissioned for the Government, setting out some recommendations on future incentives. Can the Minister indicate what action is being taken in regard to those recommendations? When is it likely that we will see some results?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Some action has already been taken, as the honourable member knows because we have put legislation through the Parliament recently, which will provide some very modest form of incentive. The major thrust of the reports that we have had done has been in relation to the use of income tax mechanism for the provision of incentives for the retention of heritage buildings.

Of course, that is something which resides with the Commonwealth. We have had no joy there at this stage. I continue to impress on other State Ministers the importance of a joint approach in relation to these areas because I think that is the best way in which we can persuade the Commonwealth to move in this area. We have the information; we have placed it before the Commonwealth; and we have placed it before the other States. I cannot say when our advocacy is likely to bear fruit.

**Mr HAMILTON:** On page 42, in relation to administrative and clerical support, the following statement appears:

Develop personal ergonomic and administrative systems for management of RSI risk.

Can the Minister elaborate on how big or small this problem is?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** We are able to give information, but we may have already dealt with that, if that is not specifically a capital item.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I could ask the same sort of question of all of the lines relating to capital expenditure. If we look down the track, we see that there has been a significant reduction in capital expenditure proposed for botanic gardens from \$429 000 to \$326 000; what does that mean? Is that as a result of significant work having been done at Mount Lofty? I would have thought that there is a continuing need for more work of a capital nature to be done in botanic gardens. What does that reduction mean as far as the botanic gardens are concerned?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I am sure Dr Morley can give us a detailed breakdown of how we intend to expend the money that has been allocated.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** It is not a matter of how we will expend what has been allocated; it is a matter of what will happen as a result of last year's outcome being reduced so dramatically.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** That results in a list of projects which would probably be shorter than would otherwise have been the case. The only way in which I can assist the Committee is to have Dr Morley indicate the major outlines of the work that will be undertaken this year.

**Dr Morley:** It is a reasonably simple answer, since most of the reduction has been absorbed by a decision to defer much needed restoration work to the old tropical conservatory in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. The board has simply chosen not to proceed with that capital works project. However, as the Minister has indicated, there are always capital works to be done in all of the gardens; there is a long list and, if the money is not there, it just means that things have to be postponed in so far as they are susceptible to postponement.

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

Deputy Premier and Minister for Environment and Planning, Miscellaneous, \$795 000

**Chairman:**

Mr G.T. Whitten

**Members:**

Mr S.J. Baker

Mr R.J. Gregory

Mr G.M. Gunn

Mr K.C. Hamilton

Mr K.H. Plunkett

The Hon. D.C. Wotton

**Witness:**

The Hon. D.J. Hopgood, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment and Planning, Chief Secretary and Minister of Emergency Services.

**Departmental Advisers:**

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

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

Mr Norman Johnson, Chief Finance Officer, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr John Hodgson, Director, Development Management, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Colin Harris, Director, Conservation Programs, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Geoff Inglis, Director, Pollution Management, Department of Environment and Planning.

Dr Brian Morley, Director, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Department of Environment and Planning.

Mr Nicholas Newland, Acting Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Mr Garry Stafford, Director, Technical Services, Department of Environment and Planning.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I notice that it is proposed that the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia is to receive \$678 000; I presume that is for the City of Adelaide facility. It is of particular interest to me to note that we are only going up from \$76 000 to \$81 000 as far as the open range zoo at Monarto is concerned. The Minister would recognise my interest in that development. What is the status of that development and what is proposed in the next 12 months as far as that facility is concerned?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The amount set aside in the white paper at page 59 is for the management of the agistment area at Monarto, and the overall question of the open range zoo awaits a separate Government decision. A good deal of planning work has already gone into this project and I share the honourable member's enthusiasm for this development but one cannot get everything one wants all at once.

At this stage there has been no allocation specifically for the open range zoo, on the grounds that it is unlikely that any significant work on the ground will be undertaken in this financial year in relation to the project. It is not being abandoned. It is a project that continues to receive a good deal of interest from my officers and elsewhere in the Government, and I would anticipate that in due course a decision will be taken that we will proceed with the project in one form or another. I must make clear that the line here is in relation to the agistment area rather than the open range zoo itself.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** With respect, can I suggest strongly to the Minister that, if that is the situation, he should advise the Murray Bridge council that that is the case. I am led to believe that at least some of the committee members appointed to look further into the development of the Monarto open range zoo feel as though they have been left floundering. They are not quite sure where they are going, what is happening, whether they will be required on an on-going basis or just what the situation is.

Within the past few weeks I have received further correspondence from the Murray Bridge council asking me to ascertain what is the current status and what is likely to happen. I have talked to the council and I have suggested that it should make further representation to the Minister. However, I think it is only fair that it should be advised officially of the current situation as far as that development is concerned.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Certainly, the Chairman of the interim steering committee is well aware of the lack of a specific provision in these lines for that to occur. However, if the Murray Bridge council is in the dark, we will certainly illuminate it.

**Mr GUNN:** As I understand it, as Deputy Premier, he is the Minister responsible for all requests for members' facilities.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** This is not the line. The position is that as Deputy Premier I have no capacity actually to do

anything in relation to members' facilities or electoral offices—that is all done through the Department of Housing and Construction; however, I am the conduit through which requests flow to the Government and specific recommendations are made to the Cabinet. Once those decisions have been made, it is for the Minister of Housing and Construction to take them up with his Department. Any specific questions really relate to items under Mr Hemmings's lines.

**Mr GUNN:** I wanted to raise the matter because I was advised that at a particular line I would be able to raise these matters with the Minister. As this is the Miscellaneous line, I thought this would be the appropriate time.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I am in the hands of the Chairman and the Committee. I do not want to withhold information, but I make the point that this line does not relate to electoral offices.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If the honourable member wants to ask that question, he must ask the Minister of Housing and Construction. It is unfair to ask the Minister for Environment and Planning when the matter does not concern him.

**Mr GUNN:** I do not want to have a fight, but it is completely crazy. I want to ask questions on policy matters in relation to word processors, computers and the deplorable conditions in this building that the staff have to put up with; those conditions are outrageous, considering the conditions in other Government departments. As all requests have to be channelled to the Deputy Premier, I wanted to channel some comments to him, because I will not get another chance.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The honourable member will have another chance. We are examining the expenditure of the Minister for Environment and Planning and the Deputy Premier. I have already advised the honourable member that the Minister of Housing and Construction is responsible for this matter, and the honourable member will have an opportunity to ask those questions on Thursday week. I will not allow him to ask those questions of the Minister for Environment and Planning.

**Mr GUNN:** I will certainly do that, and I did that on previous occasions when this Minister was Minister of Services and Supply. The real problem is that there is an instruction, I believe under the hand of this Minister in his capacity as Deputy Premier, that these matters that are to be taken up with the Minister of Housing and Construction, Mr Hemmings (according to my understanding of the current situation, confused though it may be) must ultimately be directed to the Deputy Premier. Therefore, I want to make the requests, brief as they may be, to the Deputy Premier on this occasion. From my reading of the documents, this matter comes under 'Miscellaneous'.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The honourable member should not get excited. The Minister and I have advised the honourable member of the situation. The Minister said that he is the conduit. The expenditure comes under 'Minister of Housing and Construction and Minister of Public Works, Miscellaneous'. Therefore, the honourable member is out of order asking these questions. Does he wish to ask a question that is in order?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I can understand the honourable member's frustration, but I point out that these decisions are taken in the context of policy that has been worked out by Cabinet. My colleague is equally aware of the policy and I am sure that he is perfectly set up to respond. I would be happy to respond, but there is just not that capacity, given the way in which the Estimates Committees are worked out. My function in this case is largely clerical. Decisions are taken by Cabinet and Mr Hemmings is as fully aware as I am of the policy background against which those decisions are made.

**Mr GUNN:** I refer now to 'Miscellaneous' for the Department of Environment and Planning. Will the Minister ensure that agreement of the local authorities is obtained before plans for the Flinders Ranges, which were referred to earlier, are put into effect?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I do not know that I can give as much of an assurance as the honourable member would like. I would certainly give an assurance that there will be full consultation, but I cannot give an assurance that, where all that a local authority is prepared to agree to is less than the Government would desire, the Government will necessarily stop at that point and not want to take a further step. I am not too sure how this question was justified in the light of the line we are discussing, but again I am not trying to be difficult. It is for the Committee to decide whether questions are appropriate. This line refers to boating facilities on inland waterways, Ministers conference, grants to the National Trust, the Royal Zoological Society and the National Centre for Rural Fire Research.

**Mr GUNN:** Why have funds been allocated for boating facilities on inland waterways under the lines for the Minister of Marine and the Minister for Environment and Planning? Why is there a division of responsibility? That seems to be somewhat unnecessary. This matter should be under the control of one Minister.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** It would be a very neat and tidy arrangement except for the fact that the Murray River is a harbor. In fact, the arrangement could be represented as simply as this: I have responsibility for inland waterways and the Minister of Marine has responsibility for the coast. But there is the added complication that the Murray River is a harbor, and so my colleague retains responsibility in that regard. The advice I have in front of me (which can be checked) is that, despite that anomaly grants for boating facilities (and basically I am talking about recreational boating) are made under my lines and the Minister of Marine retains the responsibility for the coast.

**Mr GUNN:** I appreciate that. I note that this year no funds have been allocated for the National Centre for Rural Fire Research. Has that area been transferred to another Minister? In view of earlier questions about the need for controlled burning off and other action in the Flinders Ranges to control bushfires, under what line have funds for research been allocated?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There is no allocation and there was no actual expenditure last year. Before we got around to providing the money, that body was disbanded. I believe that this work is now being carried out largely through the CSIRO. Perhaps the matter could be raised again when Mr McArthur comes before the Committee in relation to the line for the CFS.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I always thought that financial assistance to the Conservation Council, as the umbrella conservation body, came under 'Miscellaneous'.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** That was changed last year. The Committee might be prepared to exercise some indulgence because, obviously, the honourable member has been waiting to ask questions in this regard believing that 'Miscellaneous' was the appropriate line. However, I believe that this matter comes under conservation programs.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What was the grant last year?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Last year the allocation to the Conservation Council was \$35 000 and the proposed grant for this year is \$37 500. In effect, we are providing for escalation and in real terms the grant remains very much as it was. It comes under the general allocation of conservation programs.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What about Kesab?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** There is a proposed allocation of \$130 000, which is a marginal reduction in comparison to what was spent.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What was voted?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** It was \$140 000.

**Mr BAKER:** I note that the allocation for the Minister's salary and allowances will be increased by \$8 000.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I believe that the honourable member may be a bit off beam again.

**Mr BAKER:** I refer to special payments.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We are referring to 'Miscellaneous'.

**Mr BAKER:** The yellow book refers to the 'Miscellaneous' line and special account payments.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I must again remind the member for Mitcham that we are now discussing the lines on page 59, 'Miscellaneous', a total of \$795 000.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** I think perhaps what has misled the honourable member is that we allowed some latitude in relation to those other grants because it had been missed when we went through the recurrent expenditure.

**Mr BAKER:** I will just explain that in fact the ministerial salaries and allowances in the yellow book—and I know that we are dealing with the white book when we are actually doing the Estimates—come after the miscellaneous lines in the presentation of the yellow book. I did not pick up the item which should have been picked up, but I cannot find his salaries and allowances.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Page 58.

**Mr BAKER:** I have missed the item. I will ask it in another Committee. I would really like to know why the salaries and allowances have gone up 11 per cent.

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

Auditor-General's \$3 042 000

**Chairman:**

Mr G.T. Whitten

**Members:**

Mr S.J. Baker  
Mr R.J. Gregory  
Mr T.R. Groom  
Mr G.M. Gunn  
Mr K.C. Hamilton  
The Hon. D.C. Wotton

**Witness:**

The Hon. D.J. Hoggood, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment and Planning, Chief Secretary and Minister of Emergency Services.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr T.A. Sheridan, Auditor-General.  
Mr K. Cotter, Administrative Officer.

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

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Through the Minister, I would like to commend the Auditor-General for an excellent, very well detailed report which has helped the Parliament significantly. I notice that on page 50 under 'Implications for Resources' in the Agency Overview, it states:

The corporate objectives and strategies as outlined can be attained within the proposed lower level of resources. However, any special investigations undertaken or new audits may result in a variation.

If we go to page 57 under 'Issues/Trends' again, we find:

Respond to requests for assistance in special investigations or other matters connected with public sector management including financial management.

That concerns me, because I think that there would always be a necessity for new audits or special investigations to be carried out. If the resources are not available, I see some severe implications as a result of that, and I would like the Minister to express his thoughts on that matter.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** Perhaps Mr Sheridan could indicate to the Committee whether he believes there is any resource problem that has not been properly addressed by these Estimates. If we have the resources available to properly carry out the function that is enjoined upon us under the Audit Act, then there is no real problem.

**Mr Sheridan:** There is no real problem. The resources that we have, although they have reduced somewhat in the last 12 months, are adequate. I am quite happy with the adequacy of the resources and with the competence of the resources to undertake the auditing work that we need to do for the departments and various statutory bodies. The reference to the special investigation is I guess a note of caution. It is perhaps a little bit of conservatism. There are some special investigations that we are required to do from time to time. They are *ad hoc* things with no regular pattern to them. We did not have any last financial year but we had two in the previous financial year that the Attorney-General asked us to do in relation to a legal practitioner and, I think, a physiotherapist. We have another one that we have been asked to do this year. I am quite satisfied that we can handle them within the resources that we have. In the event that we happened to get three or four major ones at the one time that took up quite a number of months, then certainly I might have to look at some way of handling that. That could, of course, be handled by engaging a person from another Government department, if he were available, to do it or to engage a private practitioner from one of the consulting firms. I do not really see a problem in it.

**Mr GUNN:** Could the Minister advise the Committee whether the Auditor-General looks at efficiency audits within Government departments and statutory authorities during his inquiries, and, if so, what amount of time is taken up? It has always appeared to me to be very well to carry out an audit to make sure that the funds are appropriated as either Parliament or the Government directs, but it would appear to me to be a useful exercise if an efficiency audit was carried out occasionally to make sure that the funds and the employees have been directed in a manner which is going to give the best return to the taxpayers and make sure that the limited resources that we have are spread in a manner which is most efficient.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** The short answer is 'Yes'. If the honourable member would like, I invite Mr Sheridan to expand.

**Mr Sheridan:** That is the case. We look at what I call 'value for money' audits, but it is a fine line of distinction between value for money and efficiency. We look at those as part of the financial and compliance audit that we are required to do. In the past year we have done quite a few. They do not necessarily always take on the appearance of a major investigation occupying months and months of work and a whole range of people. Indeed, I believe that it is far more productive to look at smaller assignments to which you can assign perhaps two people. You can complete it within the time span of say no more than four or six months. We have done a number of those during the course of the year. Some of them have been mentioned in the report that was tabled in the Parliament a fortnight ago.

**Mr GUNN:** Does the Auditor-General, in a case of his efficiency audit examining particularly statutory authorities and other boards of committees, look at the whole ambit



of those organisations with a view to seeing whether they are still carrying out the function for which they were originally set up, and whether there is still a demand or necessity for them to continue to operate?

**Mr Sheridan:** That would certainly fall within the span of a value for money audit as I would see it. I would have to say at this stage that we have not specifically done that in a number of statutory authorities, certainly not looking at this stage whether the functions that they are still performing are the same, although with the Health Commission this year, we have raised that point after an examination that we did of a particular aspect of its operation.

**Mr BAKER:** During the 1984-85 year, the employment resources of the Audit Department fell by some six full-time equivalents below the proposal—from 78.9 to 72.8, according to page 52 of the yellow book. Can the Minister advise what tasks were not done as a result of the shortfall in resources?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** It relates to a reorganisation. I ask Mr Cotter to comment.

**Mr Cotter:** In October 1984 the department implemented a reorganisation which resulted in a reduction in the field audit section from 15 to 13. The loss of staff did not in any way influence the quality of work being performed at the time. As Mr Sheridan indicated earlier, the department is quite happy with the number and quality of the staff.

**Mr BAKER:** I was simply making the observation that the numbers fell well short of expectations. In fact, this year the auditing service has increased by 3.4. I refer now to recurrent receipts for the auditing services. I presume that the receipts come from statutory authorities. Who is charged by the Auditor-General's Department and at what rate?

**Mr Sheridan:** The charge is made to statutory authorities for auditing work done for them. We do not charge Government departments. That seems to be historical and it is something that I am currently looking at. With respect to the way we charge, we determine the scope of the audit that we will undertake for the coming financial year. We then assess the number of hours that will be involved in the audit and we advise the statutory authority of the cost. The actual cost charged is based on the time put in, at the cost we charge out. For our normal financial and compliance auditing the cost that we charge would be well comparable with private sector charges. When one adds the value for money work that is done in some areas, that adds to the cost.

**Mr BAKER:** I was specifically interested in the hourly rate. I have a colleague in a statutory authority who said that the audit costs are getting out of proportion. He wanted me to find out whether the Auditor-General could do it cheaper.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** It works out at about \$27.50 an hour.

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

Mr K.H. Plunkett  
The Hon. D.C. Wotton

**Witness:**

The Hon. D.J. Hopgood, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment and Planning, Chief Secretary and Minister of Emergency Services.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr D.A. Hunt, Commissioner of Police.  
Mr D.J. Hughes, Director, Administration and Finance, Police Department.  
Mr J.A. Humphries, Manager, Resources, Police Department.  
Mr F.E. Bowering, Senior Finance Officer, Police Department.

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

**Mr BAKER:** I have previously heard concern expressed by police officers about the high incidence of people leaving the Police Force. There has also been an increase in the turnover of police officers. Will the Minister indicate whether or not he has any information that will shed light on the extent to which police officers have left the force under workers compensation or pensions? What is the turnover for 1984-85 compared to 1983-84?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** During 1984-85, 74 members resigned from the Police Force and five resignations were received from cadets, making a total of 79 resignations. There were 74 resignations in 1983-84. Of the 79 resignations, 23 (or 29 per cent) were from female members. Using the resigning members as the sample group, the average length of service was 10.9 years for males and 4.5 years for females. Total separations of members/trainees made up of resignations, deaths, dismissals and retirements for 1984-85 were 123. The honourable member asked about workers compensation. I will defer to Mr Hughes in relation to any figures, if we have them available now.

**Mr Hughes:** No, we do not have any figures in relation to workers compensation at the moment. We have details in relation to the number of retirements on account of invalidity. During 1984-85, 23 members left on account of invalidity compared to 29 during 1983-84.

**Mr BAKER:** In relation to neighbourhood policing, a number of statements have recently been made and some of those have been politically orchestrated. In the local press mention was made that the Goodwood police station may be opened up for neighbourhood policing. The distance from the major police stations (that is, Darlington and Unley) clearly indicates that Goodwood is a stone's throw from Unley and that Colonel Light Gardens is further down the track. What consideration has been given to the opening up of the Goodwood police station? Why has it received preference over Colonel Light Gardens, which I have been told will be closed?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I take it that that is the nub of the honourable member's question, rather than more general matters; I am prepared to comment on some of the more general matters. As I understand it, it relates to the actual demands on the time of the police officer who has been stationed at Colonel Light Gardens in recent times. The case load is relatively low for a metropolitan station and people tend to take their complaints to other areas. It is not related to exactly where they live, but there are other areas close by where they have complaints investigated.

The general trend was such as to suggest that in the total context of the metropolitan policing strategy—one which I remind honourable members will provide additional operational resources—it was not unreasonable to proceed in

Police, \$129 499 000

**Chairman:**

Mr G.T. Whitten

**Members:**

Mr S.J. Baker  
Mr R.J. Gregory  
Mr G.M. Gunn  
Mr K.C. Hamilton

this way. If the honourable member can provide information, other than what is available to me, I would be interested in it. The information I have is that the case load is quite low at that particular station.

**Mr BAKER:** I make the comment that the police station is very small and does not have the resources or facilities of a larger police station. Therefore, by definition, it will not be used in the same way as a larger police station, as the Minister will understand. The comment was made, in terms of strategy, that Goodwood was not far from the Unley police station. I can understand having neighbourhood policing through the Unley police station in a bigger way than it has been in the past. It would seem to be a diffusion of resources if Colonel Light Gardens police station is closed for various reasons. Why is there now serious discussion about Goodwood police station?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There is no immediate intention to close any police station or police offices. The workload at each of these stations and offices will be closely monitored. If the assessed workload does not justify the provision of the station or the office service and a better service can be provided at a nearby station, then a submission to close the office or station will be made. We are continuing to monitor it. That is also the case in relation to Blackwood and other areas that have been mentioned.

In relation to Goodwood, this is an area of considerable commercial activity and it is those sorts of activities as much as the problems of people having their houses broken into during the evening that provide our people with a very heavy workload. It is appropriate that Goodwood is identified as a place for this particular treatment.

**Mr BAKER:** Publicity has been given to the fact that resources of the Police Department will be increased by some 50 personnel. There was the implication that those people would be out on the street protecting property and persons. However, when one looks at the detail provided on pages 68 and 70 of the yellow book, which shows the areas where police resources will be disposed, one finds that crime prevention and general police services have increased by 12 personnel; crime detection and investigation services have decreased by 6 personnel; and the rest are fairly well lineball. Road safety is held at 388.2 persons. There is a net increase of personnel—the people the public see—of some seven personnel, which is a far cry from the 50 that was discussed in the booklet and touted in the paper. Can the Minister explain why more personnel are not out there on the beat?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I am afraid that the honourable member has not absorbed the full flavour of the papers that we have in front of us, because the additional people at this stage are shown as cadets, as they have to be shown, under 'inter-agency support services'. That is why they do not show up under these lines, but they are there, nonetheless.

Since 1982 there has been an increase of 84 in all. The 49 mentioned in recent press announcements consists of 26 metropolitan policing, seven crime detection and investigation (ICBI), two fraud squad, two gaming squad, six for prosecution services, five under the Aboriginal aides scheme, two licensing squad, and three communications centre. They are there, but they do not show under this specific program, for the reasons that I have outlined.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I have expressed a great deal of interest in the past in the neighbourhood watch and school intervention programs, particularly in the neighbourhood watch program. In November 1983 I asked a question about it. It is fair to say that this scheme, particularly in my local community, has gained wide public support to the extent that I have a petition in my office of about 1 400 signatures calling for a neighbourhood watch scheme to be implemented within the electorate of Albert Park.

Naturally, the incidence of vandalism and the various types of crime are of concern to the whole community. The announcement by the former Minister in April this year of the pilot neighbourhood watch program certainly generated a lot of public support. Whilst I am aware that this pilot program in Flinders Park is under review, can the Minister elaborate on proposals in relation to the neighbourhood watch program? I also seek information as to the number of requests from members of Parliament, organised community groups, local government groups and other authorities, seeking for this neighbourhood watch program to be implemented within their respective areas.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** It has to be seen within the context of the broad corporate strategy of the Police Department. The germ of this comes from the establishment of the crime prevention section of the Community Affairs and Information Branch, established in June 1984. Its first task was set out in the Police Commissioner's strategic plan of 1984 to research and prepare a report and recommendations that could be part of an action plan and a comprehensive community-based crime prevention program.

The philosophy inherent in all of this is that people respond best to situations in which they are self-motivating and self-regulating. The prevention and control of crime is clearly a responsibility for the total community and not just for the Police Department. Any organisation that personalises its relationships with the public will derive major long-term benefits. So, the overall program, including the police schools education pilot study, was identified and a publicity campaign, formal liaison and consultation between the Police Department and Education Department for joint development projects were put into effect.

The neighbourhood watch program is one of these programs which, because of its novelty and involvement with a significant number of people in the community, has drawn considerable attention; the display at the Royal Show was another example of this. The area identified was a 600 home neighbourhood watch area at Flinders Park. Public response was overwhelming and continues to be enthusiastic. An attitudinal survey of residents was conducted prior to the commencement of the program, and a further survey will be held after a 12-month trial to indicate what change there has been in public perceptions concerning people's relationships to the police, their relationships to their homes and personal security, and their community responsibilities. Significant establishment costs are required for each area of 600 homes. In fact, a number of major companies, including banks and insurance groups, have indicated interest in discussing sponsorship of the program.

The watch is at a pilot study stage. It is exceeding our expectations in terms of public enthusiasm and improved community-police relationships. In 1985-86 the Government has provided for an additional \$121 000 for the prevention program, which involves additional staffing, \$17 000; equipment, \$4 000; administrative expenses, \$84 000; and \$16 000 for a vehicle. I have not got information—and I am not sure that the Commissioner or his officers have—in relation to what specific requests have come from either local government or the community for an expansion of this programme. We can certainly endeavour to get the information for the honourable member.

**Mr Hunt:** It is a popular program, and a number of requests have been put forward to the crime prevention section for an extension of the neighbourhood watch scheme into other areas. Additionally, there are two streams of the schools intervention: one is the activity that had its pilot study in the Henley Beach area and is now being extended into six other high schools.

We have already had discussions with the Education Department and received excellent support from the Direc-

tor-General of Education and his senior officers on the introduction of a scheme whereby police officers in these to-be-created-next-year subdivisional areas will liaise with parent-teacher groups in the various school districts, thus providing an avenue for the liaison, identification and solving of criminal tendencies in those areas, dealing particularly with school matters. There have been a number of requests—I am not sure how many—for an extension of the neighbourhood watch program and we are well on the way to introducing in those various areas the schools intervention programs as well.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I would certainly welcome that in my own electorate. There is strong community support within the Albert Park electorate, particularly in the Semaphore Park, West Lakes and Royal Park areas. In relation to police-community liaison information services on page 66, most South Australians with adolescent children would be aware of and grateful for the volunteer work performed by off-duty police in organising and attending Blue Light discos. What assistance is provided to the volunteers by the department?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** We now have a full-time officer coordinating this work, and that is a considerable commitment. We rely on the public-spirited nature of our policemen and women in giving up their time voluntarily to assist with the running of the program. A six-month secondment is being commenced by providing a constable as the full-time State coordinator. It is hoped that this secondment will be followed by a permanent establishment position for this important role. The operation is very healthy and is exercising an outstanding community relations initiative between police and young people.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What percentage of the people employed in the Police Department are non-operational?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** My advice is that it would be very difficult to put a number on that because it depends entirely on whether or not a particular position is regarded as being operational. We have people who are involved in a research capacity; is that regarded as being operational or not? What the honourable member is really getting at is whether a distinction can be made between direct involvement with the public and what we might call backroom operation. I would have thought that there are degrees of involvement which one could point to. We can give the honourable member as much information as he likes as to the breakdown of the overall structure of the Police Department and from that he can draw his own conclusions. In some cases it is difficult to say whether an officer is operational or non-operational.

I have a couple of examples: police who are performing what are called 'non policing' tasks act as a reserve for the police to meet departmental requirements in combating civil unrest, natural disasters or emergency situations. A police officer can be used in any position, at any time, to meet our primary objective, which is to meet the departmental operational demands. I assume that means that, if a person plays the euphonium in the police band, from time to time he or she can be called in for more direct policing tasks. In fact, some of those people were involved in the policing of Roxby Downs in the demonstration last year.

I am not trying to evade the question in any way and will provide any information the honourable member wants, but it is best for him to draw his own conclusions rather than have us draw conclusions for him.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** These questions are in relation to vehicles used by police and will probably need to go on notice: which public servants within the Police Force are issued with vehicles on a 24 hour basis? Who approves the issue of such vehicles? What criteria is used to justify the issue of these vehicles? What was the cost of such

vehicles over the previous 12 months? Are these vehicles used by other personnel on a daily basis? If it is possible, I would like a list of the occasions in the past 12 months when the persons issued with these vehicles used them for work related purposes after accepted working hours?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** Clearly, some of that will have to go on notice and we will get the information for the Committee, but the Commissioner assures me he has information here that would be of assistance to the Committee, so I will invite him to respond.

**Mr Hunt:** As the Minister has said, some of those finer details we will have to take on notice, but the general approach to the utilisation of the motor vehicles in the police fleet is worked out on an operational basis only. There is no permissible private use for police vehicles.

A criterion is laid down in policy within the Police Department as to who may use a vehicle and in what circumstances. An example of that would be somebody who is on continuous call for emergency situations, whether crime or operational or otherwise. A dog handler, for instance, might have to leave at urgent notice directly from his home to the scene of a crime or an incident.

There are other conditions as well when, under the responsibilities that we have, we are not in what we might call a normal line of policing—such as in a disaster or other emergency situation. In such circumstances there is a recognition of an instant recall. This also applies to people who have to pay visits to police installations either on the way to their homes or between home and work, and performing a variation of duties such as that. The number of people who are using these vehicles is recorded within the department, and this is reviewed.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What is the estimated cost of the overtime to be provided during the week of the Grand Prix, from 26 October to 4 November? What effect will that expenditure have on the overall budget for the Police Force for the 1985-86 financial year? Will the expenditure result in a cut in capital equipment projects?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** Policing arrangements are well in hand for the Grand Prix. As honourable members know, there are three days of preliminary events and anticipated crowds will range from 60 000 on each of the first three days to 120 000 on the Grand Prix day. About 350 police will be used on the two final days, with fewer officers on the first two days.

I do not have a specific costing in front of me as to the overtime, but it will be kept to a minimum, consistent with the responsibilities we have to discharge. However, it is contained as a figure within the round sum allowances. I would not expect that money would have to be taken from other areas, capital or recurrent.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Surely we must be getting to a stage of being able to say what that cost will be. If it cannot be provided now, I would like that cost to be provided on notice.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** We will endeavour to get the information. Work is still being done on the rosters, that has not been completed. Until it is completed, we will not have that sum. However, in working out the total budget, the existence of the Grand Prix and the responsibilities that would lie on the Police Force were recognised and some account was taken of this.

**Mr GREGORY:** Can the Minister give any details on the reorganisation of metropolitan policing recently announced by the Government, particularly in relation to the announcement of a proposed station at Tea Tree Gully and where that may be? What can we expect the officers in these stations to be doing?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** The restructuring involves the establishment of 16 subdivisional areas within metropolitan

Adelaide, closely related to local government boundaries. Each subdivision will incorporate a community based police station operating for 24 hours a day. The stations will provide office, general patrol, traffic and inquiry services around the clock, and uniformed police will be based exclusively at each station, patrolling the local area. In particular, the community based structure will allow the development of crime prevention and detection programs tailored to individual community needs, including the well publicised Neighbourhood Watch program.

Traffic control will now be locally based. The additional resources have already been identified by me in response to a question from the member for Mitcham. The Tea Tree Gully area has to date been patrolled from Holden Hill but it will now have its own base of operations, the location of which is still being negotiated. The St Agnes area has been subject to fairly close negotiations, but the matter has not been finalised, although I hope it will be finalised fairly soon. I have seen a figure for the number of officers who will be located at the new centre, and that information will be provided.

**Mr GREGORY:** I wish to ask a supplementary question. What will be the boundaries between Holden Hill and Tea Tree Gully?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** There is a map that shows the boundaries, one of which I believe is Grand Junction Road. The eastern boundary of the area serviced by the Holden Hill station, going down to the Prospect area, is a tributary of the Torrens River running in from the north. There is a boundary running north of Grand Junction Road, that is, the major east-west connecting road through the Modbury area, and my guess is that it is Montacute Road. I can provide the honourable member with a copy of the map so that he can identify the boundaries.

**Mr GREGORY:** While organised crime is a national problem requiring a national solution, quite obviously each State has a role to play. What measures are proposed in this State for the detection and investigation of organised crime?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** I will itemise several specific initiatives that have been taken to combat organised crime. There is the installation of the central part of the criminal intelligence and investigation management computer system; the provision of a senior analyst to coordinate and control the analysis section of the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and its relationship with Statewide investigations; the training of BCI members at the criminal intelligence analyst course at the Australian Police College in Manly; two BCI analysts undertook the criminal intelligence analyst training course to facilitate future analyst training in this State; the introduction of special joint task forces for coordinated action to combat breaking offences and car thefts; the secondment of a third member to the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence in Canberra, and on the authority of the Commissioner's board of management this person's term has been extended for an additional year; computer facilities, which have been the subject of recent newspaper comment; the communications system, on which we have continued to work; and consideration of the whole matter of corporate and white collar crime. The Commissioner might like to comment briefly.

**Mr Hunt:** I will enlarge on those points. For quite some time since the inception of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence the South Australian Police Department has supplied two or three officers working full-time on two or three year secondments. In addition, as the Minister said, the board of commissioners recognised the increased workload and the need for further analysis at the institute in Canberra and so the time of yet another officer has been

extended as part of our contribution to the national problem of organised crime.

As well, the South Australian Police Department supplies staff to supplement the staff of the National Crimes Authority and, together with the knowledge and recommendation of that authority and in cooperation with the other Commissioners, we form joint task forces to assist each other in regard to crimes which have cross border ramifications. There has been a further upgrading of communications between the bureaux in South Australia, other States and the national bureau in Canberra. We now have a computerised link. A computerised system for the management of major criminal investigations within this State will soon be used on a wider basis. These initiatives have been progressing satisfactorily on a trial basis on microcomputers, and we will soon embark on a much larger scale operation in computers, particularly relative to the complex nature of organised crime.

**Mr GREGORY:** The Premier has announced the State's involvement in an automated national fingerprint network. Will the Minister give the Committee details of this proposal?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** The Commissioner will outline the specific details.

**Mr Hunt:** As part of the deliberations of the Commissioners of Police at their meetings and in collaboration with the Australian Police Ministers Council meetings, there has been heightened interest in the national approach to a fingerprint system. For many years each State has contributed to the upkeep, maintenance and running of what has been known as the National Fingerprint Bureau located in Sydney. That is a manual system and because of the manual approach there have been limitations on its operations, in regard to both input (in what has been expected from the various States) and output, because those States requiring urgent information have not been able to obtain it in a relatively short or reasonable time.

At the last Police Ministers Council meeting in Perth, which the Commissioners attended, the Ministers agreed that the feasibility study that was conducted over a period by members of other police forces and consultants should be implemented. A cost structure was identified and agreement was reached about the national input of police forces in the States and Territories. This will provide a much quicker and more efficient and effective system for the recording and identification of fingerprints in the future.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I assume that we are talking about the computer that was announced today?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Yes.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I take it from what the Commissioner has said that this is a completely new national system, not just an extension of the current system for the identification of criminal records?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** It is a completely new system but, again, I will ask Mr Hunt to comment.

**Mr Hunt:** There is a mixture of new and old. Apart from being the central repository for fingerprint records, there was also the Australian Centralised Criminal Records System. Now, the aspect of identification, transmission and identification of latent fingerprints is an addition or enhancement of the system.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I realise that my next question is fairly broad, but can the Minister provide the Committee with information relating to the ramifications of a 38 hour week in the Police Force as it relates to resources, both financially and manpower?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** There has been considerable discussion on this matter particularly with the Police Association going back to the administration of my colleague, the member for Adelaide. The Committee will be aware of

the Government's desire in all of these areas where there is a push for a 38 hour week for there to be trade-offs. These are matters which are proceeding and attempts are being made to identify areas of savings which will allow the 38 hour week to proceed. There is no finality in the matter. It could still be somewhere down the track. It is difficult to put an additional cost on, because we do not know at this stage the extent of the trade-offs that will be available to place against the obvious additional costs that will come with a 38 hour week.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Is it seen at this stage to be significant? Is it going to be a major problem?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** The 38 hour week without trade-offs would obviously be a significant budgetary problem for us.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Can the Minister indicate how much revenue was raised by TIN notices in 1984-85 and how much has been raised so far this year?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** Traffic infringement notices actual income for 1984-85 was \$5.577 million and we are assuming a 10.27 per cent increase; that would mean that allowance has been made for \$6.15 million in the 1985-86 financial year.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What is the actual amount that has been raised so far this financial year? If that information is not available, you can take it on notice.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** We do not have that information with us but we will endeavour to get it. I take it that the honourable member is interested to know whether we are on target?

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Yes.

**Mr Groom:** Dealing with program 1, crime prevention and general police services, there was an amendment to the Police Regulation Act in relation to the appointment of special constables. The then Minister, in his second reading explanation, indicated the amendments would facilitate the introduction of a police Aboriginal aides scheme. Can the Minister outline what progress has been made on the implementation of such a scheme?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** It is expected that the first such people employed under this scheme will be employed in June or July of next year. Obviously, training is important. Training has to take into account the special circumstances of the Aboriginal people. The curriculum has been developed in consultation with them and the training methods will have to be specialised and provide for recurrent learning in a practical and, one would I guess say, a non-competitive environment. After training, the scope of each aide's powers and duties will be specified according to the demonstrated ability of the individual. This would be upgraded annually after attendance at further aide training courses. We anticipate that a police aide would contribute to the development of the local community in which that individual finds himself, particularly in relation to Aborigines developing responsibilities for managing their own problems. The aides will assist in the development of close relations and increased mutual understanding between the police and Aboriginal people; that will enable us, I guess, to become more sensitive to the problems of people like the Pitjantjatjara and their efforts at a resolution of these problems.

This initiative is not unknown to public administration, because there have been in the Education Department teacher aides operating in the north-west of the State since well before 1978 when, as Minister of Education, I visited that area. The trial will cost an estimated \$1 million over the next four financial years and the Federal Department of Employment and Industrial Relations has indicated that it will support the scheme in conjunction with the South Australian Government, though the actual level of funding involvement from the Department of Employment and

Industrial Relations has not yet been altogether refined. The recruitment of five cadets to fill the police positions associated with the scheme is scheduled for November of this year in line with my earlier statement that they would come on strength in June 1986.

**Mr BAKER:** All members of Parliament value the services that the police provide, and it was of some concern to me that we had various announcements made in the local press by various members and candidates of the ALP regarding neighbourhood policing. Can the Minister explain why he did not announce the neighbourhood policing initiatives himself; why he did not have the courtesy to inform the local members of what was happening; and why information was provided to particular ALP candidates so that they could get local press?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I made various announcements through the Statewide media and I am certainly not aware of providing any prior information to the honourable member's opponent.

**Mr BAKER:** I was particularly referring to a candidate in the north-east who has already been discussed today. The first that the member whose area was affected knew about it was when it appeared in the local press. I thought that the Minister could have had—

**The CHAIRMAN:** I hope that the member for Mitcham will relate this to the Estimates.

**Mr BAKER:** Yes, it relates very clearly to the Estimates. We are talking about neighbourhood policing and the way in which it is handled. There is a very fine relationship between local members and the police of the area and indeed the administration of police. I am concerned that the Minister may have in some way damaged this process by shuffling information in a particular direction.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I am a very tolerant Chairman, but I would ask the member for Mitcham, if he has a question, to come to the question instead of making so much preliminary comment.

**Mr BAKER:** The question has already been answered. I would like to refer to the subject of road safety. Perhaps the Minister can inform me about the road safety lines.

I refer particularly to page 71 of the yellow book where it states that proposed expenditure on road safety for 1985-86 is \$12.009 million. According to my calculations, \$6.15 million will come from traffic infringement notices (which I presume comes under road safety) plus \$7.7 million (in the form of a special levy to be used for road safety placed on petrol) from the Highways Fund. It appears that the road safety program is making a profit.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I will seek advice in relation to the income expenditure aspect of the whole matter. I can certainly point to the increase in the actual allocation from recurrent expenditure for road safety this year. Using the honourable member's assumption, if some sort of profit is made, it would be no different from what has obtained in previous financial years. It is quite clear that there is an increased accession to this area from the figures that are available on page 71 of the yellow book.

**Mr Hughes:** Traffic infringement notice revenue is not included in this program but under the determination and institution of criminal proceedings program. The increase in recurrent receipts during 1985-86 has occurred as a result of the transfer to the Highways Fund not occurring in 1984-85 due to a legislative change and the non-proclamation of the regulations. That amounted to about half the figure that is covered in the program and shown as revenue.

**Mr BAKER:** I was appreciative of that fact. Can the Minister investigate whether the current grants are the same as for previous years, and I point out that the Highways Fund amounts to \$7.7 million each year? We are all aware that a special levy to raise money for road safety was placed

on petrol. Can the Minister ascertain whether the moneys left behind to create a surplus for this year should have gone to the road safety area? By my calculations, I would have expected a small escalation in the moneys available for road safety.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I am afraid that the honourable member has bamboozled me somewhat. I do not know what he means by 'moneys left behind to create a surplus'. I would have thought that Mr Hughes made it perfectly clear in his earlier contention that there was an additional sum of money (on a different page of the yellow book) against which traffic infringement notice payments had to be read. Let there be no illusions about the Government making a profit in this area. If we look at the total scene and not simply confine our investigations to page 71 of the yellow book, the position is perfectly clear. I will have the question further examined and then bring down whatever further specific information I can.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I refer to page 68 of the yellow book and licensing of marine store dealers, secondhand dealers and hawkers. It has been alleged that a considerable amount of stolen goods and property taken from homes and stores is flogged off at trash and treasure markets and backyard sales. Has the policing of these markets and sales had any impact? Have many offenders been caught selling stolen property at these markets and sales?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** We have passed legislation to abolish the old Marine Stores Act and the Secondhand Dealers Act. That legislation has been assented to and when proclaimed under the new secondhand goods legislation that function will come under the control of the Department of Public and Consumer Affairs. The employment levels outcome for 1984-85 was one officer; and in 1985-86 none at all is proposed because it will no longer be our responsibility. I cannot comment on the crime aspect as alleged by the honourable member, but the Commissioner may be able to assist the Committee.

**Mr Hunt:** I am not in a position to give the Committee detailed assistance at this stage, except to say that this area has always been in the minds of the police from the point of view of tracking or tracing stolen property and whether or not any other kind of property could be introduced from interstate or from places further afield in this State. Attention is given to markets and backyard sales, but it is extremely difficult to obtain evidence even though some suspicions might be entertained regarding the origins of some of the goods offered for sale. I can go no further than that at this stage, except to flag that police are aware of the possibility of these outlets being used to sell stolen property. However, I have no details about the success rate at this stage.

**Mr HAMILTON:** I refer to page 73 of the yellow book, as follows:

To continue the culling of the system to remove dead files and to participate in a firearms amnesty to encourage a higher rate of compliance with legislative requirements.

When is it anticipated that the firearms amnesty will occur? What results have been achieved by previous firearms amnesties and how many weapons have been handed in or registered?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There will be an announcement this Friday as to the amnesty. As to the success rate of previous amnesties, I ask the Commissioner to assist the Committee.

**Mr Hunt:** This is an activity that we share with other states on a regular triennial basis. There is a very good success rate whenever we take part in this kind of amnesty. A number of either prohibited or unsafe firearms and firearms subject to confiscation because they are unlicensed or unregistered are surrendered by members of the community. Not only that, other items surrendered to the police include

attachments such as silencers, ammunition, explosive material and other kinds of weapons. As has been indicated, a national operation will be introduced very soon. We have no reason to believe that it will be less successful than others in the past.

**Mr HAMILTON:** The issue of road safety predominately falls within the responsibility of the Minister of Transport. However, the police have an obvious and very important role to play in this vital area. What initiatives will the police be taking to tackle this important issue of road safety?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The Traffic Intelligence Centre is to be upgraded to enhance the strategic development evaluation of both short and long term policies, and additional equipment and operating expenses will be provided at a cost of \$35 000. Legislation has been enacted enabling the use of the hand held radar gun operating on a down the road principle. To overcome identification problems it is proposed to restrict the use of this equipment to country roads or on suitable roads in the near metropolitan areas, because this type of equipment is largely designed for low traffic density. Nine radar guns are to be provided for the police at a cost (including operating expenses) of \$55 000.

A survey in 1980 led to two principal recommendations concerning a two phase highway patrol trial. Phase one involved existing digit detector patrols from the traffic region, increasing patrols from 100 kilometers to 160 kilometers from Adelaide in the deployment of two patrols in outer country areas for five days a week, necessitating overnight absences for four nights each week. Phase two involved the stationing of two traffic members at Mount Gambier to control the South-East on a two shift basis.

As a result of the successful completion of both trials, traffic members were stationed at Mount Gambier in February this year. Preliminary results are most encouraging, although an indepth analysis of any effect on the accident rate will not be attempted for at least 18 months, to give the whole thing some sort of reasonable trial. The Government has continued to support this initiative. Additional equipment and three vehicles will be provided at a cost of \$66 000, which includes the appropriate requirement for operating expenses.

Finally, I make the point that in relation to the new metropolitan policing structure we will have a far more appropriate method of addressing the policing requirements that arise for people's unwillingness to observe the Road Traffic Act than has previously been the case.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Earlier this year the successful Operation NOAH was conducted in this State. Are there any final statistics in relation to charges that have been laid as a result of that exercise, or are there other details that might indicate the success or otherwise of that operation?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I have a deal of information here which I will precis, but I am sure the Committee will be interested in what there is. Operation NOAH was conducted between 0900 and 2200 hours on Monday 11 March, and the following are the results. When the decision was taken to terminate the statistical part of the operation on 17 May 1985, a total of 553 telephone calls from members of the public were received at the Incident Room from which incident reports were completed. A number of obvious hoax type calls were not recorded. Of the genuine calls, 24 per cent were from country areas.

Of the 553 incident reports completed, 378 were detailed for follow-up investigation and the remaining were treated as intelligence reports. The distribution requiring police investigation were: region B (city and south-eastern suburbs) 69; region C (beachfront areas) 92; region D (northern and north-east) 95; region G (Murray Bridge and the Riverland, through to Mount Gambier) 56; region H (Port Pirie, the

Iron Triangle through to Port Lincoln) 46; the federal police/internal investigation/interstate police 20.

There were 47 persons arrested and 69 persons reported for drug related offences as a result of Operation NOAH investigations up until 17 May. There were 48 incident reports still under investigation at that time and there were protracted investigations in relation to each of these which may or may not result in apprehension and seizure of drugs. There were 130 offences detected, 70 for possession of marijuana; 18 for cultivation; 20 for possession of marijuana for sale or trade; nine for possession of implements; four for possession of amphetamines; two for possession of amphetamines for sale or trade; three for possession of heroin; one for possession of hashish; three for permitting premises to be used to cultivate; and one for the administration of heroin. Four persons were arrested for larceny and one person was reported for the unlawful possession of personal property as a result of Operation NOAH.

The following quantities of drugs were seized during the operation: 602 growing marijuana plants; 6 1/4 kilograms of dried marijuana; 5 grams of heroin; 40 grams of amphetamines. Assuming the marijuana plants would have reached full maturity, the estimated total street value of all drugs seized was approximate \$620 000. Two juvenile offenders, one aged 15 years and the other 17 years, were apprehended for minor offences relating to the simple possession of marijuana. Of all the offenders, 65 per cent were in the age group of 20 years to 30 years, and 29.6 per cent of all offenders apprehended were unemployed.

There were 27 calls related to suspected drug related offences being committed at schools. After extensive investigations at each location no evidence was found to support these allegations. The final point I want to make about this—and I was quizzed by a small section of the media about this several days ago—is that there have been those who have somewhat downgraded the value of Operation NOAH because the bulk of the calls and offences related to marijuana.

I make clear the following points. First, whatever people may think about marijuana, it is still against the law to possess, smoke or trade and we have a continued responsibility in that area. Secondly, it is a fallacy to assume that there is a hard and fast distinction between those people who are involved in the marijuana trade on the one hand and those people who are involved with opium, heroin, or any of the harder drugs.

I believe that a continuation of the NOAH type operation will almost certainly lead, in the long run, to considerable advances in the way in which we treat this obscenity of trafficking in heroin and allied offences. I completely reject the criticisms of NOAH along the lines put forward in some quarters.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I concur with what the Minister says. When is it intended to conduct a similar operation, or is that not proposed at this stage?

**Mr Hunt:** There will be a national NOAH day, with Western Australia joining in, on 13 November.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What about on a State basis?

**Mr Hunt:** We will be joining in the national operation.

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

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What progress has been made as far as the Justice Information System is concerned? I know that it has been of significant importance to the Police Department and I would like an update on the progress that has been made.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** In October 1982—I do not think that it is necessary to go back before that time, but some background may be useful—consultants were employed from

Touche Ross Services to conduct a formal feasibility study into the matter. The reports were presented to the JIS steering committee in February 1983. A submission based on those reports was forwarded to Cabinet in June of that year, and the proposal was put before the Data Processing Board, requesting comments and refinement.

It reported at the time that significant additional work was needed to complete the feasibility study to the point where Cabinet could take a decision on any preferred options. A decision was taken in July 1983 to continue with the feasibility study, but to await the outcome of that. A series of policy papers addressing the outstanding matters were identified and presented to the JIS steering committee for comment with a view to a further submission being prepared for Cabinet. Cabinet further considered the matter in June 1984, when approval was finally given for the development of the system.

The position is that in the light of that decision a comparison data modelling exercise has been undertaken with the assistance of consultants. The networking requirements have been studied by another group of consultants. Tender documents have been prepared and approval sought for release of those documents. The calling of tenders is for all components of the system—hardware, software, network and equipment. Cabinet has approved the calling of tenders and expects that implementation of the system will commence in the latter part of 1986.

**Mr GREGORY:** On page 71 of the yellow document on the line 'State Disaster Planning Control and Relief' there is a significant increase in proposed expenditure over the actual expenditure last year. How is that additional money being spent and what is being done?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** Two subprograms are involved here: Government disaster operations and maintenance centre services, and assistance to the SES units. On the first, there is a proposed expenditure of \$383 000 as against the \$360 000 for the past financial year; for the SES, \$409 000 as against \$136 000 actually expended.

On the assistance to the SES units, the increase in allocation of \$310 000 results from the following: full year cost of salary and wage increases awarded for 1984-85 for regional officers, plus the full year cost of employing the regional officer appointed in 1984-85, and the inclusion of superannuation charges. There is also an increased allocation for subsidies for local government bodies of \$7 000 and an increase in administrative expenses of \$28 000. A good deal of this is the full year effect of increases that were made in the past financial year.

**Mr GREGORY:** On page 69 of the yellow book, under the line of 'State Security Services' the proposed expenditure in 1984-85 was \$134 000 and the actual outcome was \$266 000. Then there is a proposal to spend \$234 000. That is a significant increase over the proposal for the previous 12 months, but a decrease on the actual expenditure. What has caused that fluctuation of expenditure?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** The problem is in the different way in which this information has been provided between last year and this year. The remarks that I have before me are that, owing to a change in Treasury accounting requirements, the line estimates for 1985-86 are now presented in program form. So, comparable figures are not available for 1984-85 on an item basis in the line estimates: that is one of the problems that we have in trying to compare like with like in this year. I should take that one on notice and try to get the full details.

**Mr GREGORY:** On page 75 under 'Firearms Control', there is a proposed expenditure of \$583 000 in 1984-85, but an actual expenditure of \$619 000. Then there is a proposal for \$618 000. What does firearms control actually mean and

why, in real terms, has there been a reduction in expenditure?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There is a change in the Treasury accounting procedures. Accommodation charges this year were \$57 000; they are charges against intra-agency support services. If that \$57 000 were to be added to the figure for this year a rather different sort of income would arise. The honourable member also asked what firearms control involves. The details are immediately above the table on page 75.

**Mr Hunt:** In a broad statement on how the unit operates, I suppose it needs a description of why we have such a system. Before 1980 it was recognised that the control of firearms, and the people who used those weapons, was inadequate and it was decided then to introduce a computerised system, which would not only regulate the sale of firearms but also the activities of dealers in firearms, and which would have some input into the safety aspects for the general community in the requirement to license the owner or user of firearms.

This involves not only a registration of the long arms but also of pistols; a control of unauthorised weapons, such as dangerous weapons—machine guns, and the like; imposing some level of control over dealers, and, more importantly, giving some consideration to the requirement to have a firearm and, indeed, the suitability of certain people to have firearms in their possession, the paramount factor being the safety of the community abroad. These are very basically the reasons for bringing in such legislation. It was going to be very complex and that is why we decided then that we would introduce, in parallel, a system of computerisation to manage the firearms unit.

There are 21 people in that area who manage and operate the system, and it is very much a system which is oriented towards public safety. We are geared towards a real policing of that control system rather than using it as a pure revenue raising system. However, the system was designed with a view to being self-supporting and, therefore, the fee structures for licences and registrations and any other transactions were calculated on the basis of non-profit-making and capable of supporting the system in itself.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The member for Florey asked about State security services. I have just received some figures, which I will read into the record. The increase in expenditure of \$132 000, is due to salary and wage increases awarded in 1984-85, and an increase in personnel, accounts for \$68 000. There is a \$64 000 increase in administration expenditure but, separate from that, there is a decrease of \$32 000, because there has been a transfer of administration expenses to accommodation charges. Therefore, we see the same variation because of a change in accounting procedures.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** It might be necessary to put this question on notice but, if the information can be provided now, I would appreciate it. What revenue has been raised from wide-load escorts during the 1984-85 financial year? What was the expenditure to provide these escorts? I would like to know what effect the restriction of police manpower will have on wide-load escorts by traffic personnel over the Grand Prix week and, in relation to the restriction of wide load escorts, how much it will cost to make up any backlog of wide-load escorts?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** We would not anticipate any great impact as a result of the additional policing effort required for the Grand Prix, but I can give the details of the last financial year and what is proposed for this year. It was assumed in last year's estimates that the revenue from wide-load escorts would be \$346 000. In fact, it turned out to be \$352 000 and the allowance in the estimates for this year is \$377 000. The increase in wide-load escorts of

\$6 000—between the proposed figure and the outcome last year—was due to the effect of the 1984-85 fee increase as well as an increase in the actual services being provided.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Has any decision been made to change the present situation in relation to motor cycles provided for the police traffic section? It has come to my notice that a suggestion has been made that there may be a move to have all police traffic section motor cycles placed in a pool rather than a personal issue of motor cycles. Is that the case?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I will get that information. Certainly, I have had no formal recommendation made to me.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** If it is the case, I would like to know why?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** A working party was recently set up to investigate vehicle requirements for traffic personnel. The job of the working party is to investigate and prepare recommendations on all aspects of the allocation of vehicles—both sedans and motor cycles—to traffic police and to include in the recommendations the types of motor cycles and sedans to be issued and the method of such issue.

A questionnaire was sent to all divisional traffic commanders to determine current utilisation of motor cycles and patrol cars and the results of that questionnaire are currently being collated. We will also be examining the motor traffic police utilisation within Victoria and New South Wales. Mr Hughes might like to comment briefly.

**Mr Hughes:** As the Minister mentioned, as part of our ongoing evaluation of resource usage, a study is currently being undertaken into vehicle use within the traffic section, and that includes motor cycles. However, at this stage no recommendations have been made by that group to the Commissioner. I expect that that will be done soon.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** The reason given to me for the possibility of that change in policy relating to motor cycles is the reduction in the number of TIN notices that have been experienced. That is why I would like to have the answer to the previous question.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I would refer to Mr Hughes in this matter.

**Mr Hughes:** The current study that is being undertaken does not relate to the reduction in TIN notices and, to the best of my knowledge, that has not been raised during the deliberations of the working party.

**Mr GREGORY:** Would they use the correct names? Tins are something you get dog food and other food in.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** It is a term generally recognised by the community.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr GREGORY:** I am objecting to the use of the word 'TIN'. I do not know what it means. It is an abbreviation not easily understood when it comes to reading the record.

**The CHAIRMAN:** There is no point of order. Members of the Committee will ask the questions they believe necessary, and the Minister will give the reply to the matter he believes is appropriate.

**Mr BAKER:** I note from the Auditor-General's Report that the police presence at the Roxby Downs demonstration cost about \$1.9 million. I know that life became a little difficult in Adelaide during that period and I certainly did not push any special requests to the police at that time because there was no way that they could visit people in regard to backyard burning and other minor infringements. What fines were imposed on the people who caused the State to spend \$1.9 million?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** We do not have those details, but we will endeavour to obtain them. I imagine that such fines as have been paid would represent a tiny fraction of the total cost to the State of the demonstration.



**Mr BAKER:** I note from page 77 of the yellow book that there has been a substantial increase in the allocation for general criminal investigation services—from \$8 million to \$9.1 million—without an associated increase in employment levels. The resource variation under program description suggests that there is a flow-on for wage increases, but I cannot quite accept that proposition. Will the Minister explain?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** One of the things that honourable members would have noticed in going through these lines is that one of the new Treasury requirements is the inclusion of superannuation charges. In this case we are talking about \$930 000 as well as the full year cost for salary and wages increases of \$151 000 and an increase in administrative expenses of \$6 000. I believe that that explains the apparent anomaly that the honourable member has identified.

**Mr BAKER:** I referred previously to police numbers—those actually on the job, doing the work. The Minister identified certain resource areas of the Police Department where the number of staff has been increased. He suggested that there was some inter-agency support involving an extra 50 personnel. For the record, will the Minister say whether the number of policemen on the job will change very little in 1985-86, because that is what the employment levels shown at page 68 of the yellow book indicate? Secondly, expenditure for inter-agency support in relation to administrative and clerical services decreased: I assume that costs in relation to cadets come under that allocation, but we are supposed to be training 50 more cadets. Will the Minister explain?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There is always a delay while additional recruits are being trained, but there is very little that one can do about that. It is important that these people are trained properly. The additional round figure 50 positions will be available as soon as the training is completed. We are providing funds for the whole program to be initiated. I will ask Mr Hughes to explain the round sum allocation.

**Mr Hughes:** Regarding inter-agency support (at page 102 of the program performance budgeting papers) there is an overall figure that includes a sum for police training. In 1984-85, \$163.9 million was proposed for police training, which includes cadets and trainers, and \$166 million was actually spent; in 1985-86 \$207.9 million is proposed. That accounts for the increase. The number of trainees in the system in any one year depends on the active strength that the Government has approved in regard to appointed police officers, and so the number of cadets can fluctuate in any one year, depending on the amount of attrition in the preceding year. The number of cadets in the system reduced when the two-year training program changed to a one-year training program. That has had an effect on total police numbers but no effect on the active strength of the force.

**Mr GUNN:** Does the department intend to continue with the Aboriginal police wardens scheme? A few weeks ago I received an invitation to the installing of the wardens at Yalata but, because of the sittings of the House, I could not attend. Those people were installed and I understand that they have carried out their duties with a great deal of zeal, although there has been a slight problem. Will the scheme continue, will it be extended through the Pitjantjatjara lands, and at this stage are the police happy with how the scheme is going?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I will ask the Commissioner to answer that question.

**Mr Hunt:** The question of police aides was addressed earlier in the evening although this point was not addressed. The trial period for the police Aboriginal aide scheme is very limited and some uncertainty has been expressed about

some aspects of the funding. Only five people have come into the system in the time stated. There would be no recommendation to phase out the warden system immediately and it may well be that in time those wardens will transfer over, depending on their suitability and the recommendations of the Aboriginal communities in which they live to become part of the Aboriginal police aide scheme. The short answer is that at this stage there has been no consideration of disbanding the police Aboriginal wardens scheme.

**Mr GUNN:** Will the Minister advise of the basic instruction in relation to the traffic infringement notice scheme (or TINS, for the benefit of the member for Florey)? When an officer stops a motorist because of some breach of the traffic code or another statute, the officer may issue a caution or an on the spot fine notice. The Auditor-General's Report states that there was a slight decrease in the number of fines imposed—from 122 000 to 116 000. I took some interest in this matter when it came before the Parliament, as I thought that it would be a very good scheme and would help to free up the courts, but at the back of my mind I believed that it would be very simple for an officer to write out a notice. What policy has the department determined to ensure that people who commit very minor breaches of the law are cautioned and are not suddenly served with what in many cases can be a fairly stiff penalty? I believe that the penalties were increased 12 months ago, and I had a bit to say about that in the House as I thought that we were going far beyond simplifying the court system and making people aware of their responsibilities.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** With particular reference to the judgment that has to be exercised by the police officer at the time of the alleged offence, I will ask the Commissioner to give us some guidance.

**Mr Hunt:** It has always been a jealously guarded aspect of policing in Western democracies to allow the direction of the individual police officer in many instances. Many checks and balances are in place to check on any over-zealous or limited or minimum approach to those sorts of things. There is the inherent discretion in a police officer, whether it be in this kind of case or any other case, in relation to the action that he takes. In many cases, that discretion is exercised in favour of the erring motorist. The comment was made that the reduction in the number of traffic infringement notices was attributed to the lack of police on the roads when the Roxby Downs protest occurred. There were officers who were transferred to that operation and that resulted in a reduction in service in that area. However, the matter of discretion is being promoted at this time as a result of recent initiatives on the part of our community policing program, whereby police officers are having their training in traffic matters enhanced in such matters as the community expectations, road safety matters generally, road engineering and those kinds of things, and where traffic officers will be given the role of being more educative rather than punitive. Inherent in that is the individual police officer's discretion as to what particular action he takes, and of course he is guided by the circumstances of each individual case as to that action.

**Mr GUNN:** In relation to actual police numbers—and we have had a brief discussion about the number of people in training—has the department looked closely at bringing into the system people who perhaps for some reason or other left the force some years ago but at this stage of their life may be prepared to come back into the force perhaps with a very brief refresher course? As I understand it, there has been a rule that, once people leave the Police Force, they cannot again be admitted into the service. Has the department looked at this matter, because it has always appeared to me that, if those people have been good, upright

citizens and have not been involved in any misdemeanours, perhaps they could again play a useful role in the department?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I believe that it has been examined. A long-standing departmental policy which precluded the re-enlistment of members and cadets who voluntarily terminated service has been reversed in order to more properly reflect contemporary attitudes and needs. Having made that statement, it might be best if I invite the Commissioner to expand on it in any way he thinks fit in terms of the general philosophy of the department.

**Mr Hunt:** As the Minister has stated, there has been a long-standing policy—in fact, one which has been in operation since I have been a member of the service—although there were some exemptions made to it in earlier days. However, looking at contemporary attitudes, I point out that there has been a review and on 26 April this year I issued a policy statement giving certain criteria as to age and suitability, the requirement for extra training, the seniority aspects or conditions of the person at the time of re-entry, previous training, examinations and leave entitlements, and the basis of a formalised process of exit interview conducted at the time an officer leaves the service. Consideration is now given in view of all of those kinds of things to a person who applies as to whether or not he or she will be accepted back into the service. This is a fairly strong departure from the absolute policy of non re-entry which has existed for many years.

**Mr BAKER:** Returning to the intra-agency support service, if the members of the panel can bear with me, I will develop an equation with which I have a problem. As you will note, the outcome for 1984-85 for the administrative and clerical support area, which is in fact where the training goes, is \$28.9 million. The proposal for 1985-86 is \$27.1 million. The explanation given on the previous page was there was a net decrease in support services expenditure of \$3.5 million resulting from a decrease of \$6.16 million due to the transfer of Government contributions under the Police Pensions Act to Treasury and offset by superannuation. In response to a previous question, the suggestion was made that one of the reasons for the large increase in one particular line was superannuation.

Here, in fact, the police pensions exceeded the amount of superannuation, which was the offsetting item. Can the Minister or one of his officers please explain where the anomaly of my calculation is, because I would presume that the pension deduction from the line that I was talking about previously would have been greater than the new superannuation line?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Without analysing it, Mr Bowring has some information here that might be useful to the Committee. However, I think we need to go into more than one subprogram. We would have to do that and then provide that for the record.

**Mr BAKER:** Perhaps you could take it on notice?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** And provide it by 18 October.

**Mr BAKER:** Mention has been made of the report currently being carried out on the police motor cycles. What provision has been made in this year's budget for replacement of motor cycles?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** In the general area of fleet replacements in this financial year, we anticipate purchasing 45 motor cycles at an estimated cost of \$270 000.

**Mr BAKER:** What were the replacements for the previous two years? In other words, how do they compare?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There were no motor cycles replaced last year at all. We do not have the figures for the previous year but we will obtain them.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** In view of the recent taxation amendments that have been announced by the Federal Government—and I am speaking particularly as they relate to the uniform allowance—it now appears that the police officers will have to justify each year this allocated uniform allowance or be taxed. Has any consideration been given to that? Is there any move to supply officers with uniforms and, if so, when will they be supplied with uniforms?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Unless I have misunderstood, I thought that in this situation the tax is charged against the employer rather than the employee and, as a result, it is a problem for the Government and not necessarily a problem for individual police officers. I understand that that is how the new system will work.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am suggesting that it is a problem for the Government and, as a result, will the Government proceed with the provision of uniforms?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** At this stage we have not considered any review of policy in the light of the very recent announcement from the Commonwealth.

**Mr Hunt:** For some time we have been looking at the question of uniform supply in other police services throughout Australia. As a result, a few months ago we decided that we should consider the feasibility of a supply situation rather than the provision of an annual allowance, which currently operates in this State. A preliminary feasibility study has shown that it would be viable to proceed to a supply system.

We have decided that we should look at the range of uniform garments to see that they were the most suitable for the varying weather and climatic conditions and operational requirements of the various police officers throughout the State. That is a major undertaking which is in train at the moment. I assume, unless we receive evidence to the contrary, that I will be able to receive very firm recommendations in a few short months on the question of supply and the range of garments themselves. I cannot give an exact time within which this will take place; it will be phased in over a period of time.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Has the finance section of the Police Department estimated the cost for housing subsidy rentals currently allowed to police officers, particularly in country areas, bearing in mind that the State Treasury has now indicated a possible cost of \$5 million as a result of the new taxation measures? Will that mean that the Police Department will have to meet the cost out of the current operational budget?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** At this stage we have made no estimate, because this information has only just come to hand. If the figures are anything like those suggested by the honourable member, there is no capacity within my estimates to meet that cost, and the Government would have to look at that by way of supplementary estimates. I understand that discussions are proceeding between all State Governments and the Federal Government as to the full implications of the new taxing arrangements on these types of support services to Government officers. In the short term, the Government will make the appropriate decisions. At this stage we have not done any basic work on it because the information became available only last Friday.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** How much money has been spent on the upgrading of the communications system? What is the current status of that upgrading for the Police Department?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There are two elements which make up the total communications network (apart from mobile and personal equipment), and these are sites and towers and the communications centre. Expenditure on sites and towers is the responsibility of the Department of Housing and Construction. A limited sites and towers program

took place in 1983-84, and funding for this purpose was increased in 1984-85. The communications centre is also to be upgraded, and this is required to commence in 1985-86 with completion planned for 1987-88.

The metropolitan plan will provide a metropolitan wide mobile UHF radio network compatible with the metropolitan portable system, providing special facilities to increase efficiency and safety levels. Resulting from this year's funding, 22 UHF transmitters and receivers have been installed throughout the metropolitan area in the first phase to provide a total mobile UHF network. Successful negotiations with the current Government contractor resulted in the supply of a special 64 channel UHF portable system which will provide all the desired combinations of operational channels required for police use.

In the country areas, the department has a number of communication cells rather than a network, as applies in the metropolitan area. This provides a limited police coverage for individual townships. The coronial inquiry into bushfires in the South East highlighted a lack of communications coverage for the mobile and mobile to base communications and continuous coverage along major roads. When implemented, the new system will ensure an integrated area wide regionally based mobile and base intercommunication system throughout the State, and about 70 sites have been identified where radio towers are to be constructed. Implementation has commenced in the South East of the State, and completion is anticipated in February next year. The next area to be upgraded would then be Yorke Peninsula and the mid north.

**Mr Hughes:** The total cost of the communications network upgrade when it was prepared in 1983 was \$16 million. That estimate has since been updated to allow for inflation, and the cost would not be of the order of \$20 million. As the Minister has indicated, one component of the expenditure—sites and towers—is the responsibility of the Department of Housing and Construction, so I will not cover that. Within the police capital budget, in 1983-84 we spent \$400 000 on the metropolitan portion of the plan; in 1984-85, jointly on the country and metropolitan area we spent \$659 000; and in the current year the Government has allocated \$2 210 000. I understand that within the housing and construction budget \$840 000 has been allocated this year for sites and towers. I cannot give the Committee accurate figures on previous years for sites and towers.

**Mr BAKER:** I refer to future accommodation for the police. For a number of years there has been adverse comment about the fact that the headquarters for the police is on Greenhill Road while the remainder of the department is located at Angas Street. Given the availability of the barn area, what is the Government's intention in relation to future accommodation for the police?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** This is something that is very near to the heart of the Commissioner. The future use of the site is currently before the City of Adelaide Planning Commission. I have put forward to Government the plans that the Police Department has, in a quite refined form, about the way in which the department could make use of that site. A study is currently being undertaken as to that general precinct of the city, including not only the area to the north of Angas Street (the car barn site) but also the area to the south of Angas Street including the area currently occupied by the South Australian Housing Trust.

I am keen to ensure that that study is finalised as soon as possible and my information is that I will have the information arising from it if not before the end of the month then certainly very early in October. There is a degree of delay associated with that that I find a little uncomfortable. Nonetheless, it is important that, in view of this prime site, the Government should ensure that all

possible options for the best and highest use are evaluated. As the Minister of Emergency Services I would not find the use of that site for the police in any way inappropriate.

**Mr BAKER:** The yellow book indicates that the executive management of the Police Department has expanded from 20.6 full-time equivalents to 27.1 full-time equivalents during 1984-85. I presume that there has been some reorganisation?

**Mr Hunt:** As a result of overseas study and also a number of other initiatives locally dealing with a change in direction that the Police Department was to take, and also the concerns that were being expressed at the time about the matter of complaints against the police and how they were to be handled, a need was seen for a reorganisation of the Police Department in order to be able to facilitate the development and implementation of plans relating to those initiatives, such as, community policing, crime prevention, complaints against the police and a preventive mechanism which has been set in place and which is known as policy audit. There had to be people of sufficient rank and responsibility to fill new positions that were created in order to put those plans into effect. Consequently, a number of upgradings were approved by the Government and several senior officers were appointed to fill those positions.

**Mr BAKER:** An Australian Democrat member of the Council said over the radio recently that there should be no pursuit of fleeing vehicles. That does not conform to my ideas of how one catches criminals. There has been considerable concern mainly in relation to deaths and injuries over the past few years as a result of pursuits. I know that we have lost more than one policeman, and we have certainly lost a few people that have been on the road at the same time. Has the Police Department developed a new strategy in relation to pursuits, or are we going to stick to the policy in place today?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** There is a very clear direction to police in the matter of pursuit driving. It is strictly controlled by a specific general order which I can share with a Committee and which the Commissioner can comment on, if the Committee feels that that would be useful. Police driver training methods are under continual review to maintain a high level of expertise. A basic course covering theory and practice for driving motor vehicles is conducted during the initial training stage, and this covers two weeks. Holden Commodores with power steering are used. Patrol members continue to be given theoretical training in order to maintain their awareness of the principles taught to them during training. I will not read that order into the record because it is more appropriate to ask the Commissioner to comment on the general philosophy underlying the order.

**Mr Hunt:** Specific directions are given to all police officers, and this is included in the training approach as well. These theoretical and training aspects of pursuit driving remind us of the duty to drive with great care, and cover such things as the recognition of when one is in an emergency situation. Even in an emergency situation, normal driving might be the more prudent option to take rather than to drive at high speeds, thereby causing unnecessary danger.

The conditions that form the criteria for exceeding a speed limit or disobeying one of the road laws—which is afforded protection by section 40 of the Act—are that a serious crime or serious personal danger to other road users or the community at large must be involved. How the vehicle must be driven is also indicated, with the use of alternating horns together with flashing lights and, as soon as pursuit is undertaken, there must be immediate radio contact with the control centre and advice given, which is monitored not only by the driver himself but the total

situation is then put under the control of the person in charge of the Operations Centre in police headquarters.

So, a fairly strong set of criteria is laid down for this. I suppose the difficulty always comes—and that is why such concern is expressed about it—because we still get back to the area of the discretion of the individual police officer as to whether or not he takes up a speed pursuit and the conditions that he believes at the time are pertinent. This may well, on hindsight, not be the case. However, many facts are presented to police officers in the heat of the moment which give the indication of being those which fall within the criteria.

Certainly, other considerations are put before the driver on safe driving matters, such as, whether or not it is a wet night, a wet road, or the surface of the road is conducive to higher than normal speeds. These generally are the kinds of things that work in the organisation, operation and also in the activation of a high speed pursuit. Even so, as the Minister says, there are continual reviews of each and every one of these cases to see whether or not the situation can be made stricter or tightened up to provide greater safety measures.

**Mr GUNN:** Will the Minister say whether or not the police have any plans to open any new police stations in the northern part of the State, say, in the Flinders Ranges, or to increase personnel in those areas? The Minister would be aware that that part of the State has thousands of tourists passing through each year, and I understand this year has been particularly good for tourism. Has any consideration been given to reopening the Blinman police station or putting extra officers at Quorn or Hawker, not to apprehend people, but when one has many people in that part of the State it makes them behave better if they occasionally see a blue vehicle driving around the area? From time to time I have received requests about this. Have the police given this matter further consideration? I realise that there are never enough people to go where one would like them to go. When the police look at manpower requirements, have they looked at this matter?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The department has undertaken a review of country policing and that exercise is fairly close to being complete. Specific recommendations will no doubt come forward as a result of that. That is as much specific information as I have at this stage.

**Mr Hunt:** The questioner is right: there are never enough police to go around in the perception of some sections of the community: that is a matter that we have to live with from time to time. I think that the specificity of the question was whether or not we have taken these things into account: we certainly do in a measured and controlled way by the analysis of workloads, mileages incurred on a daily basis, and the environmental make-up of the area that the police station and the police officers serve. Consideration is given to the possible development, the actual and projected populations, the level of industry and the activity of property generally.

More important in some of the remote areas is the strategic factor for the travelling community generally. However, these factors must be weighed up against the needs of other areas where there is a higher demand for police services. We can only do our best to deploy our manpower. We ought to be flattered that people want the services of the police on the wider basis on which they do. We can only act on the recommendations of our survey teams and place our people by the availability and the requirement for police services.

**Mr GUNN:** In relation to the type of hand guns that the police now use, I am one of those people who believe that the police should have the best equipment available to them to carry out the important functions that they have in

society. Some time ago, new hand guns were introduced. Have they proved satisfactory, or has the department been evaluating any different type of weapon which may be more suitable and which may replace them? I understand that when these hand guns were introduced there had to be a certain change to the uniform because of the size and character of these weapons.

**Mr Hunt:** The introduction of the weapon that is being used—the Smith and Wesson revolver—has been very gradual, for the very good reason that we could not put these firearms in the hands of people who were not trained to use them. The training program is extensive and rather exhaustive, and is State wide. All members of the metropolitan policing area have been trained in the use of these hand guns, which have been issued on a fairly wide basis.

A number of major country police station staff have been trained in the use of these weapons, but they have not yet all been distributed. We have in hand a program of training—I just cannot recall the exact time when it will be completed—of all police personnel for the use of such hand guns.

The other part of the question is whether or not the Police Department is evaluating any other kind of firearm. It just so happens that we have been looking at equipment such as belts and holsters that go with them. As a long term view, we will consider what alternative kinds of firearms might best be used for future police use in South Australia.

#### Membership:

Mr Plunkett substituted for Mr Hamilton.

Mr Mayes substituted for Mr Groom.

**Mr GUNN:** Some time ago, a number of questions were raised in relation to the future of the Minnipa police station. Can the Minister or his officers advise what stage the planning of the new police facility has reached. I will take it on notice.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** All right, if you are happy to take it on notice.

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

Works and Services—Police Department, \$10 871 000

#### Chairman:

Mr G.T. Whitten

#### Members:

Mr S.J. Baker

Mr R.J. Gregory

Mr G.M. Gunn

Mr M.K. Mayes

Mr K.H. Plunkett

The Hon. D.C. Wotton

#### Witness:

The Hon. D.J. Hopgood, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment and Planning, Chief Secretary and Minister of Emergency Services.

#### Departmental Advisers:

Mr D.A. Hunt, Commissioner of Police.

Mr D.J. Hughes, Director, Administration and Finance, Police Department.

Mr J.A. Humphries, Manager, Resources, Police Department.

Mr F.E. Bowering, Senior Finance Officer, Police Department.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the examination of the proposed expenditure open.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Page 90 of the yellow book refers to the Government disaster operations and maintenance centre services. I note that a capital expenditure for 1984-85 is proposed and the outcome is noted but that nothing is proposed for 1985-86. What is the situation there? Does that change into a different line?

**Mr Hughes:** The allocation last year was for motor vehicles for the recently appointed regional offices for the State Emergency Services. The State Emergency Services would not normally have a capital allocation, except when specific instances such as that arise, because normally their equipment is purchased out of the recurrent budget.

**Mr BAKER:** In the Estimates of Payments book, capital expenditure lines, page 233, we have an expenditure line for the metropolitan policing plan and for various locations. The total cost is estimated at \$500 000. We have an expenditure plan for 1985-86 of \$250 000 and we have a completion date of August 1986. I presume that \$500 000 will be spent upgrading the existing facilities to allow for the metropolitan policing plan and putting in any new facilities that are needed. If the Police Department intends to keep on target there seems to be some difficulty in spending \$250 000 in 1985-86 and then spending the \$250 000 remaining between July and August 1986.

**Mr Hughes:** The total cost of \$500 000 refers to two types of expenditure on the metropolitan policing plan relating to buildings: first, expenditure on upgrading existing premises, which is the allocation for this year of \$250 000. That upgrading involves five different existing police buildings that can be upgraded with reasonably short notice, and work is already in progress to have that undertaken. The remainder of the expenditure would be in the next financial year, and the expenditure in that instance would be on new leased premises that have yet to be arranged in relation to new metropolitan policing plan.

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

Minister of Emergency Services, Miscellaneous,  
\$8 012 000

**Acting Chairman:**  
Mr K.H. Plunkett

**Members:**  
Mr S.J. Baker  
Mr R.J. Gregory  
Mr G.M. Gunn  
Mr M.K. Mayes  
The Hon. D.C. Wotton

**Witness:**

The Hon. D.J. Hopgood, Deputy Premier, Minister for Environment and Planning, Chief Secretary and Minister of Emergency Services.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr D.A. Hunt, Commissioner of Police.  
Mr D.J. Hughes, Director, Administration and Finance, Police Department.  
Mr J.A. Humphries, Manager, Resources, Police Department.

Mr F.E. Bowering, Senior Finance Officer, Police Department.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Reference is made to \$300 000 being provided for the Police Complaints Authority. I would like some information with regard to that authority and its setting up: how many people are to be employed in that section? I understand that it is now operational and that it has reached a stage where it is receiving complaints. I ask for a general update of the status of the Police Complaints Authority?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The approved staffing level is set at 5 FTEs as at 30 June 1986. The funding is for commissioning costs of \$80 000, contingent costs of \$40 000; and salaries—including 18 per cent overhead—\$180 000. As the honourable member says, the tribunal is off and running. I do not have any specific information for the honourable member as to the actual level of complaints that may have been put in for investigation at this stage. I can endeavour to get that information in the time set aside. I do not know whether any of the officers who are with me want to make any comments at this stage as a result of any dealings they have had with the Commissioner or any of his staff. Perhaps Mr Hunt wishes to add something.

**Mr Hunt:** There have been a number of discussion sessions between the authority (Mr Cunningham) and me and the Deputy Commissioner. There have been further discussions with the officer in charge of the internal affairs section and there has been a recognition of the administrative exchanges and approaches between the two groups. In fact, I know that Mr Cunningham has been receiving some complaints—the exact number I do not know—but I believe that things are working quite well at the moment.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** Obviously we are not shy about giving information but the Commissioner is not touting for business. One would not want to release information in such a way as to be actively encouraging approaches. Approaches should arise out of people's concern for a particular situation, and that is it.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I take it that the Australian Crime Prevention Council is funded by all States, or assistance is provided financially by all States. How does South Australia's contribution compare with the contributions of other States? Because of the significant work that the council is doing, I would have thought that a larger contribution might be made from the State.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I think it would be best if we were to get that information. My feeling was that the Commonwealth provided half and the States then split the remainder, but we had better get specific information for the Committee.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** In relation to the matter of payment of rewards for information in respect of various offences, I notice that there is nothing proposed. How does that work? If it is needed, is it found from somewhere, or what is the situation?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** It is now provided under the general Police Department allocation. The line estimates, which are possibly not in front of the honourable member, say that it is provided under program 2, under the line estimates.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What is proposed for next year?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** The sum of \$10 000 has been provided in this budget on page 66 of the line estimates.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I would like some clarification from the Minister, if possible. There are a couple of other matters I would like to refer to, for example, the South Australia Sea Rescue Squadron. Which of your officers is

likely to be able to assist me in that? Does that come under the police vote?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Yes, it is appropriate for the police to take it.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I had the opportunity with some of my colleagues the other night to go down and meet with some of the people at the Sea Rescue Squadron. During the evening the position of funding was referred to. There is a very real need for another vehicle to be provided to tow one of the emergency craft. It was indicated to us that some attempt had been made to try and obtain such a vehicle but it had been unsuccessful.

With the important work that they do—and I would suggest that if that work was not carried out by a volunteer group it would be costing the community a lot more—and with the need being defined as clearly as it was in regard to the provision of another vehicle, I would have thought that it would be appropriate for the Government to get hold of some type of vehicle—a second-hand vehicle or something like that that is no longer needed by a department. How seriously has that situation been considered and is there room for the Sea Rescue Squadron to come back and make another request, recognising the number of vehicles that are turned over and recognising that it would not cost a fortune for such a vehicle to be provided to a voluntary group that does an excellent job?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** I cannot comment on the specific request for a vehicle; however, I can comment on the whole question of assistance for various water based groups such as this. If the honourable member came away from what I have no doubt was a very valuable visit—one that I would encourage all honourable members to make—with the impression that a request had been put up and had been knocked back, I suggest that there has been some element of misunderstanding. What happened is this: this organisation, together with the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, the Royal Lifesaving Society and the Surf Lifesaving Association of Australia, South Australian branch, has placed a joint submission before the Premier for additional financial assistance.

A working party, which comprises of representatives of the Premier and Cabinet, Treasury, Recreation and Sport and the Police Department, is currently reviewing funding levels of these aquatic services organisations as a result of this submission. There is no finality at this stage. The review is proceeding and ultimately Government will have to make a decision but, if the honourable member came away with the impression that in fact some decision had been made, then I am not suggesting that he was in any way misled—I suggest there was a misunderstanding.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I can only reiterate what I said before—that I would hope the Government would give serious consideration to further provision of assistance for that very worthwhile organisation. I have no other questions.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** That being the case, I would ask that the officers from the Metropolitan Fire Service come forward.

#### Additional Departmental Advisers:

Mr A.W. Bruce, Chief Officer, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

Mr D.A. Grubb, Deputy Chief Officer, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

Mr B.K. Treagus, Manager, Finance and Administration, South Australia Metropolitan Fire Service

Mr B.J. McNeil, Management Information Systems, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** I draw the attention of the Committee to various errata. The yellow book, page 104, refers to the Metropolitan Fire Service organisation structure and staffing. At the bottom righthand corner of that page the actual full-time equivalent staffing number should read 769 in lieu of 753.25, and the total adjusted should read 883.75 in lieu of 868. The figures shown are the average full-time equivalent instead of the actual equivalent, hence the alteration.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** At page 106 the yellow book, under 'Corporate/Management Objectives', refers to:

Development of a fire safety conscious public and the provision of advice to building developers, local government authorities, business and the general public on fire prevention and fire safety matters.

The matter of a fire safety conscious public must be addressed. What funds have been provided in the budget to facilitate this type of program? Secondly, what are the forward plans for implementing the program? Thirdly, what types of program are being developed?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** I will ask fire chief Bruce to respond.

**Mr Bruce:** We cannot provide the actual breakdown of funding, but we will obtain that information. Many areas of the public have received basic training in fire safety, mainly through community organisations and groups. A steady demand has arisen for lectures in the evening or in some cases early in the morning because of shift work or group activities. To this time these demands have been catered for. Groups from schools and youth organisations have been given special courses to enable them to achieve particular objectives within their organisations, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The fire service is receiving an increased number of demands for training from the public sector, particularly for training required by regulations in the industrial and commercial sectors. Ongoing fire safety training programs are operating in these areas. Specialised training has been given to groups from Petroleum Refineries of Australia (Port Stanvac) and Oil Refineries of Australia (Shell Birkenhead), and there are the merchant seamen's fire course, tug boat courses (Port Adelaide and Whyalla) and theatre firemen courses under the Places of Public Entertainment Act.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** How has the recent decision won by the industrial organisations regarding the 38 hour week affected funding of manning levels? What is the real cost of funding a 38 hour week?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** The 38 hour week was implemented from 1 July this year on the basis of what is called an accrued leave roster. Shift workers will continue to work the established 10, 14 roster system, that is, two day shifts of 10 hours and two nights shifts of 14 hours followed by four days off. They will accrue two hours per week to be taken in conjunction with recreational leave.

Obviously, the increased requirement for leave relief has necessitated the recruitment and training of additional staff. These recruits will have completed their training by November this year, by which time the modified leave roster will be put into operation. During the interim period employees are being paid at ordinary time rates for two hours per week in lieu of accrual of that time. Agreement has been reached with the officers association for the implementation of the 38 hour week on the same conditions as the accrued leave roster basis for shift workers and on the basis of a rostered day off each four weeks for day working officers. The officers association claim for a 38 hour week is listed for hearing by the Industrial Commission on 3 October.

The operation of the accrued leave roster system requires the employment of additional staff—21 fire fighters, two station officers, one district officer, and two control room

operators, making a total of 26 officers. The all inclusive cost in 1985-86 on current values is estimated to be: training of recruits, \$190 000; payment in lieu of accrued leave during training of recruits, \$244 000; and additional appointments between November 1985 and June 1986, \$491 000, making a total of \$925 000. The full year cost in 1986-87 on current values is estimated to be \$760 000.

The only other thing I need to add is that in negotiating the 38 hour week offsets have been agreed which will permit greater flexibility in the utilisation of employees both in meeting the minimum manning requirements and in manning appliances. The reduction of recall overtime is estimated to result in a saving of \$151 000 in a year and the cost impact has been minimised to the greatest possible extent. Work practices have been adopted that we believe will significantly improve the operating efficiency of the service.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I will probably come back to that a little later. Still on page 106, it is stated that the code of principles for occupational health and safety is being implemented with negotiations continuing on topics peculiar to the fire service and potentially hazardous but necessary tasks. What plans and strategies have so far been developed and how will officers be trained to implement these procedures? What will be the cost of the health and safety policies?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** It would be necessary for us to make a fairly detailed dissection of costs before we could answer the second part of the question. The code of general principles has been developed Government-wide, an initiative, I assume, from the Department of Labour, and we are working through that, but against a realisation that, in a firefighting service, certain acceptable risks must be undertaken. You cannot fight the fires from the street and firefighters accept that they must place themselves into an environment which would be highly hazardous for the general public but for which training and protective equipment has been provided in an attempt to reduce the hazards to acceptable levels. I guess that that is all common sense. The fire chief has indicated that he is able to comment on costs.

**Mr Bruce:** At present, the costs for the implementation are being catered for within existing cost structures. Additional finance has not been allocated to this specific role. We have recently appointed an officer who was on the program in any case, irrespective of the health and safety aspects, and his role is in special risks and water supplies. This officer has been given the specific task of implementing the requirements of the Government's code of general principles in health and safety. He is also responsible for organising and doing the training associated with the operation of fire officers for fire safety measures actually on the fire ground and in the training structures themselves. At this stage, we could not be certain as to what additional staff might be needed in the future. We will have to use this current year to analyse the situation, but we project the possibility of requiring at least one full-time safety officer.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I take on board what has been said but from what I can gather there has been quite an exceptional record with regard to the safety factor on the part of the MFS in recent times. I wonder what are the actual gains from a program that is fairly expensive as far as the MFS is concerned, recognising the excellent record that the MFS has had? I believe it is something that the MFS could almost do without.

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I think that we as a Government would be exposing ourselves to considerable criticism if we did not attempt to extend the general ambit of the health, safety and welfare policy to all areas of Government responsibility. I accept what the honourable member says in relation to the record of the department. I guess we feel that

we could always do better and would want to do better if we possibly could. The important thing is that perhaps in a year or two we will look back and have some sort of indication of what the impact of the initial program has been.

**Mr GREGORY:** What measures has the Government undertaken to ensure that the MFS has the necessary resources for fire suppression?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I think that probably the lines speak reasonably for themselves. The actual proposed payments are ahead of inflation. The morale of the service is very high. There are perhaps three areas of interest. The first is the so-called Cox manpower program involving the appointment of 102 additional staff over a five-year period which commenced on 1 July 1983. This was developed following a review of the service by Mr Ron Cox, a recognised fire service expert, with world wide experience. To date 60 of the 102 positions have been filled. Stations with increased staff include, in 1983, Gepps Cross, Ridgehaven, Glen Osmond and Thebarton; in 1984, Glynde, Christie Downs, Glenelg and Salisbury; in 1985, Salisbury again, Port Pirie and Elizabeth. The 1985-86 budget includes \$216 000 for an additional 20 staff in the fourth stage of the program.

The Cox station relocation is a second arm of this general thrust. The working party, which had examined the proposed station siting of the Cox report, recommended relocation of stations that when completed will generally assume a response time frame of within six minutes for the first appliance and nine minutes for the second appliance on the scene of a fire or emergency incident within the metropolitan area. Work has commenced on acquisition of sites for the new stations. I can provide the committee with more details if the honourable member seeks them.

There are also new appliances. At this stage, the new vehicles scheduled for delivery in 1985-86 will be fitted out by workshop staff. Three general purpose pumps have been received and fitting out is in progress; one communications command (received and fitting out in progress); two grass fire appliances due for delivery in October 1985; and two general purpose pumps due for delivery in early 1986. There is an 1985-86 program still awaiting approval which includes one elevating hydraulic platform, two general purpose pumps and a hose laying tender. From the 1984-85 program, there are two matters which are out for tender—a support tender for rescue and a skyjet pumper.

**Mr GREGORY:** What resources have been specifically earmarked for fire prevention work by the MFS?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** We have a series of initiatives, one of which has already been touched on, and that is public sector training. Perhaps public entertainment and licensed premises would be of particular interest to members in view of the approaches that they no doubt receive from time to time from their own electorates. The trading hours of public entertainment and licensed premises obviously pose problems for the fire prevention division. Inspections have to be carried out during occupancy periods.

Inspection of places of public entertainment cover five main areas—exit, exit signs, emergency lighting, hose reels and extinguishers. In some cases, the installation of fire hydrants is recommended. To date, 350 hotels, restaurants and clubs have been inspected, mainly in the metropolitan area. The roles of officers within the fire prevention division have gradually changed over the past five years. After an initial induction period of three to six months, officers are assessed and allotted to a specific task. Each officer is allotted a second area of involvement so that continuity is maintained during leave periods to broaden the scope of each officer. Emphasis is placed on standardisation of reports and information disseminated by the division but not to

such an extent that progressive ideas and improvements are stifled.

Since 1976 the number of tasks performed by the division has increased from 681 in 1976 to 3 549 in 1985, and personnel has increased in that time from 10 to 21. We also have an officer training program, and we have a building fire safety committee under which 374 premises have been inspected and reported on since the inception of the committee.

**Mr GREGORY:** The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service has a responsibility in country towns and cities. What resources have been provided to cope with this service in urbanised country areas, and have any additional resources been provided to country areas?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** The honourable member obviously refers to the auxiliaries, which exist in certain country towns. The present approved staff total is 200 firefighters operating from 19 country stations. As a general policy, country fire stations have manning levels of 10 per one appliance station and 20 per two appliance station. Manpower is provided on a part-time basis with staff paid a nominal retainer and a call-out fee when responding to alarms. No increase beyond the approved 200 is envisaged at this time. There is an auxiliary training program which would be of particular interest to members.

The ongoing training guide was introduced to country centres during 1984-85. Auxiliary foremen have a responsibility to consult the training guide before attempting a subject in practice. Following the practical application, a subject provision is made in the program to record all ongoing training accomplished, and subsequent tests are to be conducted at random by country inspectors. Other programs in the form of a 35 mm projector program and VHF programs are also in circulation. The first weekend course for auxiliary foremen was held at Brookway Park in June this year. This was a live-in course which proved to be very successful and will be repeated in 1986.

I can also provide information about an alarm call-out system in regional country centres. Following the introduction of regional officers to country centres, a great deal can and will be achieved in all aspects of fire service operations. This budget includes the appointment of a regional officer (proposed location Whyalla and servicing Port Lincoln and Port Augusta). It is envisaged that \$30 000 will be spent on recurrent expenditure and \$12 000 on capital. There has been an extension to the proclaimed Renmark fire district, gazetted on 17 January this year.

**Mr BAKER:** I now ask a difficult question which involves Government policy in relation to the utilisation of resources. It is quite apparent that the fire service, as far as resources are concerned, has done particularly well over the past three to four years. I note that this year there will be an increase of over 50 personnel associated with the fire service, and last year it was about 40 officers involved with the Metropolitan Fire Service. My question relates to the fact that the Metropolitan Fire Service has an ongoing source of income. In many ways it is not subject to the normal vagaries of the budget because it has statutory contributions from insurance. Does the Minister intend to review the form of finance available to the fire service? I am well aware that there has been a number of pressures on employment, including the Cox report and the 38-hour week. This is an area that has done substantially better than any other part of the budget for 1985-86 and also in 1984-85.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppgood:** The honourable member may be aware that a committee was established at the end of 1982 to examine the funding of the Metropolitan Fire Service. In September 1984 a decision was taken to discontinue that and to transfer its terms of reference to the Fire Service Coordinating Committee. The terms of reference were

expanded to include the funding of the Country Fire Services. The Fire Service Coordinating Committee then formed a working party to execute the new terms of reference relating to funding. The working party met in January this year and examined interstate experiences in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania—the three States which have recently implemented changes to their funding system or are in the process of doing so. In addition, the working party sought comments from the public as well as interested bodies.

Following a number of meetings, discussions with relevant authorities and lengthy research, the working party has completed its report on the directions for fire service funding for consideration by the Fire Service Coordinating Committee. It is expected that in turn recommendations will be made to the Government.

I have no particular philosophical hangups in relation to this matter. What seems to work best would seem to be the system that we should adopt. If the competing systems that may be recommended do not provide any improvement on what we have at present, fairly obviously we will stick to the present system or something very close to it. I think the philosophy behind the present system of funding takes special account of the needs of particular areas, and the demands which are placed on the fire services by different types of property as reflected in the insurance premiums that people pay.

I think that to go to merely a debit funded system, purely through the Government, would ignore some of the particular demands placed on the system by particular forms of land use, if I can broaden it in that way. I am not ruling out the possibility at some stage in the future of a system like that. The present system does have certain strengths. It has survived for a long time despite various attempts to change it. Probably the onus of proof must reside with those who would want to change the system rather than with those who would want to maintain it.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** On page 111 of the yellow book reference is made to the progressive upgrading of station appliances, communications and equipment to maintain an efficient service to the public. The Minister may recall that very recently I asked a question on notice in regard to this matter. In the reply that I received from the Minister reference was made to a number of radio sets being purchased. Have those 20 radio sets been purchased and delivered and, if so, how are they being used? What planning and funding arrangements have been made specifically in regard to communications? How effective is the communications committee and how well is it working?

**Mr Bruce:** In relation to portable radios, they have been either purchased and received or are currently under order. Additionally, there are further portable radios out for tender at the present time. On receipt of those radios we will be well advanced in the provision of the service's requirements in regard to portable radio equipment.

On the broader question of expenditure relating to communications generally, the upgrading and replacement of all types of communications equipment is a priority and is receiving attention both internally and through the Fire Services Coordinating Committee. Appropriate levels of finance have been provided in both recurrent and capital budgets. Expenditure in 1984-85 for the suppression side of the metropolitan system related to radio and alarm equipment totalled \$80 000; in the country area to fire alarm equipment and radio paging systems, \$31 000.

In addition, two mini field command vehicles for use in bushfires and other major incidents were commissioned at a cost of \$48 400. These two units were considered necessary by the Fire Services Coordinating Committee as a result of its findings in about October last year. An urgent requirement was seen for these vehicles to be in commission for



the last bushfire season. We were required to find the necessary finance from our last year's budget. This was done at the expense of other areas of financing. These two vehicles were put into commission and served extremely well during the bushfires that occurred last season.

Approved expenditure in the capital side that has been deferred from last year is in regard to computerisation of fire alarms (\$124 000) and other radio equipment cumulatively, totalling \$178 000. That equipment will be progressively procured and it will be added to the budget for 1985-86 (\$207 000) so that the total finance in the two years to be spent in the current financial year will be \$385 000.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What progress has been made with the joint venture between the MFS and the CFS at Brookway Park? I could not see specific mention in the yellow book of finance made available to allow the joint venture to continue. I would like details about specific plans in relation to the joint venture.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** I understand it has been a very happy experience. It might be appropriate for Mr Bruce to comment.

**Mr Bruce:** The training complex at Brookway Park is progressively being upgraded to suit the needs of both MFS and CFS. A new training tower has recently been erected and commissioned. The in-service course is for both the MFS and the CFS personnel. This has been very successful and has promoted mutual aid between the services. Further combined courses are planned and these are considered essential. Further upgrading is required for this purpose. A total of \$100 000 has been provided in the 1985-86 capital works budget for a further phase of redevelopment towards the establishment of this centre.

Most of the work is necessary to provide hard standing for appliances at the rear, a number of training modules, and additional areas that will be particularly valuable for the use of practical training applications; that will be of value more to the CFS than the MFS. In addition, there is a hot fire area at Tea Tree Gully that is able to be used for practical sessions. On the statistics side between April and June this year the CFS conducted five courses at Brookway Park, each with 30 students. In that short time—and that was only the start of this type of course—150 CFS personnel have been trained during the weekend courses, which are live in courses.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** What experience have you gained by moving into the new building? The MFS is looked at with much envy by many organisations because of its magnificent facilities. Have you come across any problems since you have been in the building?

**Mr Bruce:** The important thing about the headquarters station is that in every respect it has proved to be extremely functional, and this has been the most satisfying aspect of the move to the new premises. When tackling a project as large as this and doing all the planning work—and a tremendous amount of planning work was put into it in respect of not only senior officers and architects looking at fire stations in other States and parts of the world, but also the associations themselves—in all these aspects with the best intent in the world very often, when the final building is put into operation, one experiences problems. However, almost in every respect the building has proved its value. It is operating efficiently.

The training section, which came into use in May this year, is being used every day of the week. One only has to pass by in Wakefield Street to see the extent to which training is in progress with exercises involving fire fighting personnel right throughout metropolitan Adelaide taking part every day. Additionally, there have been quite a number of CFS personnel that have used the breathing apparatus facilities and are starting to use the other facilities on the

weekends. The broad answer is that I feel it has exceeded our expectations.

#### Membership:

The Hon. Ted Chapman substituted for Mr Baker.

**Mr GREGORY:** When the Government established the Fire Service Coordinating Committee it announced that the committee would ensure greater cooperation between the MFS and the CFS, both operationally and in purchasing arrangements. Will the Minister outline what progress has been made in those respects?

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** Considerable progress has been made. A number of areas could be mentioned, including the fire prevention area generally and training, which the fire chief has already mentioned. In operations there is the Joint Emergency Services Fire Intelligence Centre (JESFIC) and the communications area. At this stage, no joint purchasing arrangements have been made. However, this matter will be addressed by the Fire Services Coordinating Committee. The matters that I have already mentioned—JESFIC, training, fire prevention and communications—were seen as being top priority considerations for coordination activities. So, the whole operation at this stage looks very promising indeed.

I refer very briefly to the matter of communications compatibility. The emergency services in South Australia did not have a common channel for communication, but the problem has been reduced between the MFS and the CFS by installing separate radios into the communications appliance aligned to MFS and CFS frequencies. This is now permitting command communication between the two services. The JESFIC operation in MFS headquarters has liaison officers with the emergency services in one location communicating with each other and directly with their own services. There is still some revenue and rationalisation required of radio communications affecting CFS and MFS operations, and until that happens the joint operations at fires and other emergencies will be less than 100 per cent effective, but that is something to which we are turning.

#### Additional Departmental Advisers

Mr D. Macarthur, Director, Country Fire Services.

Mr F. Muldoon, Project Officer, Country Fire Services.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** The Opposition spokesman for the CFS is my colleague the member for Alexandra. However, I want to know how far down the track we are with the appointment of the position of Chief Officer. The changes to the Country Fires Act that were made at the end of last year did three things: reconstituted the board, allowed the replacement of the Director, and created the position of Chief Officer. As I understand it, no official appointment has been made at this stage. I would like to know just where we are heading.

**The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD:** Mr Macarthur and I have discussed this matter since my moving into the portfolio.

**Mr Macarthur:** The appointment of the Chief Officer position within the Country Fire Service is somewhat held up pending putting through the House legislation to provide the responsibilities and accountabilities of the Chief Officer. There is nothing in the Country Fires Act at this point of time that gives the chain of command necessary for a Chief Officer to carry out his duties. It is therefore important that that legislation is presented to the House as soon as possible, which will allow two things to happen: first, establish the role of the Chief Officer by Statute; secondly, allow negotiations to take place to establish a salary appropriate to the position. Those two matters are in hand and will be put before the Minister within the next couple of weeks.

**Mr GREGORY:** When the Public Accounts Committee reported to Parliament, it criticised the former management of the Country Fire Service for not proceeding with fire safety standards. What progress has been made with respect to that?

**Mr Macarthur:** Albeit that I am somewhat new to the position as Director of Country Fire Services, the addressing of the fire safety standards has been taken on board by the interim Country Fire Services Board. It has addressed the problem of who has the responsibility to maintain adequate fire safety standards within the community. Again, there is a need to strengthen the legislation in this area, and in the next year I will submit to the Minister a total rewrite of the Country Fire Services Act to make the appropriate powers under that Act to carry out the functions that I consider necessary to make the fire safety of the community appropriate to the late 1980s.

**Mr GREGORY:** What resources has the Government provided to ensure the recently announced Bushfire Prevention Council is a success?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** The total amount of money involved is \$165 000. Salaries account for \$90 000 of this; vehicles amount to \$30 000; furniture and sundry equipment, \$10 000; sitting fees and expenses of the council, \$10 000; travelling expenses for staff, \$15 000; training and stationery, \$5 000; and vehicle running expenses, \$5 000.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** At page 146, the yellow book scarcely mentions that the CFS line provides for the total funding of a couple of incidental details and, likewise in the State estimates of payments document on page 69 there is only one line identifying the total. Accordingly, my questions are fairly broad but seeded to that funding factor. For what specific CFS purposes did the Minister seek budget funding for the current period that he was unsuccessful in obtaining?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** I will not answer that question.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** As the Minister responsible for all State funded emergency services and recognising the need to foster liaison between those services, does the Minister accept in the long-term the desirability of preserving the administrative and funding independence of the CFS? If not, what form of equipment sharing, administrative rationalisation or amalgamation with other services does he envisage?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** The Government has no plans before it to amalgamate the CFS with other emergency services. The Committee just heard Mr Macarthur say that it is his plan to present to Government an outline of the legislation that we would present to the House next year. The assumption predicated against that is that CFS, as an independent operational unit, would continue. That is not to say that the very large amount of work that has gone into the successful co-ordination of the function of CFS with MFS and State Emergency Services should not continue. Nobody has put before me any justification that the amalgamation of CFS with one of the other emergency services would show a pay-off in terms of any additional capacity to do the job for which the CFS is set up.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** In view of that answer, does the Minister acknowledge that there would be an extreme risk of losing a significant number of South Australian volunteer fire fighters in the country regions if such an amalgamation were to be contemplated?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** I have no information on this, one way or the other. I assume that the motivation for a person in a country area to join a CFS unit is twofold: first, the community mindedness of that individual and, secondly, the self-interest of that individual. I imagine that that would continue to operate under any regime. I am simply making the point that there are no plans before

Government at this time, nor any immediately contemplated, for the amalgamation of the CFS with any other emergency service.

**Mr PLUNKETT:** After the tragedy of Ash Wednesday communications were identified as an area requiring some attention, both in terms of communications within and between the emergency services. What measures have been taken and what measures are proposed to overcome these problems.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** This has partly been answered under separate lines in relation to the MFS and the police, particularly through the State Emergency Services. I indicated not so very long ago that there was a continuing problem in the absence of the one common frequency band that would apply to all of the emergency services.

I also indicated what steps had been taken to try to overcome that situation. In the general CFS area and in relation to communications we have earmarked \$212 000 for upgrading. That relates to two specific areas, the larger being communication equipment, \$137 000, which in turn breaks down to continuation of installation equipment purchased during 1983-84, \$43 000; purchase of capital equipment for operational administrative needs, for example portables, mobiles, shelters, antenna and so on, \$69 000; and purchase and installation of the 800 megahertz links equipment in the immediate area of Adelaide, \$25 000. Then there is the UHF turnout system, \$75 000, making a total of \$212 000.

**Mr PLUNKETT:** What proposals are included in this year's budget for the training of volunteers?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** Mr Macarthur will answer that question.

**Mr Macarthur:** The training position in the CFS has been totally reviewed since I took up the office of Director. I have formulated a new policy whereby volunteers who can and should be trained at fire brigade level by their peers will be so trained. That had not happened previously to any great extent. A second level of training will be formulated within the regions and carried out by the regional officers of the CFS. The third and most senior level of training will be carried out at Brookway Park, where there is a higher level of expertise for training CFS volunteers. Most of the training at Brookway Park will take place on week-ends.

There has been a reallocation of resources within the CFS. Staff have been appointed within the existing officer structure. Two people have been appointed as training officers and a further officer will probably be allocated to training before the year is out. That has all taken place within the existing staff resources and at this stage it is quite adequate.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** What was the public cost of the previous Director's salary and associated entitlements for the year in which his dismissal, retirement, resignation or termination of employment took place? Have there been any post resignation public costs in the form of accrued superannuation or like form of entitlement claim or departure handshake payments to the ex Director and, if so, what are the details of those costs in dollar terms. I appreciate that the Minister may have to follow up this matter, but it applies to the current budget period, because the balance of the question is, 'Has the Government had any indications of further claims, in monetary form, which are pending or which may be lodged by that ex officer?'

**The Hon. D.J. Hoggood:** In effect, there are three questions, two of which I can answer, and I will take the other one on notice. The salary of the former Director was \$49 121. I know of no claims immediately before the Government. I will obtain information in regard to any other arrangements.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** Has the Government a policy of standardising vehicles and equipment which then renders those vehicles subject to subsidy for country based brigades and, if so, what is that standard in broad terms as it relates to trucks, pumps, tanks, protective personnel apparel and communication equipment. Supplementary to that, whatever the answer, does that standard apply to CFS headquarters vehicles and equipment as well?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** This is a little touchy because volunteers from time to time have their own ideas and they would prefer to follow them through. I have also discussed this with Mr Macarthur, and he might like to comment briefly on it.

**Mr Macarthur:** First, in answer to the honourable member's question about standardising equipment, I think that it is fair to say that there were, under the past management of CFS, some five standards of fire appliances. On reviewing those five standards, I feel that they have somewhat excluded economic reality. It has been perhaps a captive market and those standards today are in limbo pending a new set of design drawings and a new set of standards being developed, hopefully to be ready by 1 January 1986.

In terms of what is the standard, that is very difficult to explain at this stage, but I see a small quick attack fire unit, a medium sized dual purpose unit for both rural and urban situations, and a larger urban appliance for the country towns with reticulated water. What is envisaged is that there will be engineering drawings prepared, tenders called for both the cab chassis and the build-up of the cab chassis into the appliance. It has been intimated to me by the industry generally, the manufacturers of the vehicles plus the engineering and body building firms, that some considerable savings will be made in the near future by going to tender. This leads me to comment that, if we go to tender, I think that tender price should form the basis for the subsidy if councils wish to build-up their own appliances to those plans.

On the issue of pumps, again a similar sort of situation was in existence, whereby the requirements were drawn that only one manufacturer could meet those specifications. Again, those specifications for pumps have been redrafted and hopefully I will find that at least three manufacturers will be able to tender for those specific items of equipment. The aspect of communications is a rather broad issue and the only way that I can come to grips with that one is to have an independent person make an overall review or survey of what exists and what in his opinion we need. That is currently being undertaken, and that report should be before me some time between now and the end of the year. I think that the outcome of that report will be that the system that exists is fairly complex and perhaps some rationalisation and simplification should take place.

On the third question of the headquarters vehicles, and as to what standard, I think I know what the honourable member means and I think I know what he is looking for as an answer. However, in the past there have been various standards of vehicles applied to various ranks of officers. I can assure the Committee that the matter has been reviewed and I think that in the future there will be some rationalisation in that area.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** Following up that matter of the supply of equipment, neither the Minister nor the senior officer indicated a view or a policy on what might qualify for subsidy, or perhaps it was in the comment of the Director's remarks wherein he implied that, over and above the level of tender, further costs incurred would not be subject to subsidy. I would like clarification on that one, but I do not want to lose my last question. In relation to a further follow-up on that matter, is the Government satisfied that, within the engineering premises and facilities

available to us in South Australia, there is sufficient expertise and competitive business acumen to cope with and deliver what is considered to be required as standard type equipment in the future, or does the Government envisage that in the absence of such expertise, it needs to go elsewhere? If the latter is the case, in which States or other countries does the Government understand that it may have to explore for this engineering expertise?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** I will ask Mr Macarthur to explain what has happened in the near past. I think it is necessary to look beyond South Australian manufacturers and suppliers for some of the equipment that we need because it is simply not produced here.

**Mr Macarthur:** I think it is fair to say that the manufacturing expertise for the build-up of fire appliances is available in South Australia. Whether the capacity of manufacturers is such that they can cope with the volume remains to be seen. At the present time I think the backlog in supply and delivery is caused by a rapid build-up in the aftermath of Ash Wednesday when councils and brigades found that they should upgrade their equipment.

I am sure that, by calling tenders for a number of vehicles to be built to the one mode, manufacturers will rally to the occasion and tool up for such a build-up. I see no problem with that. Of course, the cab chassis will come from overseas, as there is no Australian manufacturer. In relation to the third major component—the pumps—there is a manufacturer in Australia who will compete under the new rules that will be brought in. Currently, the pumps are all imported.

Generally, the subsidy system leaves a lot to be desired. It is totally out of kilter with 1985. I think the funding of fire brigades was mentioned earlier in relation to the Metropolitan Fire Service. I am hopeful that when that is reviewed the subsidy system will be replaced by some other form. At the moment it is cumbersome and hard to administer. Even though it could be streamlined and referred to a minor extent, it causes both councils and the CFS a considerable amount of work in administering it. The actual amount of subsidy paid will be closely related to what we can get as a tender price for both vehicles and the build-ups of the bodies.

In the past it has been somewhat open-ended. We have seen fire appliances of extremely high cost being delivered and the Government having to pick up its proportional share of the cost. I see the matter being brought back to the bare bones of fire appliances, which will be quite adequate and can be added to by brigades and councils for their needs if they see that as the way they should go. In general terms, the subsidy will be available under the continuing system on a much more business-like basis.

**Mr GUNN:** Is the department examining the need to place the control of bushfires, whether on private land, farming and grazing areas, national parks or on land owned by the Woods and Forests Department and other Government departments, under the one command structure to avoid duplication, confusion and other problems of which the Minister is well aware?

**The Hon. D.J. Hopgood:** When we discussed this matter this morning under environment and planning there may have been a little bit of misapprehension. I apologise if I misunderstood the thrust of the question asked by the honourable member this morning. That was discussed under the general concept of whether there should be the one command structure. The Country Fires Act, as presently constituted, makes it perfectly clear that in any fire emergency that arises under the Act the director has control.

The question that the honourable member is really posing is to whom the delegation should flow; whether in a Woods and Forests case the Director should delegate responsibility

to the fire unit set up under the Woods and Forests Department; or whether it must always go to the local unit of the CFS. If it is the first of the problems that the honourable member is referring to, we already have a system which answers that problem, and it may be that the appointment of a Chief Officer will help to further refine that; but it is a matter of delegation.

As I indicated this morning, the Woods and Forests Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Service have specific responsibilities in particular areas. I would see it as totally appropriate that in certain circumstances the Director of the CFS would delegate his responsibility to a specialised unit of one or the other of those two agencies. One is still securing the principle of there being the one line of command, rather than a confused line of command, as long as the delegation is clear and the unit or units involved have the resources to be able adequately to meet that emergency. I apologise if I misunderstood the thrust of the question, but, on my interpretation of it, that is my best effort at answering it.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** Going back to the policy of standardising equipment, will the Minister indicate whether that policy has been the subject of discussion and consultation with regional CFS leaders at brigade and local government level?

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Yes.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** Will the Minister assure the Committee that the feedback from country regional levels to that policy is favourable.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** Yes.

**The Hon. TED CHAPMAN:** I understand that the Brownhill Creek area is partly in the MFS and CFS region of authority. It is all within the Mitcham district council

but more especially relates to the valley region upstream from the caravan park. When recently in that region I saw the enormous amount of fuel built up for this coming summer in the form of grasses and other like undergrowth. I plead with the Minister to have whichever authority under his command is responsible address itself to minimising this fuel, preferably by grazing, bearing in mind the terrain. If it means fencing the area in order to have it satisfactorily grazed, then the Opposition acknowledges that as being an investment in fencing, rather than a cost.

The other matter relates to a matter raised by my colleague, the Hon. Mr Wotton, when he talked about the need for a Chief Officer. The answer was that in the absence of legislation that was not available at the moment. Will the Minister consider contracting a suitable person to act as Chief Officer in the interim? Under the present Country Fires Act, it would seem not only appropriate but an opportunity to avail one self of this procedure. I gather that there is a call from the country level for that appointment, under whatever canopy, to take effect in readiness for the coming fire season.

**The Hon. D.J. Hoppood:** In relation to the first matter, I will draw it to the attention of the various services under my general jurisdiction. In relation to the second matter, in view of the imminence of legislation, I would not have thought it would be necessary.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday 25 September at 11 a.m.