

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 22 February 1995

The **SPEAKER (Hon. G.M. Gunn)** took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

ISLAND SEAWAY

A petition signed by 342 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to retain the *MV Island Seaway* service to Kangaroo Island was presented by Mr De Laine.

Petition received.

COROMANDEL VALLEY

A petition signed by seven residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government not to change the suburb name of Coromandel Valley to Craighburn Farm was presented by Mr Evans.

Petition received.

NETTING

A petition signed by 279 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to close specific King George whiting nursery areas and tourist beaches to net fishing was presented by Mrs Penfold.

Petition received.

NOARLUNGA COLLEGE THEATRE

A petition signed by 22 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to maintain the Noarlunga Centre Theatre at its current level of operation was presented by Mrs Rosenberg.

Petition received.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A petition signed by 29 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government not to cut the Education and Children's Services budget was presented by Mr Venning.

Petition received.

ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Emergency Services): As Minister for Emergency Services and pursuant to section 19(3) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, I table my response to the recommendations contained in the report of the Environment, Resources and Development Committee on the Canadair CL415 inquiry.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr CUMMINS (Norwood): I bring up the eighteenth report of the committee and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

Mr CUMMINS: I bring up the report of the committee on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1978 and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

QUESTION TIME

BLOOD TESTING KITS

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): I address my question to the Minister for Emergency Services. How many convictions for drink driving have been jeopardised by the Government's failure properly to approve blood testing kits and is the Minister confident that the kits have now been properly approved?

On 21 December last year, a Port Pirie man who had been caught driving with a blood alcohol level of .198 had his drink driving charge quashed because the blood test kit supplied to him by police was not properly approved by the Transport Minister. The kits are supplied to people after they have exceeded .05 to enable them to seek an independent test to determine their blood alcohol level. A man was charged with drink driving in June 1994. On 22 July of that year the Transport Minister sent a note to the Emergency Services Minister indicating approval of the kits. Before that date, 554 test kits had been issued by police, which means that, potentially, hundreds of convictions for drink driving could be quashed.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: I would have thought that the honourable member would have been aware of the number of times my colleague the Minister for Transport has commented on this matter in the media in the region concerned in response to questions in another place and would have noted that this very question was raised in another place 1½ weeks ago. I am sure that the honourable member is capable of reading, so in order not to waste the further time of the Parliament I encourage him to do so. If he still has a concern he can raise it with me.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members are starting off the day in a particularly bad fashion. The member for Hanson.

GLENELG-WEST BEACH DEVELOPMENT

Mr LEGGETT (Hanson): My question is directed to the Premier. What progress has been made by the Government to secure a major tourist recreation and residential development for the Glenelg and West Beach foreshore?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The Government announced this morning that, as a result of advertising for expressions of interest in commercial development in association with the clean-up of the Patawalonga, it had selected a preferred consortium called Holdfast Shores. This consortium is made up of a group of South Australian and national companies, in particular, the Boulderstone Hornibrook group together with Kinsmen, Woodhead Firth Lee (architects), Connell Wagner (engineers) and Rust PPK (another engineering group). This consortium has put forward a proposal to the Government for significant development in the Glenelg-West Beach area.

As everyone would understand, the Government is cleaning up the Patawalonga. As a result of that key initiative, it will open up new opportunities for development in the Glenelg area. In particular, the sorts of components that the Government is looking for are as follows: accommodating the

Superflyte ferry service to Kangaroo Island; developing new boat mooring facilities within the Patawalonga and possibly seaward of the lock; relocating the boat launching facility to the West Beach Recreation Reserve; a significant residential development in the Glenelg North area; and redevelopment of the foreshore between Moseley Square and the Patawalonga mouth.

I think we all appreciate that Glenelg is the tourist attraction of Adelaide, particularly in the middle of summer, and that it has become a very tired area. Numerous developments have been proposed in that area by the former Labor Government, and clearly it does need redevelopment. There is a huge bitumen car park that takes up a lot of prime space. Parking should be established elsewhere and certainly away from the public eye. As part of this redevelopment there is potential to erect medium density residential accommodation which would provide a huge boost to the State.

A range of consortia have put forward proposals. At this stage, the Government has selected a preferred one and is negotiating with that group to finalise details, which it hopes to do over the next six months. If, however, the Government fails to reach an agreement with the preferred consortium, its intention is to go automatically to the other consortium. In fact, there is potential for some of the proposals put forward by the other consortium to be included in the one put forward by Holdfast Shores.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Members opposite, particularly the member for Hart who was the senior adviser to the former Labor Government, failed over an 11 year period to produce one single major tourist development in South Australia. What a disastrous record! There is the Leader of the Opposition who, as the then Minister of Tourism, failed to deliver Tandanya on Kangaroo Island, who failed to deliver the Wirrina Resort, who failed to deliver the development at Glenelg, and the man who failed in respect of the West Beach Trust, the Flinders—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: —and the Barossa Valley. I could go on and—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister is out of order.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: No wonder he became known as the Minister for Lost Projects. He did not produce one major tourist project for South Australia in the four years for which he was directly responsible for tourism; in fact, he lost some that looked almost certain. How a Minister could do that is beyond comprehension, but he did it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ridley is out of order.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: In the 12 short months this Government has been in office we have already secured a \$200 million commitment to redevelop Wirrina as the first major international tourist resort in South Australia, with \$30 million already underway in the first 12 months. What Labor could not achieve in the first 11 years of its term (and we hope that it is the last 11 years for many years) we have been able to accomplish in the first 12 months of Government. No wonder the Leader of the Opposition sits there chirping away—

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition has had a fair go.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: It is his only form of defence when he is embarrassed by his own performance. I come back to the important issue. Glenelg is a key part of the redevelopment of tourism in South Australia, as is the cleaning up of the Patawalonga, which this Government has been able to achieve, with work starting in the first 12 months. We are proud of the fact that the work will be finished within 18 months and that we will have a private development of which we can be proud and sell internationally.

TRADING HOURS

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Does the Minister for Industrial Affairs believe that the extended shopping hours in the city have not been detrimental to small retailers in the city or the metropolitan area generally? The Small Retailers Association has today released a survey of its members showing that only 2.2 per cent of those surveyed believe that extended shopping hours have been beneficial, while 61.6 per cent recorded a negative impact. Indeed, only 16.3 per cent of small business retailers believe this Government has helped them.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I thank the Leader for his question. I will start by saying that at a meeting I attended this morning a report was given on retail sales, which indicated that there has been a 6.5 per cent increase in sales right across the metropolitan area and a reduction in insolvencies in the metropolitan area. The report put to us this morning from a person who understands the retail industry very well stated that one of the exciting things that has occurred in Adelaide over the past 12 months was the opening up of Adelaide for trading on Sundays.

Mr Clarke interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: The Deputy Leader ought to walk down the Mall on a Sunday.

Mr Clarke interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. Yesterday the House was particularly unruly. The Chair does not want to be forced to take unfortunate action in relation to certain people. There are Standing Orders. The Leader has been given a fair go. It is not now the Deputy Leader's turn to be unruly.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I note that there is a very considerable number of people in the city, and all those who have been surveyed in the city say that it is the best thing that has happened in this State in a retail sense. Let me comment on behalf of small business. Having been in a small business, unlike either of the two members talking opposite, I know a little about market trends and a little about small business. I happen to know a little about what happens in the retail industry. It is interesting that Mr Brownsea from the Small Retailers Association has said to me for a long time—and he is absolutely right—that there has been a continual trend away from small business in the retail area for the past 50 years. There is nothing exciting and, unfortunately, nothing very impressive about the fact that the consumers, the very people who control the sale of goods in a small business, are themselves deciding to shop in the larger shopping centres.

I do not like that, but the consumers, the people who purchase the goods, have been making the decision to move away from small shops. The reason for that is very simple: primarily, they are now getting better service and a much wider range of goods and services in the regional centres. That is the reason it is occurring: it has nothing to do with Government policy. It is the retail industry and the consumer

making the decision. The member for Spence is probably the only person on the other side, having previously been a representative of the Shop Distributive & Allied Employees' Association, who would understand the retail industry. The reality is that there has been a movement away from small retailers in the past 50 years. The small retailers, I might point out, represent the delicatessens and, primarily, very small grocery businesses.

Let me just paint a picture of what is happening to those small retailers. In the past 10 years we have had a group of people who call their business Triple Seven. The reason that there is a movement away from the small retailers is that the Triple Seven business is giving a better service with a larger range of goods at a reasonable price in competition with delicatessens. The second major reason, which the previous Minister (now member for Giles) encouraged to occur, was the opening up of retail petrol stations into broader shops.

The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I note that the member for Giles says he supported that, and I supported it; it was very successfully done. That is the other reason why there is a move away from the small retailers and the delicatessens—the petrol stations now have a small retailer called a delicatessen on the same site. What is happening is that consumers, when buying their petrol, are also buying their greengroceries and general groceries in those stores as a matter of convenience. So, it has nothing to do with Government policy; it is the reorganisation and restructuring of the retail industry.

MYER CENTRE

Mr WADE (Elder): My question is directed to the Treasurer. What plans does the South Australian Asset Management Corporation have to sell the Myer Centre? While the Myer Centre has cost this State considerably through the former State Bank, I am aware that there has been considerable interest from potential buyers who are seeking a premier retail development.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: Yesterday I announced that the sales process for the Myer Centre had commenced by the appointment of two interstate agents to have its carriage. Probably, of all the loans which were made by the State Bank and which foundered and became non-performing loans, the one decision taken that has cost this State most dearly has been the Myer Centre. We know the history of it; it does not bear repeating. We know of the largess, and the behaviour of the building unions and the Premier at the time enforcing the State Bank to take on the loan. It is all on the record for people to look at. It is time to cleanse the books. It is time to get rid of some of the past upon which we can reflect. I hope a few lessons have been learned. We can look forward to that centre taking on a new life beyond that which it has suffered over recent times, simply because of poor decision making, management and administration.

As at 30 June 1994, the legal debt for the centre was \$916.6 million: that is nearly \$1 billion on one building. As I said, of all the loans that were made for all the wrong reasons, this happened to be the worst of them all, and we will never recover that money. What we are doing now is trying to get the best price possible for the building, and two very professional firms are involved in marketing and selling assets on behalf of other clients. They have been given the job of getting the best price possible for the Myer Centre. Obviously, we will market it internationally as well as nationally.

We have already had considerable interest from local and interstate participants. We intend to get the best price possible for the centre and recoup some of the \$916.6 million, but probably closer to \$930 million now, which that centre has cost the taxpayers of this State. I hope that when that centre is sold it will mark another end to a bad era and that the people of South Australia will feel confident that not only do we have a good centre but that some of the decisions of the past have been set aside and we can move on to a brighter future than that which was left by the previous Government.

OUTSOURCING

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): My question is directed to the Treasurer. How did the Government calculate the savings that it claims will accrue from outsourcing jobs now done by the Department of Transport, and will he release the reports of the consultancies or other studies that were used to estimate these claimed savings?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: There are some rules regarding the outsourcing arrangement. Before we came into government, we made quite clear that we would have the most efficient delivery of public sector services anywhere in Australia. That is our aim and that is what we will deliver. From the beginning, we made quite clear that we would be the best, and that is what we intend to do. In terms of those areas of government where service delivery is important but where it actually comes from is not so important, whether it be public or private, obviously the issues of savings and efficiencies become absolutely paramount. General guidelines have been laid down for all outsourcing arrangements; they basically say, 'If you cannot achieve at least 10 per cent saving, I don't want to hear about it; it is not worth pursuing; you're wasting your time.' That 10 per cent saving has to include the cost of any TSPs that may be associated with excess staff. It has to be the total present value cost of the new arrangements as opposed to the existing arrangements. That is the first criterion.

The second criterion is that there has to be a pay-back period within the three to four year time frame so that the Government is actually in front within a very short time. I know what happens: with all the best intentions, we get the wrong results because the parameters change, and people say, 'We want to put a little bit more on the equation' or 'We want to load that cost side a little bit more.' There has to be a clear understanding of these outsourcing arrangements. The guideline stipulates three years, but with some allowance in the system.

Whether we are talking about road transport or about the buses, all members will recognise that there is opportunity for better service, whether it be related to laying the bitumen on the road or, in fact, providing the bus service. For example, 10 million passengers have been lost to the bus services in the past few years.

Mr Atkinson: Not me.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: Since the honourable member has lost his bike, he may well be patronising the—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: He's back on his bike: it seems that we've lost another one.

Mr Atkinson: No, I put it on the train.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: The issue is that the performance of this area has been abysmal. It has been losing passengers. The cost to the budget has been increasing each year and we are not getting a better service: we are getting fewer passen-

gers subsidising each fare more. In the whole area of transport, we believe that we have to get the best result at the most economical price.

Mr Atkinson: Net gain in three years.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: There is a pay off on the TSPs that has to be realised within that three to four year time frame. In net present value terms, there has to be a net saving to the budget of at least 10 per cent before the exercise starts.

GALAXY TV

Mr ASHENDEN (Wright): As the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development welcomed Galaxy TV to its new premises at Technology Park this morning, will he advise the House on the recent expansion of the company's activities in South Australia?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: When the Government signed a contract with Australis last year, part of that contract was for it to source the majority of its equipment locally out of South Australia so that we added to other business opportunities and economic development in the State. In fact, that is happening. Galaxy TV, the Australis Media Group, has decided to shift part of its national accounting facility from interstate to South Australia. So, not only do we now have the expansion of its customer service centre, which, as of today, stands at some 247 employees—a greater accelerated rate of take-up of employees than was originally envisaged—but, in fact, today it started moving into the new \$10.6 million leased office accommodation purpose built under the South Australian Housing Trust factory purpose built scheme. Over the next four weeks it will move into that facility.

This company will employ about 1 000 people over the next few years and, if the take-up rate is any indication of what we have seen in the last three to six months, that figure could well be exceeded. Not only are there 247 new employees as of today but 25 people will be transferred into the national accounting facility being collocated here from interstate.

In addition to the three or four contracts signed with South Australian based companies last year, it has added to that; in radio frequency systems, a Lonsdale based company, of which Hills Industries has 30 per cent ownership, has won a contract to supply antenna combiners and systems for broadcast services. It is almost a \$1 million contract—the fourth—clearly indicating that Australis, Galaxy TV, is honouring its commitment to economic build-up and activity within the State of South Australia—small and medium businesses in South Australia. Job creation, the transfer of further facilities from interstate, the letting of contracts with other South Australian based companies and the bringing into South Australia of critical mass such as EDS, Australis and Motorola—this acts as a magnet to attract other industries and further economic activity, and is a good news story for small and medium enterprises in South Australia.

HAEMOLYTIC URAEMIC SYNDROME

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. As it is now one month since the cause of the HUS outbreak was identified, will the Minister advise the House what action he has taken to restore confidence in the smallgoods industry by ensuring that the uncooked meat fermentation processes used by manufacturers are safe and that they are adequate to kill E. coli bacteria?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: This question should have been addressed to the Minister for Primary Industries as it relates to the smallgoods industry, but I am happy to provide the answer for the member for Elizabeth, given that this has been the subject of considerable media comment. We have had a number of meetings with the industry. We have advanced the Meat Hygiene Act regulations. I remind the member for Elizabeth that this Government introduced the Meat Hygiene Act despite years of inactivity by the previous Government. The industry is cooperating enthusiastically with the new regulations, as we would expect it would and as has been recognised in the media. I am sure the member for Elizabeth remembers that I have identified that I will take the matter involving the production of cooked or uncooked smallgoods to the National Food Authority. I have written to the Parliamentary Secretary of the Federal Minister for Health in relation to that, so that matter has been actioned, and I intend to raise it at the next Ministerial Council.

DISABLED PERSONS

Mrs KOTZ (Newland): Can the Minister for Health assure the House that the budget cut to disability services will not affect client services? I ask the question following a publication in the *Advertiser* which referred to a \$6 million cut in disability services.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: I thank the member for Newland for her question about this very important matter. I am delighted to disabuse the Parliament of that view: there has been no cut to disability services. In fact, disability services were quarantined within the budgetary process, so that the stringencies expected in the other areas of the health budget did not apply in the disability area. In fact, in 1993-94, \$147 million was applied to the disability area; and in 1994-95 it is \$152 million. Indeed, there is an increase in funding.

Whilst disability services have been quarantined from specific cuts to funding, there is no reason to suspect that they cannot make the same changes in efficiencies as other areas of the health sector have been asked to make. We are seeking from the disability sector a 3.8 per cent efficiency dividend, which is the same as other areas across the health sector, but this dividend will be reinvested in further disability services. Therefore, we are looking at a level of increased services for people with disabilities.

We believe that, having introduced a creative new system of funding and administration in the disability area known as Options Coordination, this will drive further efficiencies so that clients themselves will be directing that they get better value for their dollar. That efficiency dividend will not be a matter primarily of Government's dictating where the efficiencies will be made; rather it will be the purchaser looking for the best value for dollar from the provider. Also, we are reducing duplication of effort. We are making sure that there is only one case manager per case, thereby eliminating multiple assessments, which many people would realise is one of the major areas of difficulty in the disability sector, where people with disabilities are asked to go for a number of assessments. Clearly that is against the interests of the person with the disability.

We are ensuring better information in case management so that clients and services are better matched—again, a way of increasing efficiency. We are benchmarking service types. The value of this, and the opportunity for us to increase services to people with disabilities within the same budgetary

mark, can be seen in a recent exercise conducted by the IDSC whereby an agency which had administrative costs of nearly 40 per cent was identified. Clearly in an area where what the Government wishes to concentrate on is services to people with disabilities, those sorts of administrative costs will not be tolerated. I am delighted to say that there will be no cut to disability funding.

MEAT HYGIENE

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): Does the Minister for Primary Industries believe that the current system of meat transfer documentation is adequate to enable authorities to trace contaminated products and to obtain evidence for any subsequent legal action, and does he plan any changes to the system? The Opposition has obtained a memo from the Chief of the Meat Hygiene Unit of the South Australian Department of Primary Industries dated 30 January 1995 and sent to interstate meat hygiene authorities. The memo proposed that meat companies be advised no longer to forward meat transfer certificates to the South Australian Meat Hygiene Unit or the Adelaide Office of AQIS.

The Hon. D.S. BAKER: As the honourable member would know, in the period up to 1 March there have been no checks of any boning rooms, smallgoods or chicken factories or any such operation in South Australia for the past 100 years. There have been no checks at all. We are introducing a system whereby all smallgoods, chicken goods, boning rooms and meat processing facilities in South Australia are under a quality assurance program. That program will be independently audited by SGS, a firm operating in 140 countries throughout the world which is internationally recognised as the independent auditor that covers all food processing in our major export countries and other countries as well.

We are introducing a system that has not been used in this State or many other States previously (although other States are now following suit), so that not only management but all employees will be involved in ensuring the quality of the products and processes used right through to the final product, and all those processes will be audited.

It is irresponsible to keep going back to one most unfortunate incident, which has decimated the smallgoods industry in this State and is having a tremendous effect in other States. The system to which I am referring was one of the first legislative measures we introduced on coming to Government. If the honourable member has a worry about this she should be asking the member for Hart, in particular, why he did nothing the whole time that he was involved in primary industry.

As from 1 March we will have a quality assurance program for all meat produced in South Australia, ensuring that all South Australians are eating the best processed goods ever produced in this State, and the whole process will be independently audited.

MARINE PARK

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Will the Minister for Primary Industries explain the current status of the research project now being carried out by the South Australian Research and Development Institute to investigate the possible establishment of a Great Australian Bight Marine Park?

The Hon. D.S. BAKER: I thank the honourable member for her question and her interest in this matter. I know that the member for Eyre has a similar interest in it. It has been of some concern to me and to members of the Government that there seems to be a public campaign running about the pluses and minuses and the do's and don'ts of a proposed report being produced by SARDI. I have been critical of the people at SARDI about the public consultation process: it should not be run in the media. The dilemma we have is that no consideration can be given to this report until the Government sees it, and until now the Government has not received the report. In fact, the committee, which had its final meeting yesterday at Ceduna, is reviewing the final documents. When the committee has passed those documents I hope that the report will then come to me as the Minister for Primary Industries. That will then allow the Government to consider the report.

I think it is important that we understand the background of the matter. This report was not commissioned by the South Australian Government: it originated with the aid of Federal Government funds under the Ocean 2000 program and has now been going on for about 12 months. It is a scientific document which will be delivered to the South Australian Government and which we will be able to use to determine what should happen to ensure that all interests in that area are considered. I urge members to wait until the Government has received and considered the report. It will be a very valuable aid to the Government's determining what should happen in this respect. However, it is quite useless for the media to be running around seeking comments, and it is quite irresponsible for people to be commenting on it until the Government has received the report.

MEAT HYGIENE

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): I direct my question to the Minister for Primary Industries. Did the Victorian meat processor that supplied Garibaldi with meat subsequently found to be contaminated with E. coli 0-111 forward to his department official meat transfer certificates covering the contaminated meat, and have these documents been retained for evidence or forwarded to the Coroner for his investigation?

The Hon. D.S. BAKER: I have no knowledge of that issue, but I will get a report and provide it to the honourable member at a later date.

VIDEO CONFERENCING

Mr ANDREW (Chaffey): Can the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education say how many video conferencing facilities are now located within the TAFE sector, and can he highlight how this concept has grown from a vision to that of providing wider and better options for students, especially those living in country areas of South Australia?

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: I thank the member for Chaffey for his interest. He is another of our excellent members. We now have in South Australia one of the most extensive video conferencing networks in Australia. At present, we have 18 individual locations, and since coming to office we have installed six new facilities, which compares more than favourably with what was done under the previous Government. I announced today that we have ordered equipment for a new facility at Waikerie, so the member for Chaffey will be

pleased to tell his constituents that not only will the new facility at Berri be operational but shortly there will be another facility at Waikerie.

The benefits of the system include the fact that country students can now access a wider range of programs. For example, students in Whyalla and Port Lincoln can access the tourism studies program without having to leave their city. It is my commitment that we will extend this program particularly to some of the smaller country towns so that people in those areas can also benefit. I believe this system offers real opportunities in terms of access and equity for country people. There are significant savings for individual students, and we have found that students who use this mode of learning get better results than the State average for other students. For example, the Murray Institute has been able to double the number of certificates awarded as a result of the introduction of this facility. This Government is committed to serving the needs of country people. They will not be forgotten under this Government, and I am determined, despite the tough times we are facing, that that network will be expanded to make sure that country people obtain access to the best training available in this State.

MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Premier in his role as Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs. Will the Premier introduce a charter for multiculturalism to mark the United Nations International Year of Tolerance, and will he support a similar concept nationally together with racial vilification legislation, or does he share the reported views of the Federal Opposition spokesperson on ethnic affairs who 'is sceptical that this International Year of Tolerance will achieve anything'?

The Premier would be well aware that the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia is pushing strongly for such a multicultural charter to mark the International Year of Tolerance and that the New South Wales Liberal Government has already introduced a similar document. Last year, in reply to questions from me, the Premier said that the South Australian Liberal Government was yet to determine its position regarding racial hatred legislation in South Australia and nationally. The Premier would be aware that this issue involving both the charter and racial vilification will be discussed at the National Conference on Population and Immigration which is being held today and in respect of which the Premier is hosting a reception tonight.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs (OMEA) is putting together a comprehensive program. I assure the honourable member that there will be some very exciting initiatives in that program for this year, one of which will focus directly on improving tolerance between ethnic groups within the community and at the same time provide a broader approach to make sure that a greater number of migrants settle in South Australia. I will not go into the details of that program here, but that is one initiative, together with several other initiatives that we are taking. Last year was a turning point in what we have achieved with multicultural and ethnic affairs in this State with our use of various ethnic communities as part of the rebuilding of the State's economy. The commission is looking at the issue of the charter, but no decision has yet been made.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Vilification also?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: That is also being looked at by the Government, as I indicated earlier, and no decision has been made. When a decision is made, I will simply announce it to the honourable member. I assure the honourable member that a number of programs are being developed, which I think are very exciting, including looking at some sort of overall charter.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARDS

Mr LEWIS (Ridley): My question is directed to the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development in some few parts. What grants have been made recently to Regional Development Boards, what types of companies and projects are being targeted through the boards in the grants program, and how many jobs does he expect will be created or at least retained through the programs of these boards?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: With the expansion of the Regional Development Board structure throughout South Australia and the upgrading within the Regional Development Unit of the Economic Development Authority, the State Government is committing a four-fold increase of resources towards regional economic development in South Australia, because it is quite clear that, if we are to reach our growth potential and the targets set down by the Government, the whole of South Australia—not just the metropolitan area of Adelaide—will have to participate in the growth and generation of economic activity and jobs.

The structure set in place formerly was good, and we have built on and expanded that. Packages that we are offering through Regional Development Boards include support services and grants of between \$5 000 and \$2.5 million. They are individually tailored incentives designed to help business growth within regions, and they can take the form of grants, loans and guarantees. Incentive packages have been delivered to a wide variety of businesses which have been helped in recent times, and they include: a factory expansion and equipment upgrade for an engineering firm; a new factory built and equipment upgrade for an expanding timber processor; new product specifications accreditation for a light plane maker; product reorientation for a fruit processor; expansion of an abattoir and meat processing works; and product diversification trials for an agricultural equipment maker. Quality accreditation programs and infrastructure projects are also part of the whole range of packages being offered through the Regional Development Board structure.

In the four months since October 1994, support for firms has increased by 44 per cent from 35 to 51, actual assistance has increased by \$1.315 million from \$5.1 million to \$6.4 million, and from that 466 new jobs have been created in regional South Australia, and 566 jobs have been retained in regional South Australia as a result of the packages and support mechanisms that have been put in place. We will continue to support businesses in regional areas and value add, particularly with respect to primary produce, to meet our export market potential and opportunities so that we can reach the bottom line, which is 4 per cent growth each year until the year 2000.

PENLEY, MR LES

Mr FOLEY (Hart): Will the Minister for Tourism seek the resignation of Mr Les Penley, General Manager of Kangaroo Island Sealink, from the board of the Tourism

Commission following Mr Penley's public criticisms of the Tourism Commission and his company's main competitor, the Government supported KI Fast Ferries?

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: No.

SOUTH-EAST FARM LANDS

The Hon. H. ALLISON (Gordon): Will the Minister for Primary Industries advise the House of the result of a community meeting held earlier last week at Keith where they discussed the Government's plans to rehabilitate salt affected farm lands in the Upper South-East?

The Hon. D.S. BAKER: As honourable members would know, before the last election the now Premier gave a clear undertaking that the incoming Government would do something about the salinity and drainage problems in the Upper South-East. Some 720 000 hectares of country is under threat, and it is not only grazing country. If anyone has taken the trouble to go down and have a look, particularly members opposite, they will be aware of a large area that has been damaged badly by the rising watertable and the salt destroying the vegetation. With that commitment of the State Government to look after the environment in that area and stop the degradation, it has been decided that it should be a 37.5 per cent State Government responsibility, a 37.5 per cent Federal Government responsibility, and 25 per cent being the responsibility of the local community.

Last Monday I attended a meeting of some 200 people at Keith. It was chaired by the Federal shadow Minister for the Environment (Mr Ian McLachlan). We had a discussion with that community on how it should fund that project. I was delighted at the overwhelming support that community gave for rectification of probably the biggest environmental degradation problem this State has seen. They understand that they have to support the State Government absolutely in its bid to get Canberra and the Federal Government on side. Mr McLachlan made clear that it would be impossible for him to go to Canberra and get help on the 37.5 per cent from the Federal Government unless the district was overwhelmingly behind the project.

Overwhelmingly the district is behind that project, and I will be seeing Senator Bob Collins next week to bring him up to date with what has happened and to assure him of the district's support and the absolute backing of the South Australian Government; and, hopefully, the environment of that very much degraded area in the near future can start to be repaired.

Mr FOLEY (Hart): Following the Minister for Primary Industries' answer to that question, will the Treasurer commit the State Government to full funding for that program?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: Money has already been allocated in this year's budget, with \$1 million allocated to the process. There has been considerable discussion on the funding of that remedial work and over what time frame it should take place and whether it should be private or Government funded directly. There has been considerable deliberation in respect of the advancement of this project. We all recognise the importance of this project. A vast area of the upper South-East has become degraded through poor farming practises over time. It is time to put a halt to that and start the rehabilitation process. The Minister for Primary Industries, who has had a strong association with the area, is a strong environmentalist and firmly supports the rehabilitation of the area.

CHRISTIES BEACH TREATMENT PLANT

Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurua): Will the Minister for Infrastructure advise the House of progress being made with work at the Christies Beach treatment plant?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: I am pleased to advise the honourable member that considerable progress has been made with the Christies Beach sewage treatment system. In all \$4.5 million of State Government funds will be allocated and expended during 1995 to bring about environmental improvement at the plant. A \$1.3 million contract to increase the aeration capacity is well under way and is due to be commissioned by September 1995. Design work is under way for a sludge thickener for commissioning by October 1995 at a cost of \$500 000. Detailed design is nearing completion for two additional settling tanks at a budget cost of some \$3 million. Commissioning of the settling tanks is expected in November 1995 and will greatly increase the capacity of the plant to ensure that clear effluent is consistently produced.

In addition, sensors will be installed on the existing settling tank. Considerable capital works are being undertaken on the plant. At the continual agitation of the honourable member and her two colleagues from the southern suburbs, who have consistently put to the Government the long overdue need for capital works programs on the sewerage system for the southern suburbs, given the significant growth we are seeing in the southern suburbs, this capital works program is now in place.

An environmental improvement program is also being prepared for the plant. It is likely to include increased capacity incorporating nutrient reduction, increased use of recycled water where possible and improved outfall performance. These measures will significantly improve the plant's environmental performance and ensure that, by the year 2001, we are able to meet full EPA requirements not only at other metropolitan sewage treatment plants but also that Christies Beach will lead the field in that regard.

MARU TJUTA INCORPORATED

Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education confirm that the business breakthrough in community management training programs, previously offered through TAFE, will now be provided by a body called Maru Tjuta Incorporated, what funds will be provided or have been transferred from TAFE to this body and what tendering processes were followed leading to this decision?

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: At this stage the whole matter is being investigated as a result of some queries raised with me by people in the community and by one of my ministerial colleagues. It is premature to give a definite answer because the whole matter is currently under investigation. I will be happy to provide the honourable member with a detailed response shortly, but the whole issue is being thoroughly canvassed at the moment.

BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr BECKER (Peake): Will the Treasurer inform the House of the performance of the Bank of South Australia in the first half of the 1994-95 financial year and advise what work is being done to improve the bank's performance?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: It is good news as far as the bank is concerned and of course for South Australia. It performed

particularly well during the first six months of this financial year. Before tax the net profit was \$56.1 million, and the after tax profit was \$39.2 million. We had a strong return on equity of 17.5 per cent, a return on average assets of 1.01 per cent, a net interest margin of 3.02 per cent and an expense ratio of 63.7 per cent.

The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: This is not in the press release.

The SPEAKER: Order! I suggest that the member for Giles get something to read.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: That is a dramatic improvement on the way the previous State Bank was run. We are now seeing the consolidation of the bank in its new role and a much stronger performance. There are significant pressures on regional banks, as we would all appreciate. Whilst there has been significant improvement, there must be continual improvement, including getting those expense ratios down below the 60 per cent and, indeed, increasing the returns.

Our capital adequacy ratio more than meets the Reserve Bank guidelines at 11.7 per cent, and our non-accrual loans, because the bank has been cleansed of the bad debts and bad loans, are at .25 per cent. So, all the indicators are extremely positive. We have retained a strong retail deposit presence in the market, and that was always a major concern when the State Bank disappeared and the Bank of South Australia was formed. The great concern to me as Treasurer was whether there would be a lapse of patronage or a withdrawal from the State Bank as a result of the change. We have managed to maintain a very strong presence and the depositors have continued to patronise the bank. That is an extremely positive outcome, given experiences elsewhere.

The area in which the bank has become more vulnerable is home loan lending, where the Bank of South Australia (and the State Bank prior to that) maintains the strongest market share of all banks. It still has the largest share of home loan lending in the South Australian market but, as people can appreciate, if that area of lending is decreasing as a result of the interest rate problems that are visiting all households, that share of our market is commensurately affected. So, there are significant pressures on the bank to continue to improve and to continue to give good service, as it has for some time. It was recognised in a recent national survey for giving good service. We want to continue to improve in those areas to ensure that, when the bank is sold, we maximise the price and hold the custom that bank has enjoyed for so long.

HOSPITAL FEES

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): How does the Minister for Health justify an injured worker's receiving an account of \$4 489 from a country hospital for an overnight stay? I understand that the exempt employer has refused to pay the account.

Mr BRINDAL: On a point of order, the matter about which the honourable member was asking her question was part of the debate that was heard in this Chamber last night, and I believe that it is not in order to refer to previous debate.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the Chair were to uphold the point of order, the Chair would greatly restrict the number of questions from both sides of the House. The Chair's concern—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart. The Chair's concern was not in relation to the subject, but the honourable member engaged in considerable comment.

Therefore, I allow the question and call on the honourable Minister.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: I have absolutely no idea about the specific instance the member for Torrens raises, and I look forward to receiving that detail so that I can look at the circumstances. However, I would say that this is a fairly common and easy way of raising the matter of what are known as diagnostic related groupings. I am not sure that this is specifically the instance, but I believe that it probably would be. Each illness, procedure, or whatever, falls into a particular category of illness. What the member for Torrens is doing is instancing an example where people, for the services provided, are being charged what would appear to be an excessive amount, and I am happy to look into that.

Equally, I await with interest the member for Torrens' standing up and quoting example after example of exactly the reverse—where people under the previous billing system were receiving particularly expensive modes of treatment, modes of therapy, operations, hospital stays and so on for a very small sum of money. The simple fact of the matter is that diagnostic related groupings are a way of averaging out care, and I am very happy to supply the member for Torrens with a listing of example after example of where people were utilising scarce hospital resources and the hospital system was not being paid for that. If the member for Torrens wants to go to her constituents and say that she is happy to see very expensive care provided in the hospitals and the hospitals not getting recompensed for that, so that her constituents cannot be treated because of the lack of funds, I am very happy to provide her with the evidence that will allow her to do just that.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

The SPEAKER: The question before the Chair is that the House note grievances.

Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurua): I refer today to the protection of children from sexual abuse and how the judicial system deals with these cases. I was prompted to do so by reading the Attorney-General's press release, 'Child protection paramount', in which he referred to issues that will be raised under the Statutes Amendment (Female Genital Mutilation and Child Protection) Bill. However important that may be, I suggest that there are other issues which relate to protection of children from other types of abuse but with which we do not seem to be taking as much time and effort at present, and I would like to encourage a change in that attitude. I do so because, after my election to this place, I was confronted with a case in my electorate where a child had accused an adult of sexual abuse.

The concern is twofold: first, the increasing number of reported cases; and, secondly, the way the system deals with the cases once reported, when the children are under the age of seven years. In my electorate I have recently dealt with two cases where the alleged victim was less than seven years old. In one case, the trial did not commence: only preliminary proceedings began, to ascertain whether the judge would assimilate the child's evidence. The Department of Public Prosecutions had not opened the prosecution case and the accused was at no time in danger of being convicted of the

offences charged. No evidence was given by either defence or prosecution witnesses in relation to the charges before the court. My problem about the way this happened was that the video evidence taken by the hospital psychologist and also by the police was not used in this situation, nor was it considered as part of the final decision not to proceed.

The other case was reported to both the Department of FACS and the police; a child under the age of five alleged sexual abuse by another person. This was not proceeded with either, on the basis that the information could not be decided one way or the other. This is completely unsatisfactory, as much for the child and the family making the accusation as it is for the alleged offender, and must be addressed. I refer to an article in the Messenger newspaper this week in which the FACS Chief Executive Officer, Richard Deyell, details his concerns about the increased number of reports of child abuse in the southern area.

It is followed by an article by Detective Ramm from the Christies Beach Police Station child abuse unit. The Christies Beach police have reported 119 cases of sexual and physical abuse against children under the age of 16 years, which have resulted in 46 arrests, and 27 incidents that are still being investigated. I have a great deal of respect for the efforts of the police child abuse unit and appreciate the sincere frustration they are experiencing because they feel that their hands are tied in many of the cases brought forward. I cite the article quoting Detective Ramm:

Testimony from children under seven is not accepted by courts unless supported by other evidence. . . The offender only has to deny [the charge] under oath if the child's evidence can't be corroborated. . . Offenders basically prey on that fact. . . paedophiles certainly do—they target kids under seven.

He went on to say that the law frustrated police and was being looked at by a law reform working party. I have spoken to the Attorney-General about that matter several times, and I am happy that we are proceeding down that path. The Family and Community Services spokeswoman, Cathy Brown, agreed and said that the child evidence law needed to be changed to allow other methods of a child's evidence being made available to the court.

The system has to change, and it has to change not only to bring justice to children and to their parents but also, as importantly, to clear the way for those who are wrongly accused. Because these cases are not proceeded with by way of other forms of the taking of evidence, in my opinion neither side of the argument is winning: the children are not having their cases proceeded with and, therefore, the parents feel aggrieved, and those who are wrongly accused, if that be the case, are not having their side heard either. This is not an acceptable situation. I applaud the Attorney-General for taking some action in this area, and I encourage other members of Parliament to become as concerned as I am.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I would like to comment on a number of points that were raised by the Minister for Industrial Affairs in answer to a question from the Leader with respect to a survey done by the Small Retailers Association. I would like to elaborate on the retail survey that was undertaken, because it quite clearly shows that, notwithstanding the Minister's protestations—and he certainly did not answer the question that the Leader put to him—it put the lie to the Government's argument which was put forward in about August last year. It argued that an

extension of city shopping hours would benefit business, particularly small retailers in the city, and that nobody would be adversely affected in so far as their own business was concerned, particularly those outside the city centre.

The survey involved a sample of businesses in the following areas: the CBD, involving about 23.3 per cent of respondents; the metropolitan area generally, 55.8 per cent; and the country areas, 20.9 per cent. The retailers were situated as follows: large centres, 27.9 per cent; small centres, 22.1 per cent; rows of shops, 27.9 per cent; and stand alones, 22.1 per cent. So a very large sample was taken right throughout South Australia.

The survey was conducted to ascertain, first, the acceptance and results of trading changes allowed by the Minister; secondly, the impact of the pokies on turnover; thirdly, performance of small retailers over the past year to the end of December 1994; fourthly, what retailers expect the Government will do for them; fifthly, visits from parliamentarians; and, sixthly, other information of use in negotiating rentals. One of the questions was, 'What has been the impact of the recent 1 November 1994 trading hour changes on turnover?' Under the heading 'Helped', the response was only 2.2 per cent; 'not helped', in other words, down, 61.6 per cent; and 'no change', 36.2 per cent. So, overwhelmingly, what we see from this survey is that the Government's decision to extend trading hours has absolutely devastated a number of small businesses.

On a number of occasions I have gone to the mall on a Sunday, not so much to shop but to observe. On the first Sunday after the end of the January sales, I went to the Regent Arcade, where about 50 shops are located, and in excess of two-thirds of those shops were closed. I also spoke to a number of the retailers on the Saturday beforehand to find out their attitudes and opinions with respect to Sunday trading. They said, as always, 'If you introduce late or extended trading in the Grand Prix week, in the lead-up to Christmas and over the Christmas-New Year sales, sales will be very good, but we will close our doors the moment the end of January comes, because there will be no trade.' The survey results and the covering press release from the small retailers indicate:

From other information we have, it is clear that the Friday night shopping 'experiment' is a failure—

and these are quotes—

while Sundays in the mall are falling away in popularity with winter likely to have a major impact. Food outlets in the mall generally have done well, but other small traders have doubts because their Sunday trade is not new business, but usually a transfer from what would have been done on another day. Costs are up and the net result is a drop in profit—that eventually affects jobs.

The Minister talked about the large retailers doing well. Of course they have done well in the city centre, and they have done well at the expense of small retailers—the very people whom I thought the Liberal Party and the Government actually supported. They are actually laying off staff rather than hiring. Indeed, that has been the whole problem with this issue.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr BROKESHIRE (Mawson): This morning in my electorate of Mawson I had the privilege of attending a project at the Woodcroft Primary School known as 'Shane and Sally's Smoke Free Launch'. I appreciated being invited to that great project. It was initiated through the Noarlunga

Health Services, and the member for Reynell and other colleagues have often referred in this House to the importance and success of the Noarlunga Health Services. I cite the Director of the Noarlunga Health Services, Mr Richard Hicks. He and his team of dedicated health officers within the Noarlunga Health Services lead the way not only in South Australia but also, I would be so bold as to say, in Australia, and in some areas internationally in proactive health and community care.

I would particularly like to mention three people from Noarlunga Health Services who have been very active on the project 'Shane and Sally's Smoke Free Launch': Mr Bill Watts, the Manager of the Woodcroft branch of the Noarlunga Health Services; Helen Broomhall; and Jon Hare. Those three people, through their dedication to proactive health and their interest in children and their future, between them would have put many hours into this project. I would also like to mention a person well known through the southern area, Marney Winter. She is a leading South Australian netballer and a local person who puts an enormous amount of time into the Southern United Netball Association (SUNA); she visits schools, helping girls and young women with netball skills. Marney and two other locals (a leading surf lifesaver and a leading surfer) voluntarily and at their own expense also attended this launch and then went with the officers of the Noarlunga Health Services to two other schools, one of which (the Pimpala Primary School) is in my electorate.

I refer now to the Woodcroft Primary School, which is a very new school, one of which the community in the Woodcroft area is proud; I am proud to represent that school as the member of Parliament. Mr Pat Dorian, the Principal of Woodcroft Primary School, has been there from the beginning and has been actively involved in all the planning, the hard work and the frustration and stress that goes into developing a new school. The staff, the school council, the parents generally and, in particular, the children display great community spirit, as was evident during my visit to the school. In fact, the children were so excited not only about this project but also about the fact that they are part of the Woodcroft Primary School, and proud to be so, that Mr Lawes the teacher had trouble getting them back within the bell time: they wanted to be involved more and more.

Mr Lawes is another great school teacher who spends a lot of his own time at school council. In fact, at every school council meeting I attend he is always there representing the staff, students and interests of the school.

Every year in Australia approximately 18 000 people die prematurely through smoking related diseases. About \$197 million per annum is spent on hospital and doctor services directly related to smoking. Of course, members will all know that the three main smoking related diseases are coronary heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases, in particular bronchitis and emphysema.

As a parent I worry about my children, as most parents worry about their own children, and about any involvement they may have with drugs. Of drug related deaths among young people, it is indicated that 71 per cent involve tobacco. This program will focus on two aspects: first, preventing young people from taking up smoking; and, secondly, restricting the availability of cigarettes for purchase by young people. Recent research has shown that 22 per cent of adolescents smoke and mainly buy cigarettes from outlets such as delicatessens, despite this being illegal.

Sport is one great thing that can lead young people in the right direction. Woodcroft Primary School—and this is the case with many other schools in my electorate—is very active in this area. The southern sports complex is currently under way, with the South Adelaide football team coming down to establish its headquarters there. I cannot think of a better time to work closely with young people and to educate them by demonstrating that they will be much better off for the rest of their lives by concentrating on sport and healthy activities rather than smoking. I congratulate all involved in this project and conclude by saying that, once again, the south leads the way in taking this great initiative.

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): It is always a pleasure to report the good news, and this is particularly so in relation to agriculture, an industry which has taken a battering for more than a decade. Emu Ridge, a eucalyptus still and tourist centre on Kangaroo Island, is a unique farm of 500 hectares run by husband and wife team Larry and Bev Turner. The Turners are full-time native vegetation farmers catering daily for visitors to their operation and providing full-time employment for six people.

The starting point was the setting up and operation of an old-fashioned eucalyptus still. The initial venture has expanded to the use of other natural resource materials. The range of products used in the operations all occur naturally and are compatible with each other. Narrow leaf mallee, which regenerates readily after cutting, is used not only for the distillation of eucalyptus but also for making other souvenirs. Broombush is cultivated for brush fences where there is a ready market. Again, the bushes regenerate after cutting.

Thryptomene erica is used in two ways: first, as a cut flower sent to markets in the United States of America; and, secondly, for oil production. The plants are cut back after flowering to encourage regeneration, and it is this regrowth which is for oil production. Native cranberries provide another source of income through utilisation of a natural product, with the delicacy presented attractively to consumers. Emu Ridge is a microcosm of biological farming. No sprays are needed, nor internal fences, and the whole operation is self-sustaining. The products are processed without the use of external power or water.

From beginning on unemployment benefits when they started the project, this young couple, with support from the Small Business Centre, have established a successful business. They do their own marketing and have shown initiative in producing leaflets in several languages, including Japanese, French, Dutch and German. Their efforts were recognised with the presentation of a South Australian Regional Small Business Award.

Establishing this business has not been easy. Even for this small operation six licences are required, including a licence for cutting down trees, even though the trees regenerate naturally; a poisons licence because the oils produced are classified as poisons even though they are natural products; a customs licence for the still; and a therapeutic goods licence which costs \$5 000. The latter is a rather harsh cost for the small operator because it is the same amount for a small operator as for a large company like Fauldings.

At present, Turners are carrying out a testing program at Emu Ridge on eucalyptus trees in the area and their oil producing potential. This is being done in conjunction with Waite Institute. The active therapeutic agent of medicinal oils is Cineole, 70 per cent of which is required to meet commer-

cial specifications. Oils are graded on their Cineole content. Medicinal oils are used for inhalants, lozenges, soaps and antiseptic ointments. Low grade Cineole oils can be used as industrial oils in inexpensive disinfectants and household soaps. Quality and quantity varies: some trees yield only half a per cent of eucalyptus oil while others yield as high as 6 per cent. It is planned to take seed from the highest yielding trees to clone back into the plantations. If this research is successful, it will be duplicated with other species to produce higher quality oils and to produce improved native cranberries.

To complete the picture and to make native farming more viable, there is a need to be able to farm native animals, because they form a valuable part of a controlled management system, for example, weed control. South Australia currently imports wallaby meat from Tasmania for wallaby steaks: this is like dying of thirst while drowning in a lake of fresh water. Wallaby skin produces a high quality leather of great durability and softness. Leathergoods merchant R.M. Williams, I understand, would take all available wallaby skins from Kangaroo Island. Here is a market waiting for a product. The product is available on Kangaroo Island. If wallaby could be farmed it would lead to a value added industry.

Tourism can be a lucrative by-product of industry, a fact which Emu Ridge has demonstrated. Larry and Bev Turner, through initiative and hard work, have proved that niche markets can be profitable, that sustainable agriculture pays off.

Ms HURLEY (Napier): I speak briefly today about one of the many WorkCover problems that have been presented at my office and some of its ramifications. A young woman came to me, having injured her back while driving a lunch van for a large employer that operated a number of these vans. The van was maintained in very poor condition and over a period of time she had injured her back. She had had some treatment, but one day it got to a severe stage where she felt that she could not and should not continue to drive any more. She notified her employer of that. Her employer told her at that time that it would not accept the claim, that if she continued with the claim and did not go back to work, it would say that she had injured her back in an accident on her way to work.

This young woman knew that that was not so. She did not believe the employer would be able to sustain that argument and she put in the claim. The claim was lodged by the employer and was accepted by WorkCover, which later rejected her claim. When it came for the notification of review this young woman found that she had a very short period in which to marshal a case to appeal against the decision of WorkCover. She had not done anything up to that time because she found it difficult to believe that the employer's word would be accepted on this matter without any shred of evidence that she had had an accident on her way to work.

She believes that she came under some indirect pressure to cease her union membership when she joined this particular firm and she had no union coverage. Therefore, she was in a situation where she felt she had to fight this case on her own. She came to me after a period of considerable anxiety, wondering what to do; how on earth to present her case in court; where she should get evidence that she had not had the accident on the way to work, and so on.

At this stage it was a matter of only three or four days, from my recollection, before the review hearing. In fact, my constituent had contacted the Employee Advocate Unit

attempting to get some assistance but, for one reason or another, had not heard back from it. When, on her behalf, I contacted the Employee Advocate Unit I was told that it would come with her to the review hearing and do whatever it could on her behalf, and would give her advice on how to proceed.

I had had brief contact with the Employee Advocate Unit previously, but this was the first time that I realised the extent to which it was over-burdened and under-resourced—and this is the principal reason for my grievance today. With this present Government discouraging union involvement and taking whatever steps it can to ensure that employees are not covered by unions and that employers have every opportunity to encourage their employees not to join unions, there will be an increasing need for this Employee Advocate Unit within WorkCover. I believe that it is imperative that its work schedule be looked at, that it be given greater resources and probably greater funding. It is evident that where you get unscrupulous employers such as the employer in my constituent's case, employees will need greater protection. Whatever happens to the proposed legislation, employees will need greater protection and will need to have a greater understanding of the provisions of the WorkCover system.

Mr LEWIS (Ridley): Can I say with the greatest possible emphasis 'Ditto' to the remarks made by the member for Flinders in the course of her contribution to the grievance debate in the House today. The matters to which she drew attention were matters of concern to me before I came into this place, and they deserve to be addressed. Just because there is no strong, loud lobby group saying that something needs to be done is no reason to suppose that there is any less merit in the need for it to be done. The sooner it is done the better off we will all be. New industries will come into existence, and what she has done and spoken about on behalf of the Turners deserves commendation.

I hope that people everywhere, rather than just simply advertising the fact that there is eucalyptus oil, understand that there is a necessity to differentiate between those essential oils distilled from the myrtaceae plants that we have in abundance here, of which eucalypts are but a part. Unless the active fraction which is antiseptic, if not antibiotic, is present in sufficient quantity, although it smells the same, it will not provide the same kind of relief and cure for the conditions for which it is applied. In addition to those mentioned by the honourable member, I point out that it also will be effective in keeping fleas off and delousing domestic pets, so long as it is there in sufficient strength.

I now draw attention to the problem of a family living in my electorate, a matter to which I referred in my last grievance debate. The mother of the family has written to me saying, 'If we can assist change that will help someone else I would like our story told.' Her name is Anne Bond, and her husband's name is Philip. She also said, 'I think our system leaves a lot to be desired. Please don't think this is a "woe is me" letter: it is not.' She has children who are in school, and she had been running a business with her husband. Her 70 year old father, who is now looking after the shop business, selling parts and other things, had been a mechanic and also a school bus driver. He was hailed on the highway by a motorist in distress driving a Volkswagen, without the motorist knowing that he was a mechanic.

The motorist's vehicle had a fuel blockage. Not knowing the problem, the person concerned diagnosed it and, in the process of doing so, disconnecting the fuel line got himself

doused in petrol. Immediately, there was ignition and he has serious burns approaching 35 per cent of his body. He was admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital burns unit on 22 November last year and discharged on 4 January. Now, because he falls between all stools, he is unable to get treatment. WorkCover deny that it is in any sense liable. The notional defendant in the third party insurance for bodily injury states, 'No, it must be WorkCover. You were at work or on your way home from work when this occurred, so we are not going to pay.' The hospital says that if it cannot be sure of getting payment it will not admit him to give him the treatment he requires, because he cannot afford to pay for it himself. To my mind that means the system stinks. They are not Mrs Bond's words; they are my words.

The sooner we resolve this situation the better. I do not think that this matter is the personal responsibility of one or more Ministers: it ought to be capable of solution within the existing bureaucracy otherwise there are some people there who call themselves public servants but who, in my opinion, do not deserve that title or the remuneration they currently attract. For this man to be left with his burns unattended and to be refused admission and essential treatment at the hospital, or at any hospital, is to my mind not just wrong and wicked but a sin. The people responsible for being unable or unwilling to resolve this situation deserve condemnation. Indeed, if they do not resolve the matter quickly, I will name them.

PRIVATE RENTAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier): I lay on the table a ministerial statement made by the Attorney-General in another place on the private rental research project, and the accompanying reports.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST (WATER RATES) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD (Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the South Australian Housing Trust Act 1936. Read a first time.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

This Bill is intended to allow the government to implement the position it has reached on the provision of water to Housing Trust tenants, following recent changes to E&WS water charges for all consumers.

The supply of water is not the business of the Housing Trust. As a landlord, its properties are charged for water by the E&WS in the same way as any other property owner. Like other landlords, the Trust has the option of absorbing the water consumption charges which its tenants incur, (which will cost the Trust approximately \$5.84 million in 1995-96) or it can pass on a percentage of the cost of water to tenants.

Successive Governments have chosen to take the latter course.

Under current Housing Trust tenancy arrangements, all tenants receive a water allowance of 136 kilolitres per annum and, in addition, approximately 32 000 rent rebate tenants receive a further 64kl allowance, for which the Trust meets an annual cost of up to \$1.8 million.

Low income people renting in the private sector do not enjoy such generous arrangements with landlords. It is difficult to justify, on equity grounds, the continuation of this subsidy to only one sector of the community. Indeed, as the subsidy is in the form of free water at a level of consumption well in excess of household norms, it can be said to be encouraging waste, to the detriment of our environment, as well as being an inefficient use of community support funds.

Existing legal and contractual arrangements with Housing Trust tenants only permit the Trust to recover monies from tenants for 'excess water'. The notion of excess water charges have now been eliminated under the new E&WS charging system. The effect is the Trust cannot now legally charge for any water usage, including what currently is termed 'excess water'. This would mean that public housing tenants would have free water which would be contrary to the intention of the agreements as well as to the principles of water conservation.

To correct this situation it will be necessary to amend the Housing Trust Act. As the Trust is not in a position to carry the \$5.8 million total cost of water for its tenants, it is intended to recover water charges from July 1, 1995. Thus, all water consumed from January 1, 1995 after the 1994-1995 second half year water reading will be under the new system, matching the effect on the rest of the community of the E&WS policy.

Under the proposed amendments, all tenants in separately metered properties will, in future, receive the same consideration in respect of their water consumption. The Trust will pay the access charge of \$113 relating to their property and the first 136kl consumed by the tenant. Above this level, tenants, whether they are full rent payers or those on rebates, will be required to pay for the water they use. All tenants in separately metered properties will then be treated equally and will have the same incentive to conserve water as their neighbours.

Full rent payers will have no change from the current arrangement, if their water consumption does not increase. They currently pay for water consumption above 136kl and this will remain the case. Rebated rent payers will pay slightly more if they consume more than 136kl as they currently only pay for consumption in excess of 200kl. If a rebated tenant uses 200kl a year they will pay an extra \$56.32 or about \$1.00 per week.

Within Trust rental stock there are some 21 000 walk-up flats, cottage flats for aged pensioners and other units which are not separately metered. In 1993-94 the average consumption across all these dwellings was 116kl which is within the 136kl allowance provided to separately metered properties. These units have no private gardens but the estates have large common areas that are maintained for the benefit of all occupants by the Trust. Given these facts there is no justification for spending millions of dollars installing separate water meters to these units and flats and consequently these tenants will not be charged for water consumption.

In summary, the change in policy for water usage by Housing Trust tenants provides for greater equity between individual trust tenants as well as between the public and private sectors as a whole.

The details of the proposed charging are set by Regulation rather than the Bill itself, to allow for future changes that may be necessary to reflect changes in water pricing policy. This method is in line with current legislative practice and will ease the transition to new management arrangements for the housing and urban development portfolio that are to be addressed by separate legislation.

These changes will have no effect on any future Housing Trust tenancies, which will be established under new agreements reflecting the policy I have described. It affects only the existing tenancy agreements and brings them into line with the position they were in prior to the E&WS changes, except for the abolition of the additional 64kl allowance to rebated tenants, the reasons for which I have described.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1: Short title

This clause provides for the short title of the measure.

Clause 2: Commencement

The measure will come into operation on 30 June 1995 (and will therefore relate to water charged from 1 July 1995).

Clause 3: Insertion of s. 30

This provision relates to tenancy agreements that, on the commencement of the provision, provide for the tenants to pay an amount for or towards excess or additional water. Such a provision will be taken to provide (from the relevant date) that rates and charges for water supply are to be borne as agreed after the commencement of the measure or, if an agreement is not made, are to be

borne on the basis that the trust will bear the relevant costs up to a limit fixed or determined under the regulations, and the tenant will bear any excess.

Ms HURLEY secured the adjournment of the debate.

SUPPLY BILL

Adjourned debate on the question:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole for consideration of the Bill.

(Continued from 21 February. Page 1708.)

Mr EVANS (Davenport): In today's grievance I wish to place on record some concerns of my constituents who live in the suburbs of Eden Hills and Bellevue Heights, surrounding the Eden Hills dump. People living there were under the impression that over recent years operations at the dump were being wound down, with a view to ceasing completely. In fact, in recent years the dump has hardly operated. The Mitcham council has been operating a dump at Lynton and had been discussing with the Marion council a joint facility for rubbish collection and recycling from both council areas.

For whatever reason, these negotiations fell through during the past 18 months. Mitcham council then had a choice: it could either reuse the Eden Hills tip, which is virtually totally surrounded by residential development, or it could transport its waste to the Pedlars Creek site, which would cost the council considerably more. I understand it has been estimated that that would mean that it would have to raise the rates across the whole of the council area by some 3 per cent. The Eden Hills option is the easy option for the council, because it affects only 150 to 200 people and therefore the community backlash as regards putting it there is far less than it would be if it involved having to raise the rates by 3 per cent. My political nous tells me that the people living around the Eden Hills tip will be faced with this problem for two to seven years. I say that because that is the estimate of time that the Mitcham council suggests the Eden Hills tip will last given the current dumping rate.

Currently the tip is operated or managed by Envirolink. In fairness to that company, it is doing its best to manage the site with the least possible annoyance to the community. However, the community is slowly but surely losing faith in the system. Some people living around the tip have advised me that they purchased their house in recent years on the understanding that the dump was winding down with a view to closing. In fact, the council has gone back and purchased properties from residents partly because of that belief. As a result, the council is now becoming a property owner around the site. One of the concerns that that raises is that some of the local residents fear that the property that the council has purchased will now be used for commercial offices. They have raised the issue of zoning of commercial offices in a residential area.

Over 80 trucks a day have been entering the Eden Hills site, and the driveway and surrounding area are now a total dust bowl. This is creating enormous problems for the people living nearby. They do not open their windows and doors to let in fresh air because the dust damages the carpets and curtains. Recently they had to have all their rainwater tanks cleaned out because the dust had made the rainwater unusable. That is now a common problem. The local residents do not believe that they should be responsible for, first, the cleaning of the tanks because they did not create the problem;

and, secondly, they should not have to replace the water. Of course, that should not be occurring in a residential area, and they should not be losing their rainwater because of the operation of the dump adjacent.

The operators have now placed a lot of dolomite rubble on the site for repairing roads in the Mitcham council area. That in itself has created extra traffic: there are now three bulldozers working in an area adjacent to a residential development five days a week. That in itself is creating a noise problem. Young mothers with babies or shift workers who need to sleep in the afternoon or morning are having problems adjusting their lifestyle to the operation of the dump.

One major area of concern is the fact that here in the middle of a residential area the council is proposing to conduct a concrete crushing trial. It is looking at setting up a concrete crushing plant in the middle of Eden Hills. Members would appreciate that living next to that would cause some concern. As I understand it, well over 800 tonnes of concrete has already been tipped there in order to run a trial, and 800 tonnes is not a bad trial. That again creates ongoing noise, day in and day out, that was not there six months ago. This dump is currently creating smell, noise and dust problems. It is also causing many visual problems because it is on the side of a hill and people living in the streets below, particularly Ashmore Avenue, Mountbatten Avenue, Gothic Avenue—but not to the same extent—and Shepherd's Hill Road, which is adjacent, can all see the dump.

There is not a lot the operators can do other than promise to heap up soil to hide the dump. Unfortunately, that would take some years and there would be an enormous hill of soil. This visual problem will go on for a long time. Of course, that devalues the homes in this area. If you were trying to sell a house in Mountbatten Avenue or Ashmore Avenue at Eden Hills or Bellevue Heights, I believe that the value would be significantly less because of the visual aspect and also the operation of the site. That is my personal view.

This is an important local issue for those who live around the site. They are naturally calling for free rates or at least a rate rebate, because the value of their home has decreased, and I think that is a reasonable argument. Some of them are even making noises about compensation for the loss of lifestyle. Unfortunately, this is essentially a local government problem. There is very little action that a State Government can take, assuming that the dump is being operated within its zoning and licence conditions. As I understand it, the licence conditions for Eden Hills tip were laid down well over 40 years ago and are very broad. Therefore, some of the uses it is currently being put to or proposed to be put to are not banned by the licence conditions but not necessarily allowed either. This is a grey area.

I have written to the Department of Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations to see whether it is possible to have an environmental impact statement undertaken on an existing dump, and I am waiting for a reply. I have also asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to check that the dump is operating within its licence conditions and has the correct zoning. I have asked the EPA to ensure that the dump is operating within the noise level criteria; and I have also asked it to look at the smell and dust. I have been successful in arranging for the Environment, Resources and Development Committee to look at the Eden Hills site to study what problems occur when dumps are operated in what is essentially a residential area.

The people living in the area surrounding the Eden Hills tip certainly have my support. I am trying to work with them and the Mitcham council as best I can to come to a solution that is satisfactory to all parties. However, I think it is important to place on record that when councils and departments run tips they need to consider the long-term impact on individuals' lifestyles and ensure that they consult properly so that we have the best result for all concerned.

Mr LEGGETT (Hanson): I rise to support the Supply Bill. Just 12 months ago we were all excited and expectant members of Parliament preparing for the first year of the Brown Government. The newcomers in this Government, affectionately known as the 'Class of 93' and I guess we still are, prepared for parliamentary duties. It was during this time that we met a shocked, battered and bewildered Opposition—and if we look over there now we cannot even see them—with some old warriors and a few somewhat scarred new rookies.

There was a barrage of 'oncer' comments from the Opposition during last year, and they came from a would-be Premier, the member for Hart—and I do not know how he was deemed that—a would-be Deputy Leader, the member for Playford, and from a former union heavy and now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Ross Smith. I believe that during the course of the year the oncer question was settled once and for all. I gave examples in this House of would-be oncercers: the former member for Hanson, now the member for Peake; you, Sir, as the member for Mount Gambier and now the member for Gordon; and the member for Newland. Their results showed very clearly what commitment, dedication and a deep interest in the community meant when election time came around: it simply meant re-election.

I point out to members that 1993 and 1994 are gone. There is no need to dwell on those years: we have learnt much and I believe that we have achieved greatly. We have a new year and a new challenge. When popular support for the Brown Government could perhaps have been on the wane last year because of tough decisions that had to be made, we had a summary of the first year of the Brown Government courtesy of an *Advertiser* poll, which showed no such thing. What a poll! It was like Christmas all over again on 21 January, or *Brideshead Revisited*. The article was headed 'Liberals riding high in the poll'. It stated:

According to a major poll conducted this week by the *Advertiser* the Brown Liberal Government would be returned with only a slightly reduced majority if an election was held today.

The survey showed that Premier Brown was five times more popular than the Leader of the Opposition. It showed that 53 per cent of people would vote Liberal, 25 per cent would vote Labor, four per cent went to the Democrats—that vital little group in the other place—six per cent to minor Parties, which outweighed the Democrats by two per cent, and 13 per cent undecided. It showed, too, that this Brown Government was very popular with voters in the 18 to 24 years age group. This is quite interesting, because traditionally this has not been the case. It also showed that 51 per cent support Mr Brown as the preferred Leader and Mr Rann, 10 per cent—hence the term 'Mr 10 per cent'.

A similar article appeared in the city *Messenger* yesterday. Again, it was like *Brideshead Revisited*. It was headed 'Besieged Rann is taking the rap for his lacklustre team'. This article states:

Equally, nothing Rann does will satisfy until his team look and act the part. Using the tele news bulletins as a guide, Labor in the House of Assembly looks a couple of decades out of date. Old Labor, down the working club Labor, rather than managerial, mix-it-in-the-boardroom Labor.

The oncercers are looking very good. If the Opposition continues to perform as it has done in 1994—

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: It is nice to know that their numbers have increased by two—we will find that the oncercers will be in this House for many more years to come. Mr Deputy Speaker, in 1994—

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: Perhaps the member for Ross Smith, the temporary Deputy Leader, could shut up for a minute and listen. In 1994 we saw a significant rebuilding of a depressed economy in South Australia caused by the mob opposite. In our first year there has been more economic development and creation of jobs than in the previous five years of the Labor Government.

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: Keep talking; I can ride over you. Some of these initiatives include—and I think we should look again at some of the things that have taken place on the positive side—a \$180 million residential development at Northfield. I will go through the list. Today, the Minister mentioned the \$200 million expansion of the Wirrina holiday resort, which will have a tremendous impact on tourism in South Australia.

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: Your turn will come next. In fact your turn may never come. There has been the \$110 million building of electronic data systems and the \$60 million rolling mill upgrade at BHP. I will not go right through the list, but I will mention the \$10 million refurbishment of the Mount Gambier TAFE and the \$165 million upgrade of roads. The list of all the positive things that took place under the Brown Government in its first year goes on and on. Since January 1994—and I think the temporary Deputy Leader should look at this for a moment—more than 13 000 full-time jobs were created.

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: You'll be temporary, son. The annual rate of full-time job creations has more than doubled to 4.5 per cent, compared with 3.9 per cent nationally. I believe that is most commendable.

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: He goes on like a parrot, but we are used to it. There is no doubt also that the Brown Government has embarked on some of the most significant, fundamental reforms that this State has ever seen. In 1994, we saw the implementation of major pre-election commitments, and some of them—

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: Would the member for Ross Smith just lower his voice a bit; he sounds like a train out of control. We had the domestic violence and truth in sentencing legislation. First, with regard to the Domestic Violence Act, comprehensive measures have been set down to combat domestic violence and protect victims. In my capacity as a counsellor, I have seen horrific situations involving domestic violence. In this highly emotive area, I absolutely applaud the Government for the passage of this Act through Parliament. The Act, which came into operation on 1 August, provides for the making of domestic violence restraining orders against a defendant if there is reasonable apprehension that the

defendant may, unless restrained, commit domestic violence and the court is satisfied that the making of the order is appropriate in the circumstances. I think this is a significant Act of Parliament. Time will not permit me to go on with this, but included in that also is the crime of stalking and our condemnation of that.

Another significant move by the Brown Government in 1994 was the Truth in Sentencing Act, which was widely applauded by the community. During the past 11 or 12 years of Labor Administration, this area of correctional services was hopelessly let down. However, under the new Act remissions are abolished and the open parole period will now be fixed by the court.

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: Here he goes again; he is like a parrot out of control—remissions are abolished and the open parole period will now be fixed by the court. The Attorney-General and the Minister for Emergency Services are to be applauded for this joint initiative. I would like to say how thrilled I was to be part of the correctional services backbench team during 1994. In conclusion, during 1994 there was much discussion on the question of graffiti and how to deal with this widespread problem in our community.

As a responsible Government—and, again, I applaud the Attorney-General for this—a ministerial group was formed in September to address the whole question of graffiti. Late last year the Attorney-General announced a strategy which involves local government agencies, the retail sector and the community in a coordinated approach to deal with graffiti in our society. During 1995 the Brown Government will promote a broad-based program in the community to remove graffiti. This year has commenced well because the Opposition has continued in the same vein as in 1994. It is a rather pathetic apology for a Party. South Australia—

Mr Clarke interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: Here he goes again. He is enjoying this, and so am I. Under the leadership of Dean Brown—note this—South Australia can expect the continuation of strong purposeful Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired. The member for Ross Smith.

Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Now that I am here—

Mr Leggett: Temporary deputy.

Mr CLARKE: That's a very interesting observation. What a load of twaddle was spoken by the member for Hanson. I am pleased that the Minister for Primary Industries, who has returned from his sojourn looking for his electorate, is here to listen to the lecture that I am about to give him. It is interesting to note that on issues such as WorkCover reform, which has provoked a huge backlash in the community with respect to the anger that ordinary citizens feel against this travesty of injustice that the Government tries to ram down the throats of workers, the only spokespersons that the Government put up on this issue were the members for Elder and Kaurna. I am not sure whether the member for Hanson spoke on it.

Mr Leggett: On what?

Mr CLARKE: The WorkCover legislation. I think the member for Hanson spoke on it as well. As I said by way of interjection to the Minister for Industrial Affairs at the time, he is a very cruel man. He reminds me of one of those First World War generals who sent 18-year-old conscripts over the barbed wire from the trenches on the Somme to have them

mown down because they were expendable cannon fodder. The Minister for Industrial Affairs lined up those members of Parliament on his side to speak in support of the Government's legislation knowing that they were expendable, that they would go at the next election. There is nothing more certain in life. Notwithstanding my great personal affection for the members for Elder, Kaurna and Hanson, they simply will not be returned to this House after the next election. So the Minister for Industrial Affairs, knowing that they are the walking dead, goes out of his way to use them on any occasion to jump up and speak loudly in support of unpopular Government legislation.

I note that a number of other members, such as the member for Norwood, kept their head down low on this particular issue, because they realised the depth of anger and angst in the community and that at the next election voters would not forget how their member of Parliament voted on an issue that is so vital to their well-being. The member for Hanson spent a lot of time talking about the so-called achievements of the first 12 months of the Brown Government. I am not so bigoted or biased as not to recognise that not all Governments do everything wrong on every occasion, and the Brown Government—

Mr Leggett: Yours did.

Mr CLARKE: That shows how stupid the member for Hanson is in saying that everything the Labor Government did was wrong: the ASER project, the establishment of the Casino, improved social justice, and increased expenditure in education and health and a whole range of other areas, according to the member for Hanson, were all wrong. We in the Opposition are not that silly, because not everything a Government of the day does is wrong. However, with respect to this Government, we also need to put into perspective that there is a net outflow of this State's population, with more people leaving the State than are coming here. That has been true in the past 12 months.

The growth rate in South Australia compared with that in other States is absolutely abysmal. As others will point out, that is partly because South Australia, having a smaller and more regional economy, is one of the last to come out of any recession. It was a deep recession. However, you would expect that we would have a bigger share of national growth than we have achieved. Our weak growth rate in South Australia is compounded because of the State Government's determination to get rid, at least until the end of last year, of something like 10 000 public servants. The unemployment rate is around 9.8 per cent on the last figures that came out. The only reason our unemployment rate dropped on the last month was that there was a lower participation rate in this State than in July 1994. Had the same participation rates of July 1994 applied in January 1995, our unemployment rate would have been over 11 per cent. These are stark facts that the member from Hanson cannot run away from.

The participation rate in this State is one of the lowest in comparison with that in other States, even Tasmania. This has occurred in the past 12 months of this Government. One of the things this Government has to accept is that it must listen to the advice of the former member for Alexandra, Mr Ted Chapman. It was well reported that he advised the Premier towards the end of last year to stop whingeing about former Governments. You may get away with it for the first six months or possibly the first 12 months, but you have to accept the fact and responsibility of being in government. You have been in government for 15 months: you cannot keep harking back to the years of Labor Administration.

Certainly, you are entitled to do so in certain areas, and the facts may support you, but you have been in government for 15 months. You have been Ministers, although not the member for Hanson: he is there as cannon fodder and dressing for the Government backbench.

Ministers make decisions and have to hold themselves accountable. That will become more true over the next few months because, increasingly, the longer you have been in government, the more stuff-ups will occur in Government departments, and Ministers will have to realise that they will be sheeted home to them through their action or inaction, as the case may be. They will not be able to constantly parrot, 'It's all your fault for what you did X number of months or years ago.'

Mr Kerin interjecting:

Mr CLARKE: The member for Frome interjects. I noted that he did not contribute to the workers' compensation debate.

Mr Kerin: I did earlier.

Mr CLARKE: The most recent legislation?

Mr Kerin: No.

Mr CLARKE: He is wise. He sits on about 7.5 per cent in the bush, but he also knows that the workers at Port Pirie—in particular those working in one of the most hazardous occupations, namely, the smelters at Port Pirie—will be paying particular attention to how the member for Frome voted. He should have at least had the guts to speak in support of the legislation. At the end of the day, through a series of divisions, his vote was recorded, so his constituents in Port Pirie know what are his views of workers.

Mr Brindal interjecting:

Mr CLARKE: The member for Unley interjects. No amount of grovelling will see you on the front bench, so do not provoke me. You backed the wrong horse in the last leadership battle and you will stay there until at least 1997. If the member for Unley does not believe me, he need only ask the member for Coles, who will readily confirm my views on that matter. The member for Frome was prepared to debate previous WorkCover legislation and try to slag the workers because the legislation was not as pointed as that introduced in November last year, but he shied away then because he had the good political sense, unlike the members for Hanson, Reynell, Elder or Kaurna, to realise that he wanted to survive beyond 1988. He did not poke his head up over the trenches to have it kicked off for everyone to see. He decided to hide as much as he could, except when divisions were called he was dragged in kicking and screaming, because he knew he had to put up his hand and support anti-worker legislation. He knows that his own constituents in Port Pirie, particularly at the smelters, are very interested in that legislation. They will remember it when they go to the polls in 1998.

Mr Brindal: Stop waving your hands around.

Mr CLARKE: I have no problems with waving.

Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna): In this debate I will, first, mention some successes in my electorate; secondly, raise issues which are important and for which I will continue to fight in my electorate in the time I remain here (which will be a long time); and, thirdly, refer to issues that are important statewide. One issue which has been raised consistently and to which I have referred in this place is the division of my electorate in terms of the telephone directory: half the electorate has an 08 area code and the other half has an 085 code. I have canvassed in other debates the need to change this and again I raise the matter on behalf of the businesses

within the 085 zone, who experience difficulty in conducting business given the proximity of the 08 area code nearby. Other electorates face the same problem, but we need some sense if the area is planned and zoned metropolitan Adelaide: it should be under the Telecom area code for metropolitan Adelaide.

One of the other issues that has peeved me a little during the time I have been in Parliament is the waste of private members' time on Thursday. During private members' time I have put forward a challenge to the Federal Government to encourage more people into private health cover; a proposal to introduce a method of work for the dole for unemployed youth; and condemnation of the Federal Government's initiatives regarding increased interest rates because of the effect in electorates such as Kaurna.

I first raised the issue of interest rate increases in this House in early October last year and challenged the Federal member for Kingston, Gordon Bilney, to stand up to his Federal Government and do something for his electorate for a change. Only two weeks ago he finally realised that interest rates had risen and he mentioned something in the newspaper. I might add that he has not condemned his own Government for pushing increased interest rates, but at least he has mentioned something in the newspapers, so there must be an election around the corner, I think.

Another success in Kaurna, thanks to our Minister for Transport, has been the installation of traffic lights on the corner of Main South, Patapinda and Seaford Roads at Old Noarlunga. This issue was fought hard during the election campaign, despite the fact that the Labor candidate kept telling us that we needed not traffic lights but simply a map so that we could find an alternative way out of the town. I have kept on with that issue. I am pleased to say that the Minister for Transport has seen the wisdom of that and that the lights are now operating. The best group of people to test the need for those lights were the workers themselves, who experienced several occasions on which there were near accidents while they were actually in the process of constructing the lights.

The Seaford 6-12 school has been talked about *ad nauseam*, but I cannot pretend for one minute that it is not something of which I am extremely proud. I recognise the work that went on before our Government came to power, in terms of putting that plan in place, and I acknowledge that. I acknowledge also the work that we have done in continuing to have that school planned. It will be a fantastic boost for our area, and I know that the biggest problem will be zoning to keep children out of it, rather than finding people actually to be in that school. I am really pleased about that.

One issue that will raise its head as a necessity after that school is opened—and hopefully we will take some action to do something prior to that—is the need for a set of pedestrian lights on the corner of Commercial Road and Tiller Drive, to allow safe access for children who will need to cross that busy road. The success of the Aldinga police station goes without saying. The community has accepted the police station wholeheartedly. As the member for Parliament I am very jealous that I have not had any chocolate cake delivered to me, but I can tell members that the policemen at the police station have chocolate cake once a week from various members of the community who are thrilled to bits with the fact that the police station is there. It has been successful, and all of them are doing an extremely good job.

The support for the new Aldinga Neighbourhood Watch also has to be noted. The work of that community working

with the police officers is a fantastic example for community policing in South Australia. The upgrade of Commercial Road is on our agenda for 1996-97. I do not suppose anyone in this House ever traverses Commercial Road, but I do every day, and it is obvious that the surveying is being done for this to be on stream. Also, the bypass of Port Noarlunga township has been well and truly planned, and work with the community has taken place prior to this planning (and lots of consultation will take place into the future). I look forward to the community's being part of that system.

Over the past few weeks there has been a concerted policing of the reefs around the Port Noarlunga and Hallett Cove area, due to the Fish Watch program. I must put on record that I support that program 100 per cent; it is a fantastic system. It has a great communication process, where a phone call comes through from community members and is responded to extremely quickly. I am sure that the Minister will be only too happy to let the House know in the future the success that this has been in the Port Noarlunga and Hallett Cove area. The Christies Beach treatment works is due for a major upgrade, and I must put on record that I was amazed to read in the Messenger newspaper this week that the Leader of the Opposition has made some comments about how our Government is ignoring pollution problems in the south.

I ask him, 'Where the heck have you been? Where were you during the years when the Hon. Don Hopgood was member for Baudin and sat on his hands and watched the Christies Beach treatment works raised to a position where it simply cannot handle the amount of sewage that is going into it at the moment? While you're in government, why the hell don't you do something about the problems? Don't throw them back at us when we finally have to fix up your dirt.' From 1991 I have in my possession a letter that was written by a member of the community of O'Sullivan Beach on behalf of the O'Sullivan Beach Neighbourhood Watch to the Hon. Don Hopgood at that time, requesting that something be done with that treatment works because, in the EWS' words of that day in 1991, it was already beyond capacity, and nothing was done until today, when our Minister has taken the lead, I believe, and allocated \$4.8 million for an upgrade of that treatment works.

I am pleased to support the establishment of Maslin Quarry Coloured Sands Gallery, another wonderful tourist attraction that we will ultimately have listed as a gallery in my electorate. One other issue, which probably has nothing to do with the electorate of Kaurua, necessarily, is Japanese whaling, but I would be letting myself down if I did not mention it as part of this debate. I would like to put on record that I deplore the Japanese Government for using the hidden agenda, the purpose of research, in terms of catching whales—as is constantly happening at the moment and well inside conservation areas.

Their 'purpose of research' is that they take a small valve out behind the ear slot; perhaps they do some measurements on it, perhaps they do not. I do not know and I do not particularly care. The excuse is really just to put whale meat on the plates of those rich Japanese who seem to have great fun in eating it. It is an appalling situation, and it is about time Governments stood up and were counted in the environmental areas instead of putting economics first in these issues and being scared of a Japanese Government that might retaliate against us in other areas. I cannot let it go without saying that I am appalled that no Australian Government, Federal or State, has stood up to the Japanese Government on

this issue, and I wish that they would finally show what they are made of and do so.

Some other issues we have had some successes with are particularly in the area of law and order. I would like to commend the Minister for Correctional Services for his Operation Pendulum, which has been a fantastic example of the way the community and police can work together for huge successes. The Transit Squad has been a great success on our transport system, especially in the southern area. The number of arrests has been huge. There has been a 465 per cent increase in the number of arrests on the public transport system since the introduction of the Transit Squad by our Government—quite in opposition to the previous Government, which sat around thinking about it and never actually did anything.

I would like to support the member for Hanson's comments about truth in sentencing legislation, which finally means that soft options for those who break the rules of the system have gone, and I think it is about time that that happened. It needs to be said, and said very loudly and clearly, that we are not selling the positive things our Government has done quite clearly enough and well enough in the community.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired. The member for Reynell.

Ms GREIG (Reynell): I also support the Bill and, in doing so, I congratulate the Treasurer and his team on the work they are doing and have done to get our State back into order. My supporting this Bill does not mean that I like all the changes we have had to make but, really, were there any other answers? This Government has a job to do. We promised South Australia that we would get the State back on its feet; we would get people back to work; we would reopen the doors for business; and we would bring accountability back into government and across the public sector. Some of these decisions were not easy: no-one enjoys cutting funds, tightening the belt and trying to do better with what you have, knowing that there is just nothing else to give.

It is also appropriate to acknowledge the cooperation of a great many South Australians who, I am sure, also did not appreciate having to make sacrifices to get the State back in order. They did not make the mess, so why are they having to pay the price of cleaning it up? We have all accepted the fact that things will be tough for a while, but I can assure members that people know we will pull through and that South Australia will get back on track. It has not been easy but, with a clear direction, much vision and instilled discipline, as I said earlier, we will get back on track. We are rebuilding the confidence of South Australia and we are sending a clear message to the rest of the world that South Australia is open for business.

In my own electorate, as in many other areas, we have seen much hurt. We have faced high unemployment and we have seen what should have been a thriving industrial area lying dormant. However, things are changing. It is not all doom and gloom: Reynell is now experiencing economic growth. We have participated in the growth and expansion of Sola Optical, and we have welcomed Transitions Optical Inc. into our community. The spin-offs from production work at Mitsubishi are having a positive effect on our steel fabrication industries and, of course, the Mobil Indenture Agreement, introduced and passed through this House late last year, has again initiated confidence in our State, guaranteeing further expansion and stable employment.

Last week the Premier spent a day with me in the electorate, during which I managed to organise for many groups the opportunity to talk with the Premier. For these people, the community, it was a chance to let the Premier know what is happening in the suburbs, the successes and the failures, what they as groups have achieved and what they believe we as a Government have achieved. We visited a community centre and spoke with a group of, predominantly, women who were there operating the centre, participating in programs, and others who were providing child-care. These women spoke about the growth in their area, the number of children in the community and their concern for youth within the local community. Another issue addressed was the importance of volunteerism. It is pleasing to note that we as a Government have recognised the importance of the volunteer in the community and are ensuring that this role is given the credibility it deserves.

Our next visit was with the Noarlunga business community, heads of churches, our local councils, high schools and service industries and associations. In a somewhat busy two hours, we managed to address a number of issues and discuss future visions and options for the southern suburbs, and together we again affirmed our commitment to the south, a commitment shared by all southern members. Our final visit of the day was to the Southside Youth Centre, where we met with a group of some 25 young people, ranging in age from 15 to 22 years. These young people were open and honest; they had nothing to hide and were not backward in coming forward. Some were critical of Government—not just our Government but politicians in any Government. As one young person said—with much support from his friends, I might add:

We [the young people in question] are known as Generation X, the lost generation.

By this he meant that, like others present at the meeting, he had dropped out of school. It was not meeting his needs, and no-one could spend time with him to assist with learning disabilities. In fact, he had managed to get through primary school and part way through high school, and he then gave up on the system and dropped out. Another young male informed us that he had also dropped out of school last year. Unfortunately, the system was not working for him. This young person has been assessed with literacy skills equivalent to those of a seven year old child.

We are now in Government addressing these problems through early intervention programs, but what about Generation X? They have suffered through no fault of their own, and now it is up to us. We have to somehow reach these young people whom the system has failed. We have to work with them, we have to repair and build on 10 years of being ignored. We need to give them back self-esteem and self-worth. It is time to make sure the community realises how important these young people are; they are our future. I have confidence in these young people and, even though money is scarce, I believe we can and we will eliminate the problems facing our youth today, through education, training and, just as important, employment.

Our present generation of young people are in many ways more determined to achieve and are more highly motivated than were many previous generations, and in many ways they are more focused on having their own identity. These qualities are what will take South Australia into the future.

Meeting with those young people that afternoon was rewarding for me. The demand to fix things and provide some

hope for the future reinforces the message given to this Government by South Australians and, for this reason, we have to remain focused and meet our goals. In saying this, I should acknowledge that in South Australia we have clear objectives. We will be the creative State. We are putting emphasis on high technology, the arts, culture, festivals and lifestyle. We will be internationally competitive; we will be internationally focused, achieving growth through being export orientated. We will encourage innovation, imagination, individual enterprise and initiative. Our State policies are now geared towards a future where this State is firmly placed in the global economy—a State that is outward looking, a State that is creative and international in its thinking.

Financial implications have been well covered in the debate so far and, even though much has been done to put together a successful reform agenda, there is still much criticism from members opposite. Perhaps we should look at the bigger picture. It is very much the States that are carrying out the microeconomic reforms while the Federal Government is stumbling to come to grips with key areas. Lack of productivity is one of the biggest reasons why we are not internationally competitive. The States have introduced the major reforms. In South Australia we have made the system more flexible, increasing productivity results from a combination of good management, a flexible industrial relations environment, sound technology and a high level of commitment to new capital investment, research and development.

Instead of spending up big, the States have undertaken massive reform of their utilities—gas, water and electricity—and we are continuing to operate under huge financial pressure, unlike our Federal Government, which as I said earlier is spending huge amounts of money and creating a huge foreign debt for future Australian generations to service. As has been said many times before, we have to learn to live within our means. The Federal Government has very little expertise or experience in this area; in fact, it has forgotten how to relate to anyone outside Canberra. Meanwhile, back at the coalface of service delivery, the States have had to become careful, efficient managers. We do not have the luxury of being able to stand back and hand out money with no responsibility and with very little pressure to achieve efficiencies because the money keeps on rolling in through the taxation system.

One of the most glaringly obvious results of the Federal Government's failure to control its own finances is the current high and increasing interest rates, and this adds further justification to the State's asset sales program. It is called economic survival. By selling non-core commercial assets, we will achieve our goals of reducing debt by \$500 million in 1995, reducing the risk to taxpayers of future financial failures, and putting more assets out into the private sector to then generate new development and new job opportunities. By doing this, we are saving over \$50 million in steadily rising interest payments, and every dollar we spend on these interest payments in paying off our debt is a dollar not returned to the taxpayer in vital community services. In conclusion, I commend the Bill to the House and look forward to the day I can commend a Supply Bill without having to mention the State Bank or massive debt.

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): I commend the members for Reynell and Kaurua for their considered contributions to this debate. I must also note what appears to be a dearth of enthusiasm on behalf of the Opposition. The member for

Torrens is at least in the Chamber. I wonder where the rest of the team are. Perhaps they are confusing the House of Assembly's operation with cricket and believe that they must have only one batsman at the crease at any one time. It is disappointing that, with an issue as important as the Supply Bill, which affords all members of this Parliament an opportunity to talk on any matter about which they have a legitimate grievance, so many members of the Opposition do not appear sufficiently prepared to seize that opportunity and, in doing so, stick up for their electorate.

Mrs Geraghty interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: The member for Torrens asked where the rest of our lot is. There is a considerable number. I would not really call them a lot. I would call them more a group or a multitude. I point out to the member for Torrens—if she will listen—that unlike her we have the privilege of the Government Party room for any other grievances, and we are lucky enough to have the privilege of being able to take them up directly with our colleagues, who are Ministers. That might not give us any special position, but traditionally in this place it does. So, perhaps there is not as much need for members of the Government benches to be sitting here telling the Government what our grievances are, because we can and do take up any legitimate grievance on a daily basis with any one of our Ministers. I know that all our Ministers are anxious to listen to all the members and to help them to do—

Mrs Rosenberg: They're falling over themselves to help us.

Mr BRINDAL: I hope they do not fall over too much, but I know they are trying to help us. In this debate, I want to address a serious matter that was raised by the member for Torrens last night, and I know it was of concern to the member for Elizabeth; that is, the provision of education, and especially the reality that the education budget is shrinking. The perception that members opposite try to create, either maliciously or not, is that somehow the shrinking budget is responsible for all the woes in public education in this State in 1995. I put to members opposite that that is palpably and demonstrably untrue. Education has been something of a dilemma for all the time I have been in this House, and I would argue for at least the past decade.

It has become as much a dilemma for this Government in power as it was for the last Government in power and, unfortunately for this Government, it inherited a number of problems which were bequeathed to it by the last regime because, quite frankly, they were too difficult to handle. I do not know of many members in this House who would disagree with the proposition for mainstreaming, that is, the process whereby children who are differently abled—they might have hearing or sight difficulties, they might be quadriplegic or paraplegic, they might have intellectual learning disabilities and any one of a number of other conditions—are placed in normal classrooms with children of a more average range of ability. Most of us support that proposition—in Opposition we all supported that proposition—with one special proviso, that where a child was differently abled and required specific and intense supervision it was no good putting that child within the ordinary classroom situation unless that supervision was supplied.

I had the unedifying experience as the member for Hayward of speaking to a mother whose son was a paraplegic. That mother had been to 12 schools and spoken to 12 principals, each of whom had rejected her son on the grounds that that school could not provide an adequate education. What they were in fact saying was this: 'If we take your child

the Education Department will not support us with adequate ancillary staffing. Because it will not support us, your child will be in a class with 29 or 30 other children. The teacher will have to give that child a disproportionate amount of help. So, the help that is given to that child will be taken from the other 29 or 30 children in the class and, what is more, even with that help taken from the other children adequate help will still not be available for your child.' In 12 cases they rejected the child from their school. Members can imagine how any parent feels as they go from pillar to post trying to get their child enrolled in a school only to have each school principal, for valid reasons, saying 'No'.

That is not a problem this Government created: it is a problem created by the last Government. The problem for us in Government is this: given there is no extra money, it is very difficult to provide the extra resources those children need. Members opposite screech, grizzle and cackle like chickens when class sizes go up, but I have not heard one of them suggest that this State should wear an additional one or two per class so that differently abled children can get the level of specialist education they deserve. On the one hand, the Opposition wants smaller classes for all children and, on the other hand, it wants more attention for children with special needs. Every member of this Chamber probably supports both of those aims, but on this side of the Chamber we are sufficiently in the real world to realise that when there is no money you have to spread your bread according to the amount of butter you have, and there is no additional funding to provide the level of service desired.

Instead of coming in here and complaining, I wish that members opposite would put their minds constructively to the problems faced by the Government, especially in the area of education. Education is not a political football; education should be a deep and abiding concern of all members, because it involves the future of this State. If members opposite, rather than using the matter as a political football, were to come in here with some constructive suggestion and say, 'We might not be able to do this, but perhaps we could do that,' the State would be the better for it. Like the member for Kaurna and the member for Reynell, I would not have chosen to make some of the decisions that we in Government have had to make, but like the member for Kaurna, the member for Reynell, the member for Norwood, the member for Hanson and others, I believe that the Government has been presented with Buckley's choice. It either does what is necessary for the well-being of South Australia or it sees South Australia go further down the tubes.

I want more for my electors and the children in the schools, but I am prepared to wait until South Australia is generating enough income for the Government to be able to provide more. It was not the one that plundered the coffers: that was done by others. This Government has the responsibility to clean up the mess. I say to members opposite that they can either be part of the solution or they can remain as they were—part of the problem. I suggest that the former course might be more in keeping with those who would seek to lead this State in the future.

Mr QUIRKE (Playford): The member for Unley says that members opposite—my colleagues and I—can either be part of the solution or remain irrelevant, or whatever the comment was. In fact, we will be in good company if we remain irrelevant; we will be in the company of the member for Unley, who would unfortunately have to admit that he also is irrelevant. There is one person here to whom the

Government pays even less attention than it pays to the Opposition and that is the member for Unley. I do not wish to detract from his speech but, in terms of irrelevance, he is absolutely correct: the Opposition will indeed be marginalised by this Government, but I hope not to the extent that he has been marginalised.

This traditional role of a grievance debate on the Supply Bill is one that goes back to the Parliament that King Charles I faced. Indeed, members of that particular House, both in the long Parliament and the short Parliament, raised a number of grievances, which is what I am going to do today. One of the biggest issues in my electorate at this stage is the question of Modbury Hospital and, indeed, the implementation of Government measures that saw that institution transferred from public to private management by the Healthscope organisation on the sixth of this month.

The object of the exercise was to save money—that is what we have been told. We were told that some \$6 million could be saved off the budget of Modbury Hospital if it was transferred to private management. Let me put that in perspective. The 1993-94 budget for Modbury Hospital was \$42.8 million. The suggestion is that the same service can be provided at Modbury for \$36.8 million, effecting a saving of \$6 million, which is the point on which this whole matter has been predicated.

Of course, there are a couple of problems with that: first, the Government gave a three way choice for the employees out there. The first option was to remain within the Health Commission and face transfer to another venue, which might well be somewhere close to home or on the other side of the city, but those who wished to remain employed with the Health Commission faced transfer to the Royal Adelaide Hospital or some other Government hospital. The second option was to go and work for the new company, while the third option was to take a voluntary separation package, which for some people who had worked at Modbury or within the Health Commission for a number of years would be a fairly substantial one. In fact, the first 142 of these separation packages cost something like \$4.5 million.

So much for saving \$6 million! The Deputy Premier told us in this House during Question Time today that you had to pass the 10 per cent barrier before he would be interested in doing any kind of outsourcing deal. Well, more bad news is yet to follow. That was the amount for the first 142 VSPs. Almost 400 persons have taken VSPs, and we find that some \$10.8 million has gone in voluntary separation packages. So this deal out at Modbury has to work for at least two years, possibly going into a third year, before it will come home.

What about the level of service out there? As I have told this House on occasion, particularly during 1994, Modbury has been a centre of medical excellence. It services most of my constituents. Under the new arrangements there are some shortcomings, and although I have not had the time to ask the Minister about them I will be doing so during Question Time. I have heard reports that some services are no longer provided in that hospital; and in other instances they are not provided on a 24 hour basis. My constituents, who in the past have sought medical assistance at Modbury, are now very concerned about the direction in which this enterprise has gone.

The argument that we could save \$6 million in this and the next budget may have persuaded my constituents; they even may have listened to the arguments of the member for Unley and others. However, those arguments have evaporated. Far from this move generating funds, it has cost a lot of money. If what I am told is correct (and I will be investigating it), it will

provide a level of service that will be much less than was the case before 6 February.

The other issue of concern in my electorate is the ongoing question of Montague Road. People who drive in my electorate will know that the new part of Montague Road, which stretches from Main North Road to Port Wakefield Road and which was paid for by Federal funds, is a three lane dual carriageway of excellent design. Those who have travelled in the Modbury area will know that the part of Montague Road which stretches from Bridge Road and goes right up into the Modbury area is mostly a dual carriageway and again is an excellently designed road. The problem with Montague Road is the 800 metres that stretches west of Bridge Road through Pooraka all the way to Main North Road. That part of the road is very thin and connects two dual carriageways. Twice as much commercial traffic per unit travels on that road compared with other main arterial roads in the area. It is designed to be a major connector from the Modbury area eventually going through to Gillman.

This 800 metre tiny strip in the middle is unsuitable for carrying commercial traffic. On the northern side it has no kerbing; and there are no safeguards for the intersections. Recently two people died at the intersection of Henderson and Montague Roads. If members go out there they will see that every day a high volume of traffic travels from the north-eastern suburbs through to Port Wakefield Road.

Apart from the fact that there are people who live on this road and it makes their life unbearable, traffic travels in a very dangerous fashion over this part of the road which, many years ago, was very poorly designed. It is in urgent need of correction. It is an issue in my electorate because people have died. Unless something is done to connect properly and appropriately the two dual carriageways, that fate may befall others before too much longer. I call on the Minister and the Department for Road Transport to sort out this problem as soon as they can.

Mr CUMMINS (Norwood): Recently I had the honour of being invited by the Sisters of St Joseph to attend the beatification of the Venerable Mary MacKillop in the presence of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in Sydney on 18 January 1995. It was a spectacular and moving ceremony in the presence of some 220 000 people. The Pope was friendly and down to earth, and endeared himself to all those present. I had the further honour of attending a celebration in honour of Mary MacKillop on Sunday 19 February 1995 at Football Park, West Lakes, in the presence of Archbishop Leonard Faulkner, the Archbishop of Adelaide, Bishop Peter De Campo, the Bishop of Port Pirie, and Sister Catherine Clark RSJ, the South Australian Provincial Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph.

I am proud to say that the Premier attended on behalf of the Government, along with the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Robert Hill; Trish Worth, the member for Adelaide; Julian Stefani, MLC; Joe Scalzi, the member for Hartley; Rob Kerin, the member for Frome; the Leader of the Opposition; Peter Dunn, MLC; Joan Hall, the member for Coles; Graham Gunn, the member for Eyre; and Stewart Leggett, the member for Hanson. I mention the attendance of Liberal members because unfortunately they were not acknowledged. I want to assure the Josephites and the Catholic Church that they have the support of the Liberal Party in South Australia.

The ceremony at Football Park was very moving. There were excerpts from the musical *This Woman*. It illustrated

Mary MacKillop's struggle in the 1860s, particularly her strength and humility in her struggle with Father Charles Horan and Bishop Shiel. I was brought up a Catholic, and excommunication in the Catholic Church would be a terrifying experience for Catholics. It defies imagination to think of the effect that excommunication had on a nun of the Catholic Church. It is a credit to her strength that she rode it out and, as we all know, the excommunication was finally lifted by Bishop Shiel on his death bed.

The excerpts from the play illustrated the persuasive and unusual influence of Mary MacKillop. The unusual thing was that she had the support of both Protestants and Jews. That was clearly demonstrated by her relationships with Emmanuel Solomon, Robert and Joanna Barr Smith and Dr Benson—Solomon was a Jew the others were Protestants. They supported her throughout the time she was helping the poor, prostitutes and others. In those days (and I am talking about the 1860s), it was not fashionable to do that sort of thing. To say the least, she was a radical woman for her time.

At that time the nuns were under attack from the established church. In fact, it became so bad that they were not prepared to attend St Francis Xavier's Cathedral for fear that they would be denied the right to take communion, and they had to walk daily to the church at Norwood. The Barr Smiths were very generous and paid for the original convent on Portrush Road, which is just adjacent to my electorate. The Barr Smiths also paid for the new wing at the Kensington convent. The initial gift was about £2 000, and I estimate that in today's money it would be \$400 000.

I think that her relationship with people of Protestant and Jewish persuasion should not be overlooked: it seems to me to be very significant. My grandfather, E.F.H. Tarrant, told me that in the 1900s Catholics could not get a job in private enterprise because they were blocked by Protestants and Masons. Fortunately those days are gone. The fact that Mary MacKillop was held in esteem by people not of her religious persuasion is a credit to her.

It illustrates the fact that she was highly regarded and obviously perceived to be holy and blessed even by those who did not share her religious beliefs. Of course, she was able to overcome what one would think would be the prejudice of those people towards Catholics in those days. When I think of her life I often think of the life of St Francis of Assisi, who faced opposition from the papacy. Of course, Mary's opposition did not come from the papacy, it came from the archdiocese of Adelaide. Thank heaven those days have now gone.

I would now like to turn to her time in Adelaide and the surrounding areas. She arrived in Adelaide on 23 June 1867 from Penola where, as we know, she opened the first school. St Joseph's Convent Kensington was purchased by the sisters on 29 August 1872. As I said earlier, it was able to be purchased as a result of the kind donation of the Barr Smiths. That convent comprises three levels: the basement, which is now a crypt; the chapel; and another floor used as sleeping quarters for the sisters.

The crypt is currently a museum, and the nuns are building a further museum on the property. The museum is run by Sr Callista Neagle RSJ, who is the keeper of the relics. I have been there on two occasions and had a look at the museum. I want to pay credit to the work she has done in retaining the relics of Mary MacKillop in South Australia. Of course, the major ceremony was in Sydney, and there has been a lot of competition between the various States and South Australia. It seems to me that we have the best relics and that there is

a massive opportunity in South Australia for tourism. As we know, Mary MacKillop is now beatified. All we need is one more miracle and she will be made a saint. To my knowledge she will be the only saint in the Pacific area and South-East Asia. So, the potential for South Australian tourism is immense.

I now want to deal with some of the things that Mary MacKillop did in my electorate. She had a refuge in Queen Street for the poor. After her excommunication she was looked after by the Jesuits in Norwood for some time. In fact, she lived in a shop opposite St Ignatius Church in Norwood. Of course, the Jesuits have always had an independent way of thinking. Despite the fact that she was excommunicated by the diocese, the Jesuits still supported her. In fact, the altar at which Bishop Shiel excommunicated her is in the museum crypt at Norwood, and that is obviously a significant relic. In addition, part of her robes are there as well. She was noted as a prolific writer. I have read some of her correspondence, and I might say that she wrote beautifully. Much of her correspondence is kept at the crypt in the museum, as is the desk at which she wrote.

I am proud to have a strong association in my electorate with Mary MacKillop. I suspect that some of the funds in relation to Mary MacKillop and the promotion of her image will go to Penola, which had a lesser role in her past. Penola is noted as being the location of her first school. However, she took holy orders in South Australia and the connection with the Adelaide area is far more significant than with Penola.

Perhaps I can run through a couple of things. The first Josephite school in Adelaide was at St Francis Cathedral Hall, and it was established on 2 July 1867. The first Mother House, built in 1869, was at St Mary's Convent, Franklin Street, Adelaide. Mary MacKillop arrived at Port Adelaide. Father Julian Edmund Tenison Woods SJ, who was a Jesuit, took her to St Mary's, and it was the first point at which she was presented with her sisters as the Sisters of St Joseph; in other words, they took orders in South Australia. There was also a strong connection with Morphett Vale, where she met Fr Peter Hughes, who was delegated by Bishop Shiel to lift her excommunication on 22 February 1872. Not only was she excommunicated in Adelaide but the lifting took place here. That obviously was a very significant part of her life. It played a role in her approach to life and also illustrated her strength in going on after being excommunicated.

I hope that the Government will give some funds to the Sisters of St Joseph, Portrush Road, because it seems to me that, first, her role in South Australia was far more significant than anywhere else and, secondly, I believe that if one wants to be mercenary Mary MacKillop and her presence in this State and the image of her could be an incredible tourist attraction for South Australia and bring funds not only to the nuns but also to the State.

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): In speaking in this Supply debate I refer first to an article entitled 'SA future on ice over reform plan' written by John Ferguson in the 'State of Affairs' column. The article states:

South Australia is facing one of the most crucial periods in its modern economic history. Decisions now will determine whether the State turns into an out-of-control retirement village or a strong regional economy.

The financial disasters of the 1980s and early 1990s have been well documented. But there is a danger that if South Australia fails to respond appropriately to the crucial issue of Federal-State relations

and particularly the push from the Federal Government for national competition, it could be left well behind the other mainland States.

The Prime Minister, Mr Keating, has placed firmly on his agenda the need to increase competition nationally. This was highlighted at yesterday's Council of Australian Governments meeting in Hobart.

Since that article, we all know that the Keating Government has got completely out of control. In fact, it is a very tired Government. It has had 11 years in Government and is lacking in direction and vision. That is totally opposite to the Brown Liberal Government of which I am proud to be a member.

In fact, it is worthwhile reflecting that in just 3½ months we have seen the prime rate increase by 2.75 per cent, thanks to Paul Keating and his tired Labor Federal Government. Many people have moved into the new areas of my electorate of Mawson. I refer to young married couples wanting to give their family a good future; people who enjoy the southern lifestyle and clean air, the closeness to the beaches and the rural areas; and people who generally want to improve the type of home they live in. Of course, what has happened is that, even on a \$70 000 average mortgage, my constituents are now looking at an increase of about \$300 a month in their mortgage payments. That increased sum means that they have to make sacrifices in many other areas, and most of them do not have that scope.

The State picture is the same, except on a bigger scale, with about six zeros on the end, as that being faced by my constituents living in a modern home in Woodcroft, Morphettville, Reynella, McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat and so on. As we have heard the Treasurer point out on a number of occasions recently, thanks to Paul Keating and the fact that he does not have the guts or desire to make the reforms that he is demanding of the State, we will now incur an additional interest burden of \$300 million to \$350 million on our debt.

This morning when I picked up the newspaper it was interesting to read the negative Leader of the Opposition from the negative Party opposite slamming the Government and carping on about it. Of course, we always thought that that would be the case. Why? Because he continues to be negative. He was a major part of the problem because he was a senior member of the former Labor Cabinet that caused the debacle, and let us not forget that. Whilst he was a major part of the problem, he has no part whatsoever to play in the solution, and the best thing he can do is to butt out of it altogether unless he happens to be able to make a positive contribution.

In my electorate, and, indeed, in the whole of South Australia, over the past 12 months it has been great to see confidence lifting—to go to meetings, fairs, cricket, football and tennis on weekends, talk to the people and see a smile return to their face, as they realise that for once they have a very real chance for their future and that of their children. They are enjoying the fact that for the first time since 1982 the southern area of our State, which encompasses the electorates of Reynell, Kaurna, my electorate of Mawson and the Premier's electorate of Finnis, is enjoying a share in the State Government's investments. That money is their money; they are taxpayers in this State. It is not Government money; it is their money, and it is being put back into the south.

For the first time in four years, unemployment in South Australia has dropped to under 10 per cent. In my electorate we have been able to enjoy a share in that, with our unemployment rates being far below those in areas such as Enfield and Salisbury and other areas which the Labor Party has always supported and continues to support over and above

any other area. We have seen our youth unemployment rate drop, and that is great for the area. It has had a bit of an impact in that it has caused some problems with enrolment numbers this year. I understand the concerns of a group of professional teachers with whom I work closely in my electorate, but that is something that we will have to look at and work through.

Forgetting the \$8.5 billion debt and the fact that the previous Labor Government caused most of that debt, just look at the \$4 billion bail-out for the State Bank and SGIC. That \$4 billion at 10 per cent is \$400 million that we do not have today to put into this State, yet the Opposition continues to carp whereas this Government is getting on with the job of reforming and restructuring and putting that blueprint into action.

I refer now to this Government's achievements. Generally, I have enjoyed the achievements that have been gained thus far in my electorate, even in small, local issues, working neighbour with neighbour on a small street issue or helping someone to get into a hospital. We have become a team and worked together as a community. The south has real community presence. Whether my constituents are Liberal, Labor or Democrat, it makes no difference to me, and it never will. I am a part of them, I have been there for the biggest part of my life, and I want to look after and work with all of them irrespective of their colours. The reason I am a Liberal is that I know that the Liberal Party has vision and direction and, more importantly, it has always been pro-south and will continue to be.

I am delighted that during the past 12 months we have been able to see the magnificent expansion of the Woodcroft Shopping Centre. I commend everyone who was involved in that project. I particularly thank Harris Scarfe for its vision in coming south and the 100 jobs that will be created later this year at the centre. That will help to create other jobs in the existing shops. The Woodcroft Heights Pre-school Centre is now a reality. Plans are about to be lodged with the Noarlunga council, and the centre will be built and open for business for our children by the beginning of term four. A lot of additional school maintenance money has been spent in the south, and parents have said to me, 'There's been a huge backlog, you still have a lot of work to do, but at least we are starting to see this Liberal Government put desperately needed money into the capital works area of school maintenance.'

After 17 years of trying, Wirreanda will now become a specialist sports school from 1996: planning is going on. We have committed \$1.3 million to the Noarlunga High School, which was in a desperate situation. We now have traffic lights at the Coorara Primary School, something which is crucial for all the children who cross that busy road every day. The McLaren Vale Hospital has been reinstated. It is now a country hospital, and it has autonomy. It will be up to the management and the board to carry on with what it asked for, and that hospital now has a future. We are working hard in the wine industry and other diverse areas within the electorate of Mawson to make sure that we continue our No. 1 commitment for this State, the No. 1 commitment that I have clearly laid down to my constituents—jobs. Jobs are No. 1, and I look forward to working with the electorate in the forthcoming years.

Motion carried.

Bill taken through its remaining stages.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr ANDREW (Chaffey): I raise an issue which I believe is of major environmental concern and which affects the total Murray-Darling Basin system. It will affect the Murray River and its operations not only in my electorate but throughout the whole State, and it has implications for the future of Adelaide's water supply. The issue relates to a proposed drainage scheme on the Murrumbidgee River east of Hay. The proposal by the New South Wales Department of Water Resources is to cut a drainage channel from the Barron Box Swamp directly into the Murrumbidgee River. Water will be discharged directly into the Murrumbidgee River.

There is no doubt in my mind that if such a proposal proceeds it will have the potential significantly and in a very adverse way to impact on the ecology down river, the environment and the quality of the river system as far south as Goolwa—all the ultimate users of Murray River water in this State. I acknowledge that the issue was raised briefly recently by way of a question from the member for Ridley. I am conscious that the member for Ridley and my colleague the member for Custance have been made aware of this important issue. We have raised it with the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, the Hon. David Wotton, and I thank him for acknowledging this issue because he has held and will hold discussions with the New South Wales Department of Water Resources regarding this matter. However, I consider that, because of its likely impact and its potential implications to this State, the problem needs to be put on the public record for the good of all those in South Australia who, ultimately, will benefit from the Murray River system.

By way of that brief background, progress to this preferred option or proposal has happened because of a professional consultant's report known as the Kinhill report, which was commissioned by the New South Wales Department of Water Resources in 1994 and publicly released in late November last year. In essence, the report identified that the feasibility study is a component of the land and water management plan that is currently being established for the Murrumbidgee irrigation area and districts.

I summarise my concerns in three distinct and major areas, and I will elaborate on each of those. First, it is a matter of principle with respect to the mere fact that the river system is being used as a drain, and it is inconsistent in this regard with the current principles that operate under the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and its policies. Secondly, the solution offered under this scenario does not give any priority or significant recognition to the cause of the problem and merely treats the symptoms of the drainage problem which has developed. Thirdly, there are some very specific and direct implications, on which I will elaborate.

Also, overlaying these concerns is the strong and justified opinion down the river system that the Kinhill report is lacking; it is certainly perceived in many assessment quarters—and an assessment has been done over the past month or two—as being out of sequence with the overall land and management plan for the Murrumbidgee irrigation area.

I turn to the first of the three major issues of concern, namely, the principle of using the river as a drain. Despite this engineering solution, which was promulgated as a mechanism, it has to be viewed as totally environmentally

unacceptable. If we continue to endorse or condone any principle under which the river system is used as a drain, undoubtedly before long, as much as the river is a drain in many ways now, the problem will be exacerbated and overnight the river will become nothing more than a drain.

The principles that operate at present for off-river disposal of drainage water, according to the policy of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, have been readily and easily exemplified in South Australia, particularly over the past few years under the Murray-Darling basin salinity and drainage management plan. They have been particularly exemplified here in South Australia by the commissioning two years ago of the Woolpunda scheme and disposal to the stockyard basin west of Waikerie; drainage water is disposed of to off-river and non-river basin infiltration systems which, in the foreseeable, near or long-term future, would not provide an engineering mechanism whereby that drainage water was returned to the river system.

It also reflects the refusal of the South Australian Government, again operating through the principles of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, over the past few years not to permit any further deep aquifer bores for drainage disposal of irrigation water, because in this case these would ultimately find their way back to the river system. The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council adopted a policy in about August 1990 which stated that one of the aims was as follows:

To maintain, and where necessary improve existing water quality in rivers of the Murray-Darling basin for all beneficial uses—agricultural, environmental, urban, industrial and recreational. In the case of those parameters such as salinity and nutrients which are already recognised as causing problems, the policy is to improve existing water quality. In the case of other parameters which may at the moment be well below recognised limits, the policy is to endeavour to ensure that existing quality is not allowed to deteriorate.

Obviously, this preferred option, as promulgated in the Kinhill report, if pursued would lead to the deterioration of water quality, in direct contradiction to the policy of the Murray-Darling Ministerial Council. In relation to the proposal to treat the symptoms and not the cause, I question the motives and objectives of the Kinhill report. The report states:

It is the drainage solution that has to be found and one of the economic objectives is to maximise productivity of stage 4 of the Benerambah irrigation district, which in itself implies an objective to the study which can be interpretive of directly trying to find a provision for a drainage solution and not to enhance the operation of the Murrumbidgee irrigation area.

I support the argument that it seems inconsistent to investigate means of disposing of drainage water of existing volume and quality, including the provision of additional water from that irrigation scheme, when the upstream part of the land and water management plan has already targeted a reduction in both drainage volumes and other pollutants. Logically, such upstream initiatives should precede any proposal for any works downstream of the Barron Box Swamp.

My experience and involvement with the irrigation industry over 20 years clearly indicates that the increased volumes of drainage water from the Murrumbidgee irrigation area that are currently over taxing the capacity of the Barron Box Swamp are exceeding the demand of the nearby irrigation districts and should be dealt with at the source of the problem by improving on-farm drainage and irrigation management. South Australia has a credible record in this area.

Excessive drainage problems can be dealt with by improving irrigation management techniques. In the Riverland at the moment it is significant that only 20 per cent of the 28 000 hectares of horticultural land is currently furrow irrigated, 75 per cent is sprinkler irrigated (most being low-throw sprinklers) and 5 per cent is drip irrigated. It is significant that subserviced irrigation is not permitted in horticultural areas in South Australia's Riverland or in the Victorian Sunraysia, and there is no reason why similar restrictions should not be applied to the Murrumbidgee irrigation area in effectively reducing its drainage problems. Time will elude me: I wanted to go into some detail in terms of the specific ramifications and I refer to alligator weed, salinity problems and nutrient pollution.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr CONDOUS (Colton): Much has been said in recent times about the clean up of the Patawalonga. I will not debate that issue, because it is before the Parliament, but I will put on the record some of the things that are important in the District of Colton. The concern is that the Government has appointed Kinhill for the clean up of the Patawalonga. One of the preferred options of the Minister for Local Government Relations is option 3, under which the Patawalonga would be sealed off with a man-made canal, near the treatment works, going out to the sea. That has caused much concern within the electorate. A letter has been sent to me by the Vice President of the Henley and Grange Residents Association, Jim Douglas. I will not quote the whole letter, but I will put on record my answer, as follows:

I, too, am most concerned to find out how the intended clean up of the Sturt Creek catchment is to be handled and within what time frame as I have a responsibility to my constituents to ensure that the disaster of the Labor Government over the past 11 years with the Patawalonga is not allowed to continue or be shifted from the Patawalonga to an area alongside the Glenelg sewage treatment works. The association can be assured that, unless I receive certain guarantees, which, in the short term, are beneficial to the beaches within the electorate of Colton, then there will be absolutely no support from me.

In reply to a letter to me by the Acting City Manager of the Henley and Grange Council, Mr Jim McKay, wherein I was asked for support regarding concerns about the Patawalonga, I said, in part:

My responsibilities are, first, to the 22 000 people I represent and I accept the commitment to be their voice on this very important issue. I am prepared, if need be, to stand alone on the matter and speak against the proposal if I feel that the changes will be to the detriment of the beaches in my electorate.

I have made my position clear. While I am loyal to my team and my Party, I still feel that I have an obligation to represent it and stand alone if need be. However, I have sat down at some length with the Premier and also taken the opportunity to talk to the Minister for Local Government Relations and the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources. Present at those talks was the Project Director of the clean up of the Patawalonga, Mr Rod Hawke. One thing that has been made clear by all those people is that we are not about to have a band-aid treatment of the Patawalonga or the Sturt Creek catchment.

We have an obligation: we went to the election telling the people that we would act in a responsible manner to ensure that the Sturt Creek catchment and the Patawalonga would be cleaned up progressively by the end of the century but that, by the next election, we would have a remarkable change in

that waterway, so that people would be totally confident that this Government accepted the responsibility to address the problem correctly. The communication that I intend to undertake with my electorate will be step by step. What is happening at the moment in Colton is that there are certain little groups that, instead of being honest with the electorate and representing its interests, are playing politics.

It is a tragedy with such an important issue—because we are addressing the future of the environment and the catchment areas of both the River Torrens and the Patawalonga—that any group should play politics rather than ensuring that we all work together hand in hand to protect and improve the environment for the future of all our children and grandchildren. That is the ultimate and most important thing. The Minister has actually circulated to the residents of Colton, and I have it in front of me, a document stating that on Thursday 2 March at the Henley Sailing Club, between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m., and again in the evening between 6 and 9 p.m., everyone concerned will be there to explain exactly what will happen with the clean-up of the Patawalonga.

Again, on Friday 3 March, at the City of Henley and Grange Town Hall, between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. and 6 and 9 p.m., we will have an exhibition at which people will be able physically to pick up the silt that has been dredged from the Patawalonga catchment area, to be told the readings of pollution and heavy metals in it, and to be given a rundown on how the Government intends over the next four or five years to handle systematically the process by which all 12 councils will be involved in making sure that those waterways are cleaned up. I do not feel uncomfortable at all. I will set up a line of communication on a regular basis by newsletter between me and all the residents of the electorate, to tell them what stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 are as we go through the process.

We know that the catchment grids will be put into position; we know that the silt traps will be put into position; we know that the Government has allocated moneys by which all residents will be informed as to their responsibilities to play their part in the purification of our waterways. That is the responsible role: I am not going to play politics with it; I will be responsible in communicating with the people that I represent so that they can sit back, comfortable in the knowledge that their local member, in conjunction with the Premier and the appropriate Ministers, is ensuring that we are doing our utmost and being responsible about addressing the problem with the community.

I think that everyone in the electorate applauds this. Certainly, there are concerns. To bring the release of the Patawalonga 1.6 kilometres closer to West Beach is a concern that I also have. But I have been given assurances, as I said previously, that responsible steps will be taken. As long as they are, and as long as I can guarantee that we will finish up with clean water, I believe that the people of Colton will cooperate and support this. That is all I want to do: I want to be honest about it; but I do not want politics played over this.

It is something on which everyone on both sides of the political spectrum, the residents and everyone else, should be cooperating, because Governments come and go; Parties change; but the one thing that will always be with us will be those waterways, the Torrens River and the Patawalonga. So, we must all work together and cooperate in achieving that.

Motion carried.

**STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE
COMMISSION (PREPARATION FOR
RESTRUCTURING) AMENDMENT BILL**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.25 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday 23 February at 10.30 a.m.