

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 30 May 1996

The **SPEAKER (Hon. G.M. Gunn)** took the Chair at 10.30 a.m. and read prayers.

FOOD ESSENCE

Notices of Motion: Private Members Bills/Committees/Regulations No. 13: Mrs Hall to move:

That the regulations under the Liquor Licensing Act 1985 relating to alcohol based food essence, gazetted on 25 January and laid on the table of this House on 13 February 1996, be disallowed.

Mrs HALL (Coles): Mr Speaker, I ask that this matter be held over until Thursday next.

Motion carried.

Mr LEWIS: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. Do members make requests or do they move propositions? I, for one, do not know what 'asking' means when Standing Orders require that propositions be put. It would be helpful if this microphone system worked better, too.

The SPEAKER: Order! In relation to the latter part of the point of order, the Chair completely agrees with the honourable member. The situation is difficult but, unfortunately, that is due to the renovations. In response to the point of order taken by the member for Ridley, the Chair is of the understanding that members were moving to have items postponed to the next day when private members' matters are to be discussed. The matter was moved, seconded and put. If he wanted, the honourable member could have opposed that. However, this is normal practice.

In relation to the matter moved by the member for Norwood, it is my understanding that he was acting on behalf of the Legislative Review Committee, and these are basically holding motions.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: WIRRINA RESORT DEVELOPMENT

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the twenty-third report of the committee on Worrina Cove Resort marina and the public access road be noted.

The Worrina Cove coastal resort will be familiar to all members. The property is situated about 80 kilometres south of Adelaide, along some of the most scenic coastline in the State. This privately owned development covers some 524 square kilometres. Collectively, it offers tourist accommodation, convention facilities and an 18-hole golf course, which is now in the process of being upgraded. It also has a fledgling boat ramp and numerous outdoor recreational and other types of activities.

In addition to the facilities that currently exist, the resort operator, Mbf, from Malaysia, has plans for extensive future development at Worrina Cove. Although the majority of these developments will be funded by the private sector and, as such, do not really come within the purview of the committee, the Government has undertaken to assist this project by the development of infrastructure in the Worrina Cove area to facilitate the overall development.

I draw a parallel, because it is something very similar to what the Government is doing for the Holdfast Shores development at Glenelg, where the Government has decided to provide money for the harbor for the Kangaroo Island fast

ferry and also the breakwaters and dredging so that the private sector can get on with what in the case of Glenelg is a \$200 million plus development.

The provision of infrastructure is the subject of this report. It includes the construction of breakwaters and the excavation of the actual marina which will eventually be constructed within those breakwaters. The other part of the project is the construction of the public access road from the existing entrance, which is on the Normanville to Cape Jervis road past the existing motel and recreation centre down to the marina itself.

By providing financial assistance to construct the breakwaters and the marina basin the Government is developing the infrastructure from which the private sector can develop the marina complex, whilst ensuring that the public still has access to both the facility, which is known as the Worrina Resort, and to the marina itself. Members will find it noted in the report that, when the roadway is constructed, it will become a permanent public access road.

It is envisaged that when completed the marina will offer a balance between private and public facilities. Although a substantial number of berths will be leased on a commercial basis, the boating public will be able to seek refuge and restock and refuel on journeys to and from Kangaroo Island and maybe even around to Victor Harbor. It will also be my expectation that many yachtspeople will use Worrina as a base to cruise around Kangaroo Island. As we all know, Kangaroo Island has precious little to offer in the way of refuge for yachtsman, other than getting into American River and perhaps around the back of Kingscote in the lagoon. Other than that, if the weather turns foul, there is really nowhere to go.

I can assure members, as a yachtsman who has travelled those waters for many years, that to have a marina at Worrina Cove will be an absolute godsend for those people who pick up a weather forecast that they have a front coming across the bight up into the gulf and they are caught somewhere between Edithburgh and the top end of Kangaroo Island.

The marina will also provide a public boat ramp, about 30 berths for short-term layovers and also public toilets. It will create the opportunity for other commercial operators to establish marine-based ventures, perhaps tourism ventures, and also provide public and recreational fishing facilities for the local community along the southern coastline. I would envisage that probably many members of the public in the area are waiting for a facility south of the metropolitan coastline so that they can become involved in the boating community. With regard to the route of the proposed access road, as I said earlier, it will run from the junction of the existing Normanville to Cape Jervis roadway through to the coast. The construction of this part of the road will be an integral part of the total project. Obviously people can use it for access into the resort and into the condominiums, and also for private access to the coast.

The method of construction will be to put in a road sub-base initially and, as the marina is developed and the heavy rock is brought down—because there would be damage to the road—the contractors can proceed to bituminise the road. They can use the sub-base to complete the marina and then return and bituminise the road.

In addition, to facilitate the marina development, the public access road will provide a safer entrance to the resort, solve the current road flooding problems, and improve the road alignment for the towing of boats. Anyone who has driven down the re-entrant knows that flooding has occurred

on many occasions when the creek has overflowed and this has limited access to the coast. This project will help the public in that regard. The construction of this public infrastructure is an effective means of providing incentives to an investor and developers who are considering tourism opportunities in key areas of the State. In the case of Worrina Cove, in excess of 90 per cent of the estimated capital expenditure will be provided by the private sector.

The Public Works Committee has followed the development of Worrina Cove with interest since the South Australian Tourism Commission first came before the committee in 1995. Since that time extensive development has taken place at the site and MBf is rapidly developing Worrina Cove into what will become an international resort. The committee was encouraged by its tour of the condominium area and now has firsthand knowledge of the development. I believe that the Government should be congratulated for encouraging the project. As it has done at Glenelg, the Government has provided infrastructure which shows the good faith of the Government in wanting to proceed with the project and wanting to encourage the private sector to invest in this State.

The committee considers the construction of a marina at Worrina Cove to be a natural addition to this development and to the future facilities and activities that will be provided at the resort. As a result, to facilitate the development of the marina, the Public Works Committee supports the proposal to construct a public access road, breakwaters and an excavated base at Worrina Cove, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act reports to Parliament that it recommends the proposed public work. I also advise members who may require further background information that two previous reports on this matter were tabled by the Public Works Committee in 1995, and I commend those reports as good background reading to all members.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the twenty-fourth report of the committee on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital psychiatric facility be noted.

The North Western Adelaide Health Service proposed that a 40 bed acute and emergency care psychiatric facility be built at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville, at a cost of some \$5.577 million. This proposed new facility is an amalgamation of existing services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, with some services remaining at Glenside Hospital, and it is aimed at mainstreaming the psychiatric services that have been provided at both national and State level. It also links in with the Government's policy of normalisation—a policy that is being pursued by this Government, as it has been by previous Governments.

It is intended that this new facility will deliver a world-class psychiatric treatment in a 'non-asylum', safe, domestic-type environment for residents of the western suburbs. Whilst the facility is to be built in the western suburbs, it must be noted that it is not just for residents of the western suburbs but will be accessed by people not only resident in Adelaide but, I imagine, people living in country areas. The proposed new ward will incorporate five secure beds and 35 acute and emergency psychiatric care beds, with features designed to cope with comorbid, disabled and maternity patients.

In addition, the proposed development will provide a secure treatment facility for the highest acuity patients. This will alleviate the need to transfer such patients to a locked facility. It is intended that these features will assist in the clinical management of all acute and emergency episodes and improve patients' treatment outcomes. Whilst considering this project, the Public Works Committee conducted an inspection of the existing psychiatric ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Members were shocked at what they saw. Some 20 patient beds were available, and it is to be noted that the new ward will double that number of beds. Members of the committee visited the site and saw the conditions under which excellent psychiatric care is still being delivered, which can be due only to the dedication of the hospital staff, and they are to be congratulated.

Mr Becker: Tell the member for Elizabeth.

Mr OSWALD: The member for Elizabeth inspected the ward and, I believe, she is very happy to concur that the professionals in that ward are working under very difficult conditions. The existing ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was not purpose-built for psychiatric use. The floor plan requires staff to supervise closely all activities and diligently lock many rooms at night, because of the potential danger to patients. The existing ward does not possess an atmosphere of professional psychiatric care. Such requirements make nursing care more difficult to administer and far less efficient.

I would not say that it makes it impossible because the staff provide excellent care at the moment, but the new facility will enhance the delivery of psychiatric services in South Australia. Furthermore, at the moment there is limited access to outdoor areas, which means that if staff wish to take psychiatric patients outside they must escort them from the ninth floor, take them down in the lift and stay with them outside, whereas the new ward is a single-storey facility, carefully designed to enable patients access to outside areas, and therefore the problem that exists at the moment will cease.

If we are to have a policy of normalisation and having people out in the community, it is essential that the Government builds these types of facilities and, from that point of view, I congratulate it. The residents of the western region are currently disadvantaged by having to travel some distance to gain access to high quality psychiatric facilities. For years western suburbs residents have put up with their situation and have relied on outreach services, which have been delivered at a very high level, but the reality is that there has been nothing in the western suburbs. This new facility will assist in the management of the mentally ill, and it will be of particular assistance to the carers of these people, who manage them and bring them into the various facilities for help. As a result, disruptive and occasionally dangerous behaviour which can occur with family members will be alleviated by their having access to this new facility at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Through this new facility, it is envisaged that specialist psychiatric care programs will be developed and will operate in conjunction with general care programs. I commend the report to members who are interested in this subject so they can see how this integration will take place for the betterment of patients. This will ensure a more coordinated approach to psychiatric care, which the committee believes will translate into greater patient outcomes. It is also expected that this facility will encourage closer liaison between acute facility staff and community teams that have already been established and are currently operating in the community. A lot of work

has gone into the community outreach service, but it has to operate from somewhere, and this will be one of those places. This will provide patients with necessary community support, particularly when they are released from hospital and are returned to a familiar base. People with a psychiatric illness need to come back to a familiar surrounding.

In summary, the committee is pleased that the Government has recognised the current lack of acute psychiatric care facilities in the western region and it believes that the proposed development will provide significantly improved facilities and access for those residents. Furthermore, the committee believes that the new ward will allow more effective management of acute and emergency psychiatric episodes and will optimise treatment outcomes for those patients. As such, pursuant to section 12 of the Parliamentary Committees Act, the Public Works Committee reports to Parliament that it recommends that the proposed public works proceed.

As part of the taking of evidence, the matter of Tenterden House was raised with the committee. It was the view of the committee, and it has noted this in the body of the report, that the policy decisions of the Government and the local council were not subject to the report. The evidence was very clear that the building of the psychiatric unit could go ahead regardless of the outcome of the dispute between the Government and the council as regards the future of Tenterden House. That matter has been noted in the report for members to read. The committee has noted in its report the concerns that were expressed by the community about Tenterden House.

Ms WHITE (Taylor): I support the recommendation of this report that the psychiatric facility at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital be built without delay. As the previous speaker stated, it will be a 40-bed acute and emergency care psychiatric unit costing approximately \$5.6 million. Five of those beds will be secure beds, 35 will be acute and emergency care beds, and some research and teaching functions will be included in the facility. The people of the western area are aware of the inadequacy of mental health facilities, particularly in their area, and we all agree that the proposed works will go some way to reducing that need and the pressure on those services.

It is probably appropriate that I point out to the House that the 40 beds in the new facility are not new places within the health care system: 20 of those beds will come from existing beds at Hillcrest, currently located on a temporary basis at Glenside Hospital, and the others will come from the QEH psychiatric ward.

As the previous speaker said, the facilities in the existing QEH psychiatric ward are grossly inadequate. Other members of the committee, the member for Elizabeth and I have agreed that the trying conditions that both patients and staff have to endure in that ward are inadequate. Hopefully, this new facility will ease some of that burden and certainly be a more appropriate facility than is the current QEH ward. As I have stated, there will be not be an increase in the number of beds for mental health services in this State: there will be no new places but the facility will help to ease the crisis. There is a mental health crisis in this State, as we are all well aware. We spend an appallingly low amount of money on mental health in this State. There is a growing crisis.

The member for Elizabeth and the Leader of the Opposition yesterday revealed that mentally ill patients are being sent to a city hotel. It was stated in the media last night that

that hotel is used regularly to accommodate patients who are in crisis and who are mentally ill.

The report states that members believe that combining the current QEH ward with the existing Glenside ward will optimise treatment outcomes. The facility will add to the treatment of mentally ill patients in this State. However, I stress that treatment outcomes probably have more to do with the abilities of staff, training of staff, circumstances on admission and, importantly, hospital practices. So, the buildings themselves do not optimise treatment outcomes. The report also states that this initiative should lead to a reduction of the length of time patients spend at the facility. This may or may not be true: I am not competent to say. However, I stress that from my viewpoint it is the quality of care that should be the focus rather than the cutting of budgets or facilities. In summary, I strongly support the recommendation of this report that the facility be built without delay.

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): I will add briefly to the comments made by the member for Taylor and the committee Chairperson. I strongly support the building of the new psychiatric unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. As we would all know, the planning authority of the Health Commission for the western area has stated that the No. 1 priority in health needs in the western suburbs is mental health, and obviously this new facility is a very important part of the total service that needs to be provided for people in the western area of Adelaide.

I also concur with the points made by my colleague the member for Taylor when she stated that this hospital is not providing extra acute beds for mentally ill people; it is actually part of a redistribution of beds from the Glenside Hospital campus out into the western area. I hope that when the service is set up and established it will be a positive thing. Certainly the facilities will be fantastic and an amazing improvement to the disgraceful conditions that exist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

I must say that I have some concerns about the new realignment of mental health services where we will see the casualty section of hospitals dealing with mentally ill patients as well as the general public. I have some concerns regarding how much training will be involved and extra consideration given to mentally ill patients coming in through the normal casualty area of general hospitals, and my concern is shared extensively throughout the community.

However, as I said, this is certainly a good start. The new building will be a significant improvement compared with the seventh level of the present hospital where it is at the moment. The design of the building is such that people can see out. There will be landscaping, and certainly it will be a huge improvement.

I was interested to ensure that the consultation which occurred between the Health Commission, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and members of the community in the western suburbs was appropriate and considerable. The committee had some concerns because it was told in evidence that extensive consultation had taken place, but the committee had to make several requests for evidence of this extensive consultation. We are taking the word of the hospital administration that this extensive consultation actually occurred. As we all know, health services, maybe above all services, need to be established with the community's understanding and input, because health services depend very much on the public being part of it.

I am very pleased that this will happen. I look forward to watching it develop. I also hope that in the western suburbs we will see the other services that are required in mental health—the services on the ground and in the community, accommodation, key worker support, assertive care teams and emergency care teams. I also hope that those services will be set up very soon so that, with the whole system working together, it can provide a much improved service for people with mental illness.

Mr LEWIS (Ridley): I make some observations even though I have been a member of this committee for only a short time. I have had some strong views about the role and function of this committee in particular, and other committees in general, in strongly supporting the necessity for such standing committees in the Parliament across the wide range (although at this point it may not, in my judgment, be sufficiently wide) of subject matters which they cover in the ambit of their work or inquiry. A great deal of improvement in efficiency will be occurring as the committee structure moved by the former member for Elizabeth, Martyn Evans (now a member of the House of Representatives), comes to realise its operational function better in the public interest.

As far as this project is concerned, what was there before was a bloody disgrace. On the ninth floor, with no capacity whatever for people afflicted by psychiatric illness to obtain interaction with the real world, they were accommodated in primitive conditions where there was insufficient space not only for each patient but also for the numbers of patients who required treatment, there being only about 20 beds available depending how the space was organised. That facility was formal in its structure and inadequate in the way in which it, as a space and the design of its facilities, impacted on the people who were to be accommodated and treated there, let alone the occupational health and safety implications for the people delivering the treatment.

It was temporary, but it has been there for over 20 years. It is well and truly nigh that it be replaced. The present facilities, as pointed out by the Chairman and other speakers, provide accommodation for about 40 patients on the ground floor where there is an interface between the interior and the exterior, where the outlook is conducive to a calming effect on those people who are disturbed and those who feel that the world around them is in some way or other antagonistic and hostile to them.

Altogether, within the limited total sum of money available, I was impressed by what the architect had achieved on the site and the space within which he had to work. It now provides for the specialist care of a wide range of psychiatric conditions, and the internal space is flexible in the way in which it can be used in that respect. When we talk about psychiatric illness, we are not talking about the equivalent of appendicitis or something like that. There is a wide range of conditions which need to be addressed, many of which do not immobilise the patient. Indeed, the vast majority do not result in the patient's being immobilised, nor do they result in the necessity for the patient to be immobilised. The object of treatment is not to immobilise the patient. That is part of the old stigmatised treatment that we used to provide.

I am pleased with the outcomes and the efficiency with which they have been achieved in the planning process. I believe that the technologies employed in the building and outfitting of the space are as good as could be expected anywhere. The buzz words are 'leading edge.' I was also impressed with the evidence given by those who were

ancillary to the project and involved in the treatment, particularly Professor Sandy McFarlane.

There is one more thing that I want to say on this measure, that is, the nonsensical manner in which some people in the western suburbs associated with this project in a peripheral fashion carried on with respect to Tenterden House. Tenterden House is a fine example of the worst kind of sentimentality and nostalgia which produces great public cost and no perceptible benefit to society. It is often the vehicle for political manoeuvring at one or other of the levels of decision making and determination of public policy.

I am pleased that that has now gone. It was, like topsy, built over time. It just grew. It was constructed not out of solid materials that had architectural integrity in their own right but of materials that had a cosmetic skin put over them to make them appear as something they were not. It was never going to stand for a long time. It might have had a facade and appeal that was pleasant at the time but it was something akin to women's makeup: it lasts only a short time and when it is gone the reality still remains. Accordingly, it was always a blight on the development of facilities in that area. It cost a hell of a lot of money. The people in local government and in protection and preservation groups and movements in the Woodville area who leant their support to the preservation of this building did themselves and the cause of heritage no good whatever. The arguments they advanced were not well founded in science, not based on fact and not in any way salubrious—conducive to the development of good health.

Tenterden House did not help the cause of the preservation of sound heritage buildings. It was never a building in the same class as Edmund Wright House or Old Parliament House. It may have provided some people with the opportunity to enjoy a sense of grandeur and so on, but it contributed nothing to our better understanding of our architectural roots from early provincial times to the present, and it was always incapable of preservation in any part. It ought never to have been entertained by any serious, conscientious person as something worthy of preservation. The sooner it was committed to the history books the better. Accordingly, our committee found no merit in it. I am pleased that there was no dissent from that view. The people involved in attempting to retain it, in increasing the cost of the project, in preventing it from going ahead and in causing the distress they did to the folk who needed this facility in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the acute care of the psychiatric patients of the Western suburbs deserve the contempt and condemnation of us all.

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): I will make a few impromptu remarks about Tenterden House, because the member for Ridley has related Tenterden House to the motion before us. It seems that the member for Ridley has not seen Tenterden House. He does not know its history. His remarks are most insulting to people in the Woodville Park and Woodville South areas. Tenterden House was built in 1844. It is not merely one of the oldest buildings in the Woodville area: it is one of the oldest buildings in the whole State. Tenterden House was a classical early colonial two storey mansion with return verandahs, lace work, cast iron columns and tessellated geometric tiling. It had all the qualities that Adelaidians love in their old homes. Before the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was built, Tenterden House was the largest building on the Woodville skyline, and many elderly people in the Woodville area remember it fondly. Indeed, during the Second World War, Dr J.L. Dunstone, the local medical practitioner, sold

Tenterden House to the Government so that it could be used as a hostel to accommodate young women from the country who came to the Woodville area to work in the munitions factories to help the war effort. So many elderly women in Adelaide remember Tenterden House fondly, and they contacted me during the debate over its future to indicate their support for retaining it.

The member for Ridley says all that is irrelevant. The remembrance of elderly people in the Woodville and Adelaide metropolitan areas is not important; it counts for nothing in his Gradgrind view of the world. The dispute over Tenterden House was not a normal heritage battle, because in a normal heritage battle the owner of the alleged heritage building stands to suffer considerable financial loss if the building is retained. That was so in North Adelaide in those struggles where the Minister for Health sought to retain buildings which did not have the age or quality of Tenterden House but which were in his precinct.

I remind members that the Minister for Health, who lives in Molesworth Street, North Adelaide, is directly responsible for the demolition of Tenterden House; it was his decision. What happened with Tenterden House was that the city of Hindmarsh and Woodville, that is, the local government authority, was willing to pay \$700 000 to the State Government to buy Tenterden House. So, whether or not you agree with the heritage assessment on Tenterden House, the council of the City of Hindmarsh and Woodville and its ratepayers were willing to bear the whole cost of heritage preservation, so there would be no loss whatsoever to the State Government or to the mental health system.

Another thing that the member for Ridley plays around with here is that he tries to give the House the impression that the psychiatric wards will be built on the site of Tenterden House. The Minister did it again and again in the media. He tried to say that if Tenterden House is not demolished we cannot build this psychiatric ward on the site of Tenterden House. What the member for Ridley did not tell the House and what the Minister for Health has not told the public is that the psychiatric wards will be built on the other side of Woodville Road and will not be built on the site of Tenterden House. What the Government will gain from its demolition of Tenterden House is (wait for it) 32 car parks.

Mr Lewis interjecting:

Mr ATKINSON: The member for Ridley says they will be state of the art car parks. I can tell him that they will not be: they will just be very ordinary car parks, on asphalt, marked in white paint. That is what they will be. On top of offering an outrageously generous \$700 000 to buy Tenterden House, the City of Hindmarsh and Woodville offered to give the State Government 36 car parks—not 32—in the Simpson Street area of Woodville South, virtually on the same block of land.

Mr Becker: It wasn't convenient.

Mr ATKINSON: The member for Peake says it was not convenient, but I assure him that if he visits the site he will find that those car parks are just as close to Queen Elizabeth Hospital as those provided by the demolition of Tenterden House.

Mr Becker interjecting:

Mr ATKINSON: It is very kind of the member for Peake to say that councils do what I tell them and that I control local councils. It is very kind of him to say that; I am chuffed. Tenterden House was not just the old heritage building dating from 1844. It had been the subject of very extensive red brick extensions, so the old mansion covered only about one

twelfth of the total site. We were always happy for the red brick extensions to be demolished. All we in the Woodville area wanted was for the old mansion to be preserved, and that could have been done while providing the car parking necessary for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

However, the Health Minister refused an excellent offer which could have benefited the Woodville area by the preservation of its heritage and, more importantly for the consideration of this House, it could have benefited the State budget. He was made an outrageously generous offer, but he perversely refused it because he wanted to show people in the Woodville area who really ran the State, who really was the boss. That is what the Health Minister wanted to show. He wanted to show that if you vote Labor and you live in the western suburbs your views do not count for anything.

I have had the biggest response to the Tenterden House demolition than I have had to any other issue while I have been in Parliament—and that includes Barton Road. Over three days, 350 people in the Woodville Park and Woodville South area rang me to say they wanted their name and address forwarded to the Minister to tell him they wanted Tenterden House preserved. I am pleased to say that I have those names and addresses, and yesterday I wrote to those people to tell them the very sorry outcome of this saga and to point out to them that the Liberal Party, and the Liberal Party alone, was responsible for the demolition of this beautiful old building.

I just want to add one thing to my remarks, which are entirely prompted by the contribution of the member for Ridley, and that is that the Royal Park Salvage Company, the demolition company for Tenterden House, at all times behaved honourably. It stopped demolition short of the old mansion. It obeyed the bans of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union. It heeded the view of the City of Hindmarsh and Woodville. It would have withdrawn from the contract to demolish if the Minister for Health had allowed it to withdraw. The Royal Park Salvage Company shares the same view as the City of Hindmarsh and Woodville and I: that is, that if Tenterden House had been situated in North Adelaide near the home of the Minister for Health it would not have been demolished.

Motion carried.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: MULTIFUNCTION POLIS

Mr BECKER (Peake): I move:

That the seventeenth report of the committee on the economic and financial aspects of the operations of the MFP Development Corporation for the year ended 30 June 1995 be noted.

Unfortunately, we are a little remiss in bringing this report at this time, but constraints on the activities of the committee and all the activities that have occurred within the MFP up to and just after the reporting period have on occasions made it difficult for us to operate. In the foreword, I state:

Although the committee started its examination of the MFP's operations during the financial year under review, the final hearings were not held until October 1995, and considerable correspondence on various matters continued into 1996. The six months after the close of the 1994-95 financial year were eventful for the MFP. The inaugural CEO resigned; several issues arising from the October combined meeting of the MFP Board and the International Advisory Board attracted media coverage, questions in Parliament and further examination by the committee; the MFP was under sustained attack by the local media; so-called 'make or break' targets and deadlines were set by the Commonwealth Government.

I go on to say in the foreword:

The committee has previously stated that it recognises the MFP's essentially facilitative role and has not been unduly concerned at the initial lack of 'bricks and mortar' evidence of achievements.

However, I point out to the House and to those who I hope will take the opportunity to read this report:

Grants jointly received from the State and Federal Governments remain the primary sources of income derived by the MFP. At 30 June 1995, the cumulative total of direct State Government funding committed towards the MFP project remains at \$48.2 million, while cumulative funding provided by the Federal Government remains at \$14.9 million.

Furthermore, indirect funding, namely, the transfer of net assets of the former Technology Development Corporation (\$18 million) to the MFP on 1 July 1993 has effectively increased the State Government's indebtedness to the MFP project from \$48.2 million to \$66.2 million.

The State Government remains the major contributor of funds to the MFP by a ratio of four to one with the Commonwealth Government. That is the key to the whole issue that everybody should bear in mind. The commitment made by the previous Labor Government has been continued by the current State Liberal Government, with the ratio of funds at four to one to the MFP project. We point out that the level of joint funding to be made available from both State and Federal Governments to MFP for the 1995-96 financial year is budgeted at \$36.4 million and represents a 17 per cent increase over the previous 1994-95 year. Should this current level of funding be maintained in future years, it is anticipated the cumulative cost of the MFP project will exceed \$170 million by 30 June 1998.

The Economic and Finance Committee does not propose to make recommendations regarding the future of the MFP at this stage, the reason being that tomorrow the Bureau of Industry Economics will report to the Federal Government and the State Government on how it sees the future of the MFP, and today the Treasurer brings down the State budget. So, the four key major factors of the project will be decided within the next 48 hours.

In essence, the Economic and Finance Committee's conclusions on the 1994-95 year are very similar to the findings of the previous financial year. Apart from the wetlands development, there is very little tangible evidence of results. Initially we were not concerned with bricks and mortar because there is a fair lead-up time to get to that. I believe we are now at a situation where we should start to see some results. As I see it, the MFP is a catalyst—a coordinator and facilitator—for other organisations, and it cannot be assessed simply on the basis of tangible projects. That is something the public should bear in mind when they look at the MFP overall. There must be many and varied projects now almost nearing completion.

There were certain aspects of the operations of the MFP that the committee was concerned about in previous years, and that is the corporate services expenditure. We consider that expenditure somewhere about 16.8 per cent of the budget of corporate services was far too high and that we should use a benchmark of 5.2 per cent. While there was a reduction of expenditure in the last financial year down to about 11.5 per cent, it is still far too high in relation to the benchmark that is used for corporate services. A very large number of executives is employed by the MFP, and some of the expenditure by this international organisation also has been of concern to the committee and will be looked at in the

second report that will be produced within the next few months.

There is much that still needs to be looked at and carefully considered in relation to the operations of the MFP. The large number of senior executives gives one the impression that it may be top heavy in that regard. However, as I said, it is under a considerable amount of pressure and has been for over 12 months now to produce, sustain and justify the level of expenditure that has been undertaken by the State Government, whereas the Federal Government is only a minor contributor to the overall assessment of the financial situation.

I recommend the report to the House, and to the public in general who are interested in the future of the MFP. In particular, I would like to see one of the major projects, the Virginia pipeline, come to fruition, which would give us the opportunity to develop and build up markets and exports for the benefit of South Australia. Some of the work that has been supervised and undertaken by the MFP will, in latter years, prove to be quite beneficial to South Australia. I commend the report to the House.

Mr QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

Ms GREIG (Reynell): I move:

That the final report of the committee be noted.

In doing so, I would like to acknowledge the many hours of work that went into this report by all members of the committee—the Hons Angus Redford, Sandra Kanck and Carolyn Pickles, and Mr Stuart Leggett, Ms Lea Stevens and me. I also want to express my thanks to our committee Secretary (Mr Chris Schwarz) and our research officer (Dr Carol Bradley) who, between them, ensured the smooth running of the committee and made sure that all appropriate data was made available for consideration. On 4 May 1994, a joint committee of this Parliament was established to consider and report upon:

- (a) the extent and reasons for any existing impediments to women standing for Parliament;
- (b) strategies for increasing both the number of women and the effectiveness of women in the political and electoral processes; and
- (c) the effects of parliamentary procedure and practice on women's aspirations to and their participation in South Australian Parliament.

On 29 March 1995, the joint committee presented an interim report which focused particular attention on aspects of paragraphs (a) and (c) in the terms of reference in light of recent and ongoing renovations to Parliament House. The committee met on 28 occasions during that time. We wrote to a large number of persons and organisations, inviting them to give evidence or present submissions to the committee. Those persons and organisations included the major political Parties, current and former members of the South Australian and Commonwealth Parliaments, and other organisations and persons with known interest in the committee's terms of reference. Advertisements were also inserted in the *Advertiser*, the *Australian*, the *Messenger* newspapers and other major regional newspapers. Some 23 people presented evidence to the committee and some 29 submissions were received for consideration.

I would like to acknowledge the input from current members of the House—the Hon. Stephen Baker, Ms Annette Hurley, Mrs Elizabeth Penfold, Mrs Lorraine Rosenberg and the Hon. Dr Bob Such. Their submissions were viewed with interest and greatly assisted the committee in formulating the final report. My thanks and appreciation also extend to the Hon. Carolyn Schaefer and the Hon. Anne Levy, the Liberal Women's Council and the Liberal Women's Network, the ALP and the Democrats, the Women's Electoral Lobby and many others who provided submissions, both as individuals and organisations.

It was just over 100 years ago that South Australian women were enfranchised, so it is an appropriate time for us to reflect on this reform and its aftermath. As Helen Jones pointed out in her book *In Her Own Name*, it is important to evaluate and build on the work done in the 1800s, in particular the 1890s, when those who sought votes for women undertook their campaign with a strong belief that it lay within the power of the State to achieve a just society. Those who sought to reform South Australia's Constitution did not have any precise program in view. They wished to alter the existence of one man, one man vote to that of adult suffrage. Many areas affecting women and children were ripe for reform; for example, family and industrial law. However, our suffragists had only one fundamental aim: to gain the parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as those enjoyed by men.

During my research, I came across a writing of Carolyn Chisholm, titled 'Emigration and Transportation Relatively Considered' and dated 1847. It states:

If Her Majesty's Government be really desirous of seeing a well conducted community spring up in these Colonies, the social wants of the people must be considered. If the paternal Government wishes to entitle itself to that honoured appellation, it must look to the materials it may send as a nucleus for the formation of the good and great people. For all the clergy you can dispatch, for all the school masters you can appoint, all the churches you can build, all the books you can export, you will never do much good, without what a gentleman in the Colony very appropriately called 'God's police, wives and little children—good and virtuous women'.

One hundred years ago the majority of South Australians were British born and male. Today, the majority of South Australians are Australian born and female and have longer life expectancies than their nineteenth century counterparts. South Australian women in the 1990s are more likely to stay at school longer, combine marriage and paid employment, have smaller families and accept greater influence at all levels of society. As the twentieth century nears its end, the emphasis has shifted from the basic right of women to vote toward the need for more women to be in the Parliament. South Australia has pioneered the way in many areas. We have a distinctive history, and historically issues relating to women in the law are no exception. From the time of European settlement South Australian women, like women elsewhere in Australia, suffered disabilities under the law: in families, in employment and in citizenship rights.

The goals for women as for men have continued to expand. Sometimes changes were piecemeal and they were seldom continuous. The impact of wars, droughts, depressions and human destruction modified many hopes of change. South Australian laws have at times related to women as individuals and to women as wives and mothers. Examples of the former include the 1894 Constitutional Amendment Act, which gave women the right to vote in parliamentary elections, and the Juries Amendment Act 1965 which permitted women to sit on juries. Laws which altered the

status of women in the family included such statutes as the 1896 Married Women's Protection Act and the 1940 Guardianship of Infants Act, while the Married Women's Property Act of 1883-84 enabled a married woman, for the first time, to own and administer property in her own name.

As a State, we were slow to improve conditions for working women, beginning only in 1894, while the marriage age for girls was raised from 12 years only 39 years ago, in 1957. However, we have taken significant initiatives with legislation to the benefit of women, such as the 1975-76 Discrimination Act. By winning the vote, women made the necessary steps towards gender equality. We do not see ourselves as angels or as enemies of men. I believe our concerns are for the individual wellbeing, with the good of achieving equality for women in a changing society. It is a changing society that has directed the values and culture of women to be part of an equal partnership. Women today are better educated than their grandmothers and their suffragette sisters before them. A majority of women do work either by choice or because they have to.

We are seeing a number of women attaining positions of influence in business, and we have greater responsibility under the law, but with that one barrier that exists, that last bastion of power which directs how we live, we as women have been slow in affirming our rightful place. But why? Evidence put before the committee showed that women have over the centuries held prominent positions of power. I recall Cleopatra being mentioned and an emphasis on Nordic cultures. Unfortunately, when it came to our own so-called civilised western culture under the Westminster system, we here in Australia drag dismally behind. Power bases in western Parliaments are not equally shared by women and, even though this is quite noticeable, is it our position to correct this or is it the democratic right of voters to select the candidates who will do the job and ensure that they are truly representative in the Parliament, be they male or female?

Community attitudes do take a long time to change, but they are changing. We are breaking through the stereotypical barriers of gender duties, and women are taking their rightful place within our Parliament. We are seeing improvement. The last Federal election figures show that 26 members of the Coalition Government are women, women selected as candidates by the Liberal and National Parties and entrusted into Government by a voting public. Our report has highlighted community and political barriers for women. Political education was a major concern, together with the task of ensuring that girls have the opportunity early in life to determine a career in politics. Family issues were highlighted by a number of witnesses with women still seeing their primary role as the mother and/or carer, and it is important to acknowledge that men and women also care for elderly parents.

Sitting hours were a major factor in nearly all submissions. We all acknowledge that this is not a nine to five job, five days a week and there is no set routine with the position. The job is very public and, in general, people acknowledge the sacrifices the families of members have to make. We acknowledge that this is not just a women's problem, but most male members have a wife or partner assisting them whereas the female member is generally a wife and/or partner. The very masculinity of the Parliament, its language and culture come from an era long ago and does not reflect the fact that women are part of the establishment. For example, a standing order in the other place calls for every member to be uncovered when he enters or leaves the

Chamber, whereas it should state, 'You should not enter while wearing a hat.' Mind you, I do not recall any member recently wearing a hat within the Chamber.

When does a woman make a stand for Parliament? Does she put marriage and family life on hold or does she enter politics in later years when the family has grown up? This is an issue with which many women must contend. Campaigning costs, child care, and preselection within the Party system were issues of great debate. There are many issues with which one must contend when one looks at impediments to women considering a parliamentary career, and it would be quite easy to say, 'We did not need a report to tell us a few simple facts that those of us in the House could have told you.' It would be easy to absorb ourselves in our own self-interests, but looking at the number of women in this Chamber signifies there is still room for more women.

Women here have succeeded on their own merits, but I am sure that one way or another there is a toll. Like the male members of this House, we work hard and we work long hours. We spend little time with family and friends, but we are determined to be part of the power behind the change and we are determined to be truly representative. Women do make a difference and we are making many inroads into so-called male domains. We recognise the value of family life and the need for our Parliament to be truly reflective of the community. I commend the report to the House.

Ms STEVENS secured the adjournment of the debate.

MULTIFUNCTION POLIS

Mr LEWIS (Ridley): I move:

That this House compliments the Premier and the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development and Infrastructure and the MFP Administration for the effective way in which they have refocused the strategies of the MFP and attracted firms with local and overseas technologies to become involved and establish their pilot plant operations in South Australia and from that base, in conjunction with the MFP, sell their proved-up technologies to the rest of the world.

I am mindful of the attention that has been given to the MFP as a concept since it was first announced. The term 'multi-function polis' is not easily remembered as a noun by most people the first time they hear it. Indeed, I guess a substantial percentage of the population in South Australia could not say what the letters MFP stood for unless they were reminded. I am equally certain that an even greater proportion of the national population would not know what the MFP was, let alone what the letters MFP stood for, yet it is a national project. It is about us, as human beings, on our part of dry land above sea level on this planet, finding the means by which we can live civilised lives in communities that meet our social, material and spiritual needs, and provide us with sustenance and shelter in forms of accommodation and vocation that are sustainable in perpetuity.

In other words, it is about discovering the way forward and doing things that do not harm our surroundings and the prospects for the survival of future generations of human beings. That implies that we do not make a mess that cannot be cleaned up; that we do not destroy other forms of life essential to the survival of the entire fabric of life; that we do not engage in the development of technologies which result in the destruction of individual identity and social behaviour patterns and which provide us with a basis for civilised behaviour; and that we participate in and develop only those

things that make tomorrow a better place to live than was yesterday.

That is stated at the noblest and most abstract level yet in the simplest words that I can find. It is said not so much for the benefit of members in this Chamber as perhaps for people outside who, at some future time, might eventually look at what Parliament thought of the MFP. We are focused on that. Accordingly, the project has been refocused to ensure that it is not just the rehabilitation of a contaminated site for the purpose of developing real estate that can be sold profitably in its raw form after having services fitted to it, or in its developed form with the buildings on the real estate already erected. It is about ensuring that the other aspects of human existence, human civilisation, are carefully examined, and that the problems that have been created by inappropriate activity and management systems—the disposal of waste, the movement of both foot and vehicular traffic (whether or not it is motorised), recreational activity (whether physical or more cerebral such as music, and so on), and the commerce in which people engage through the process of adding value to the goods and services they deliver to other people—are such that society is sustainable in perpetuity. The MFP is about all those things, and it has been understood only recently that that is what it should be about. It has been understood only recently that its predominant focus is not about the rehabilitation of a contaminated, polluted swamp.

It is our duty as members of Parliament who appropriate public revenue for any purpose whatsoever to explain that that is the purpose to which revenue is being appropriated in this instance. That is the duty not just of members of this Parliament but also of members of the Federal Parliament. It distressed me immensely to see in this morning's *Advertiser* an article that shows the ignorance of some of the people who have been engaged to take a look at the MFP. They are obviously people who do not come from South Australia, who do not understand the nature of the Federation that we established almost 100 years ago, and who have a separate agenda put before them, to which they have happily become compliant, to knock it, to belt it down, just because it is not in the immediate domain of their investment.

The Hon. Frank Blevins: Name them.

Mr LEWIS: I will. It is on the front page, in an article put together by Paul Starick. We need to understand that the folk who have been retained are running a separate agenda.

The Hon. Frank Blevins: Name them. Who is it?

Mr LEWIS: I invite the member for Giles to mention them, because I cannot pick any names out of the article as I scan it now.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr LEWIS: Thank you. I am very grateful to members for their contribution, recognising notwithstanding my expression of gratitude that to have done so was disorderly, and I thank you for your indulgence in permitting them to contribute in that way. Let me return to the substance of my remarks. As I have recognised, we need to ensure that people in other societies understand what we are doing here. Recently I had the good fortune to meet Professor Cheong from South Korea, who has examined MFPs and technology parks around the world. Professor Cheong has visited all the sites that were in any way likely to provide information for him and the institutions and interests he represents from the city of Kumi-shi and the National University of Technology called Kumoh in that city, adjacent to its industrial park

which is over 4 000 acres, in their search for a model they can use to establish an R&D facility adjacent to that university.

They discovered to their surprise and delight, as far as I am concerned, that South Australia's model, indeed Australia's national MFP (Technology Park), is the model they wish to adopt. There will be great financial benefits to us in consequence of the decision that they have made in that respect, and they will be here in a couple of months to discuss hiring MFP Australia (Technology Park) as the model they use for the establishment of their R&D facility in the first instance. Following on from that, they will naturally go into the wider implications of what industry does and how it impacts on human life, both where it is established and where it seeks to sell its products and services. We are in the box seat in that respect. We will sell the techniques of establishing such a facility.

They will benefit because they will get a fast-track facility established adjacent to their small and medium-sized enterprise industrial park in Kumi to improve the rate at which they develop new innovations and invent new systems and new items for applications in society whether in the manufacturing process or the consumer marketplace, and they will do that and get a more rapid return on the capital they invest in it by using us as the model to be followed.

That is one part of it, but there is yet another part of it. If we look at some of the programs that the MFP is running, we see it is early days and we should expect that it will cost us a high proportion of total expenditure on corporate services to get it up and running, especially now that we effectively have it refocused. Presently we are spending 16.8 per cent on that and that is natural and to be expected: there is nothing wrong with that. It is entirely acceptable in the circumstances. If we look at some of the projects involved and the status reports on those projects, we can see, under 'Information technology and telecommunications', a smart city Australia project name under the management of Laurie Wade. The intention is to get a strategic fit for a globally focused community in which innovation and enterprises produce a high quality of life in the buildings that are used. It is part of the information technology and telecommunications that this State, this Premier, this Government and this nation are on about.

We see that innovations such as cable floor need to be brought on site. It is a South Australian invention of flexible building flooring design that enables immediate access to a whole range of services without great expense. Cable floor simply puts an artificial cover over the substantial surface in the building. It does not hurt the feet of the people walking on it and it accommodates all the cables and other incidental electronic plumbing for the entire building now and for the next 50 to 100 years. That fascinated the Taiwanese and the Koreans.

If we look at another item under IT&T, we see further examples under Hans Wijgh. That is the Technology Park infrastructure support—a very important part of what we are doing and selling there. We can look at what we have been able to attract here from Taiwan—a tyre pyrolysis plant that is going not to the Technology Park site but to Port Adelaide. It was the subject of part of the motion that I deleted as it was too specific, in my judgment. That means that we will be able to take automobile tyres from where they are a problem to everyone around the world presently and, simply through pyrolysis, reduce them to stainless steel wire, carbon black and gas; we can use the gas to drive the process and sell off the heat that is cogenerated in the form of electricity (a small

amount, sure, but it is put to good use); and we can recycle the carbon black, the stainless steel wire and some of the resins left in the condensate after we have done that. There are no more problems: you have made a profit in the process. The list goes on.

I illustrate an even wider range of things such as the development of *bacillus thuringiensis*, based on the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, for insect control. That is \$150 million dollars a year for the control of insects that spread malaria and other human diseases. They are mosquitoes and midges. That work is being done here: it is part and parcel of what is an essential focus of a program in the MFP. It involves how we control the diseases that affect human beings globally and how we provide ourselves with effective structures in which to live, work, learn and grow as a society. To my mind, to kill that off now, so early in the stage of its development now that it is properly refocused, would be foolish. I therefore commend the motion to the House to enable us to say what will come as benefits from it.

Mr QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

CRICKET TEAM

Mrs HALL (Coles): I move:

That this House congratulates the West End State Cricket Team, its players and squad members and the South Australian Cricket Association and officials for bringing glory upon themselves and all South Australians by winning the 1995-96 Sheffield Shield.

This triumph is another in a series of sporting victories by South Australian teams in national competition. During my short time in this place, our State's teams have reached the pinnacle in soccer, women's basketball, netball and, more recently, cricket. Coinciding with this State's resurrection from economic oblivion, South Australian sports teams have begun to win national championships on a regular basis.

In a magnificent finale that we all remember well to the long Shield season, the South Australian tail end batsmen defied the odds—they survived the Western Australian onslaught to force a draw and thus return the Shield to Adelaide Oval. This performance came from a team described before the season as 'soft'. How the worm turns! The author of that remark, one Les Stillman, resigned his position of coach from the Victorian Cricket Association after his team finished last.

In truth, no Shield team could or should be described as soft. The season in the sun is a long one and it is preceded by a long winter of preparation. Once the action begins for our first class cricketers, there are commitments to grade clubs, Mercantile Mutual one-day contests and, for the chosen few, test matches and one day internationals, as well as the long battle for the Sheffield Shield.

Many of the players make big financial sacrifices to follow their dream. The Australian Cricket Board awards contracts to 25 of the nation's elite cricketers and the SACA awards its top players as it can. But for those players in the squad yet to command regular selection, the financial rewards are not so great because of the added difficulty of finding employers and employment that can abide the uncertainty of whether their man, come the end of the week, will be making sales calls at Woodville or getting wickets at the WACA.

There can be no better example of this uncertainty than the late season travails of young South Australian batsman, Ben Johnson. He flew with the Shield team to Sydney to play against New South Wales. He was not selected in the final 12

and flew back on the Friday to play for his club side in a grade semi-final. Then late that night, South Australian skipper, Jamie Siddons, withdrew with injury. Johnson then boarded a plane back to Sydney at 6 a.m. on Saturday and opened the batting just a couple of hours later. Although he missed out in the first innings, his big score in the second guaranteed that we would not be meeting New South Wales in the final.

There are no easy solutions to this employment problem, particularly for those involved in our top sporting activities, and I believe it is a tribute to the marketing department at the SACA that it has recognised the need to assist those in the State squad who do not have suitably compliant and understanding employers. Certainly, by winning the Shield, many of our players should now be more marketable and I believe valuable to South Australian employers. Perhaps the Australian selectors might also sit up and take notice, for there is no shortage of talent within the South Australian squad.

Our captain, Jamie Siddons, is perhaps the finest fieldsmen in any position in Australia. A naturally gifted and attacking batsman, he showed enormous restraint and grit in occupying the crease on the final day of the season, despite suffering a crippling injury. The score book tells us that he made only four, but he may well say that it was the innings of his life. Another big challenge confronts him, as he has just been appointed coach of the State Eleven.

Darren Lehmann had another successful summer, making over 1 000 runs in his own inimitable fashion. One can only hope that his sheer weight of performance and consistency will be rewarded with test selection one day soon.

Greg Blewett knows the rigours of test matches. Despite the disappointment of losing his place in the Australian team, he knuckled down and produced some great all-round performances for this State.

Another of our seasoned test performers, Tim May, had a good season, at times bowling as well as he ever has, and hopefully, as I understand it, it appears as though the rumours of his retirement were premature.

Sadly, it looks as if it is the end of the road for Paul Nobes. His batting has provided Adelaide Oval patrons with a great deal of entertainment over the years, and his performances last season suggest that his skills have certainly not diminished. I wish him well in his life after cricket.

James Brayshaw is another who considered giving it away, but I am told that he will be back for one more crack at Shield cricket. His performances with the bat, particularly later in the season, were excellent and warranted another season.

Tim Nielsen has become a vital member of the team with his energy behind the stumps, reliability with the bat and encouragement to the bowlers, as we all know, even on the hottest of days and the most hopeless situations.

Darren Webber has the remarkable ability to make the difficult look easy. His contributions suggest that he is ready to excel at first-class level. Certainly, Potsie, as he is known, has plenty of fans among the cricket community.

Peter McIntyre will long be remembered for his performance with the bat during that final hour of the Shield final, but wily legbreaks are his stock-in-trade and make him such a valuable member of the team.

Shane George returned from injury to be a big part of our Shield success. His partnership with McIntyre made the ultimate difference in securing the Shield. Prior to his injury he was pressing for test selection, and we all hope that he can regain that form.

One must also recognise the performances of Jason Gillespie, who has shown maturity well beyond his years to become our leading strike bowler. He was selected as a replacement in the Australian World Cup team, and that exposure and experience has already benefited him.

There were others who represented South Australia in this season of glory. Although they missed out on places in the final eleven, the efforts of pace trio Paul Wilson, Mark Harrity and Brad Wigney were instrumental in keeping South Australia on top throughout the season. Fast bowlers place a lot of strain on their bodies and the possibility of injury demands that any team has an able squad of quicks. South Australia certainly has this.

Our West End State Eleven coach, Jeff Hammond, has received the just reward for his efforts. Coaches are ultimately judged by that which they win or fail to win. We all breathed a sigh of relief when the New Zealand cricket authorities failed to show any sense in appointing him as their national coach. South Australia was the beneficiary of that particular folly. But nothing lasts forever, and a year later Jeff is off to South Africa to coach Eastern Province. The challenge of coaching in post-apartheid South Africa is enormous and one that Jeff will approach with relish. I am sure we wish him luck in that venture.

Team physio, Steve Saunders, is an invaluable member of the team, getting injured players ready for battle as quickly as possible. On the odd occasion when he failed to perform the required miracles, he took to the field himself as a substitute fielder.

The South Australian Cricket Association, through its President, Jim Grose, and Chief Executive, Barry Gibbs, showed great leadership in assisting and supporting the coach and players in their successful endeavours. I sincerely congratulate them on their commitment to cricket and to this State. While they have been frustrated in their attempts to lure AFL and other major sports to Adelaide Oval—and we have all had our say about that over the years—in time all that will be forgotten. In contrast, the Sheffield Shield victory will remain forever etched in the collective memory of this State's sports fans. Next summer, under lights, the South Australian team will defend its title. Bearing a new corporate image, the Southern Redbacks will attempt to make it two in a row. South Australians should—and I hope they will—turn out in great numbers to cheer on their cricketing heroes. I urge all members to join with me in supporting this motion and thanking the entire South Australian cricket community for its part in winning the Sheffield Shield for the fourteenth time.

Mr LEGGETT (Hanson): I, too, support the motion. I applaud the member for Coles on her comprehensive and detailed coverage of the Australian domestic cricket season. It was great to listen to all the statistics. It seems a long time ago—March—that we all sat and listened to the glorious finish of the Sheffield Shield final against Western Australia. But it has been an even longer time between drinks (1981-82 season) since we won the Sheffield Shield. So, we were certainly well, due and ready to win the Sheffield Shield this year. To Barry Gibbs and the whole administration team at SACA, South Australia does, indeed, salute SACA and the team.

We lost the Grand Prix to Victoria. We have inherited Port Power next year—whether we want it or not—and I am sure it may well be beneficial to South Australia. We have had mixed success so far with the Adelaide Football Club, but we

did win the Sheffield Shield this year. After a huge hiding last year, where the side could have thrown in the towel because of the thrashing we received against Queensland, we came back and won the title. For years and years Sheffield Shield cricket has suffered because of poor attendances and because of little interest. As a young chap (just a few years ago) I used to travel on the Overland, which still runs its path every night, not just to watch test cricket at the Adelaide Oval but to watch Sheffield Shield matches. Sheffield Shield matches were prominent in the early 1960s with names such as Sobers and Favell. It was a treat to travel 200 miles to see those guys play, even though I once travelled only to see Sobers last for about five minutes, out for a duck. I often had a day off from school. It was called cricketitis, a contagious disease which strikes sporting fanatics, particularly the young.

My good friend, Neil Hawke, who was an Australian opening bowler and champion footballer, once told me that he received the princely sum of £2.10s. a day to play Sheffield Shield cricket in the early 1960s. That team, which included household names such as Dansie and Sobers, won the Sheffield Shield. Sir Garfield Sobers, the great West Indian allrounder, played two shield seasons for South Australia.

Mr Lewis interjecting:

Mr LEGGETT: Yes, £2.10s. in those days was a lot of money. The final against Western Australia this year was a riveting affair. It was a real heartstopper, but we deserved to win. We deserved to draw the game. Of course, there is criticism, which I will refer to in a moment, about the way in which the finals operate. Drawing the game, of course, was satisfactory for us to win the Sheffield Shield. I would like to single out a few individual efforts. The member for Coles did that most adequately. There was of course Gillespie, the fast bowler, with his 3 for 96 off 33 overs in Western Australia's first innings; and his 4 for 33 in the second innings was a tremendous and very significant contribution.

As the member for Coles said, there was Paul Nobes (and it would be very sad if he were lost to South Australian cricket), with his 103 in the first innings; there was Blewett's 72 in the second innings; and Brayshaw with 66. There were many other great efforts and there was that amazing effort in the last two hours with a very much injured Jamie Siddons, who stayed there and played probably one of the greatest innings of his life, with four runs in a couple of hours. Tim May, McIntyre and George held out against the Western Australian attack.

Criticism of how the final operates has always been around. There is advantage to the side that finishes top in that it can actually host the final and that it does not have to win the match outright; it has only to save the match or hold it on the first innings. The side that finishes second has to play away from its home ground and has to win outright. In past years, when we did not have a Sheffield Shield final, the side that finished on top was always the Sheffield Shield winner outright. In days gone by that was mostly New South Wales, which had great players like Benaud, O'Neill, Booth and Davidson, so New South Wales constantly won the Sheffield Shield, because it finished top. That was the case in 1981-82, when we did that: we finished top. There were household names, such as (and I am sure I will miss some) David Hookes, Phillips, Darling, Rodney Hogg and Geoff Crowe, who went back to play test cricket for New Zealand and whose brother was the famous New Zealand captain, Martin Crowe—big names in Australian cricket.

As the member for Coles said, we were capably coached this year by Jeff Hammond, who sadly will be lost to us as he goes to South Africa. It certainly will be a boost and a bonus to South African cricket and a loss to South Australia. Also, I note the great leadership of Jamie Siddons, our captain, and one of the unluckiest players, never to play a test match for Australia in tests, although he did tour overseas. As the member for Coles said, he is a great captain: innovative, a superb batsman with a magnificent technique and probably one of the greatest fieldsmen that Australia has seen in the past 20 years. We are proud to call him a South Australian, although he is by birth a Victorian. I can remember in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when he regularly made hundreds and two hundreds against South Australia. It is nice to have him on our side. To all the team, I say, 'Well done'. We wish Jamie Siddons, the new coach, and the team all good wishes for 1997. May that Sheffield Shield stay in South Australia, not just next year but for many years to come. I support the motion.

Ms HURLEY (Napier): The member for Coles has already waxed lyrical about the players involved in this wonderful Sheffield Shield win, and the member for Hanson has concentrated more on the history of South Australia's involvement in the Sheffield Shield. In supporting this motion I will dwell a little on the importance of this South Australian win in the Sheffield Shield for the spectators and particularly the young supporters. I have always believed that cricket is a very fine game, and particularly as the mother of a young son I am pleased with the way it combines teamwork with the scope for fine individual performances in a nonviolent setting.

I think it is an excellent game with a wonderful history and an excellent future. It is good to see that here in South Australia our Sheffield Shield players have combined to produce a wonderful effort that has given great inspiration to all their supporters, young and old. It is nice once again to see South Australia reassert its superiority in this game. In celebrating this victory, I would also like to comment on the fine sportsmanship of the South Australian team, and indeed the other teams in the Sheffield Shield, and to reflect on the way in which general sportsmanship in cricket is far superior to that of many other games. Again, it provides a good role model for young up-and-coming sportsmen. I would certainly like to see my son continue to play cricket in whatever form, and I would like to continue to see our elite South Australian cricketers put on such fine displays.

Mr BROKENSHERE (Mawson): I also have pleasure in briefly supporting this motion.

Members interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHERE: Some of my colleagues on the other side are not happy that I am speaking. Why, I am not sure, but if they would listen for a change they might understand why I want to support the member for Coles' motion. Many issues could be talked about before we get right into the specifics of just how great an effort this was for the West End State Cricket Team. I am learning more every day under Minister Wotton as his Parliamentary Secretary about just how important sport is to young people. Whilst, of course, we get snide remarks from the shadow spokesperson for Family and Community Services, the serious facts are that, if we can get more young people into sport, more young people looking up to their heroes like those in the West End State Cricket Team, this will be a far better place for the

young people of South Australia. The marvellous result brought about by the West End State Cricket Team has not only done good for themselves and for cricket but highlighted just how good South Australians are in their performance and how fair and sportsmanlike they are, which has also been very good for this State.

I happen to be very lucky because I have known one of the State cricketers, Darren Webber, since he was a very young child. I have worked closely with his father and mother, Tony and Val Webber, for many years. I have seen Darren not only as someone who was committed to his studies but also as someone who had a real flair and ability for cricket and who had to do some real hard yakka to get through and finally succeed in making a permanent Sheffield Shield side, ultimately taking part in that magnificent premiership. Parents play a big part in the making of great sportspeople. When we look at how much effort the parents of Darren and, I am sure, the parents of the other cricketers in that team have devoted to their children over a long time, they should also be recognised, because they are part of the success that we as South Australians have been able to enjoy.

I acknowledge also the success of the Sports Academy, under Mr Marsh. The efforts that he and those connected with the whole of cricketing have put in to develop the talents of those people have now shown fruition and the value of that sort of initiative. I commend his efforts, and I hope we will see further specialisation in all areas of sport throughout South Australia and Australia in the future. I refer not only to the team members' efforts in the final game but to the fact that they were consistent, disciplined and wanted to make sure that they succeeded. Not only does one need those three characteristics in cricket, but one also needs to have them in everything one does in life. Once again, I encourage young people to look at the commitments that those fine sportspeople made to make sure that they won the premiership this year. I congratulate them, and I wholeheartedly support the motion.

Mr BASS (Florey): I think it has all been said, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion carried.

MEDICAL SERVICES, SOUTH-EAST

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): I move:

That this House—

- (a) notes that budget cuts have led to a serious crisis in the delivery of medical and hospital services in the South-East;
- (b) requests the Minister for Health to act immediately to guarantee obstetric services in the South-East;
- (c) calls on the Minister to indemnify Board Members of the Mount Gambier Hospital against personal liability for budget over-runs at the Mount Gambier Hospital for 1995-96 and not to transfer debt to the new hospital; and
- (d) supports the action taken by the Members for Gordon and MacKillop by sponsoring petitions opposing cuts to medical and health services in their electorates.

Nobody who has travelled to the South-East in recent months, read South-East newspapers or, indeed, references in the *Advertiser*, and listened to rural radio, could have failed to notice the extreme crisis in Mount Gambier and its surrounding regions involving its medical and hospital facilities. Last week I went to Mount Gambier and spoke to doctors, the board of the hospital, the Rural Health Action Group, to a meeting of staff members of the Mount Gambier Hospital, and to community members. I have kept in touch with newspapers and I have seen and heard at first hand evidence

of the extreme concerns of the community. Not only is it an issue involving the future of rural health in South Australia, which it is, but also it is about the future of rural communities themselves. When you undermine one significant section of our community you undermine the entire community, and that is what has happened in the South-East.

In Mount Gambier, the issue really concerns two major thrusts, but essentially it encompasses those very broad issues I have just mentioned. The first revolves around the future of obstetric services in the South-East. The second revolves around the future of the general health services emanating from the Mount Gambier area. As to obstetric services in the South-East, all of us take for granted that, when we give birth, when we have children, we will have access to high quality medical help within a reasonable distance. Giving birth is, I suppose, the most fundamental of human activities. It is something that we need to celebrate, but also to be able to do so in relative calm with a confidence that the services we require are at hand. This is not the situation in the South-East at the moment. Ordinary people, the community at large, are fearful that in fact that very basic service will soon no longer be part of their community.

The Mount Gambier Hospital is a level 2 hospital. It has two specialist obstetricians practising in the area, one in Millicent and the other in Mount Gambier. Each year there are over 550 deliveries in Mount Gambier, 150 in Millicent and 150 to 200 in the Upper South-East. Adelaide, the next centre to which women would need to go should this service disappear, is five hours by road from Mount Gambier, whilst Melbourne is five hours in the opposite direction. This issue—

Mr Brindal interjecting:

Ms STEVENS: Listen! This issue emanates from the need for a reasonable subsidy for medical indemnity insurance for GP obstetricians, and if it is not resolved forthwith the issue threatens the entire provision of obstetric services in the South-East. There are 22 GPs in the South-East, and only six out of those 22 GPs now perform obstetrics. We are in danger of losing those six, and when that happens the service will no longer exist.

This came about as a result of litigation following the LeFevre Hospital tragedy. The charges for medical indemnity insurance increased hugely, up to \$8 000 per year. The issue is one of whether GPs in rural areas should have some subsidy from the State Government for the fees they need to pay. What I have heard from many people is that, unless this is resolved very quickly, GPs will just not be able to afford to continue providing the service and they will have to stop. I will quote briefly from a letter of Dr Catherine Pye, the Secretary of the South-East Medical Association. She says:

As a private GP my overheads are high, about 50 per cent. I need to perform nine normal deliveries to pay my medical indemnity of \$3 500 and as 20 per cent will be Caesareans this means another 1-2 deliveries. With 50 per cent overheads this is increased to 15-16 deliveries just to make the expenditure balance the income and only after this will I earn money. The is not sound business practice. There can be no monetary reason why GPs do obstetrics. Most South Australian GPs would deliver about 10 babies a year, be involved with many more incomplete pregnancies, assist at Caesareans and/or provide the anaesthetic needed. Many GPs have stopped during obstetrics for various reasons, six have stopped in the last 12 months in Mount Gambier. Soon obstetrics will not be a viable option in many major towns, especially without the support of the South Australian Health Commission.

This is not a new issue. We knew that this would come to a head last year. In fact, it has even made the pages of the *Medical Observer*, where the AMA talked about the fact that

time is running out. Dr John Emery said that the Government had set up a working party to determine a solution but only weeks before 30 June insurance deadline, the working party had yet to meet. He said that the Government had also fallen way behind on a timetable set by the Health Commission and the AMA. It is not a new issue, but the Health Commission and the Minister have just not got around to dealing with it. They have put at risk the confidence, health and peace of mind of hundreds of people in the South-East, who really wonder what the future holds in relation to giving birth in their own community.

Mount Gambier Hospital, as have other hospitals in South Australia, has come under severe budgetary pressures over the past two years. In 1994-95 it was required to save \$750 000, which it did. Last year it was given a savings target of \$800 000. The Mount Gambier board had real concerns about this figure. It did not believe it was correct and, as early as September 1995, it flagged its concerns with the South Australian Health Commission, saying that it believed there was an error, that this was impossible and that it believed this was an incorrect assessment under the new casemix formulation. It was ignored. It was given the brush off and told to balance the budget. It was even subjected to implied threats that the board itself and its members would be liable for any budget overrun.

It proceeded and made the cuts. As a result of that, 37 overnight beds have been closed and most recently the rehabilitation ward and the children's ward have both been closed. I would like to read from another letter I have received from a nurse in relation to the closure of the rehabilitation and the children's ward. She said:

The most obvious initial problem will be that the high number of elderly people in the community will be denied the chance to be rehabilitated (following surgery or serious illness) in the hospital prior to their return home, thus increasing the pressure on community health services, home help agencies and nursing homes offering respite care.

Services—for the rehabilitation of patients—in particular amputees—will need to be sought from the city. Hampstead Rehabilitation Clinic does not have beds available for country clients for the extended time necessary for the completion of successful rehabilitation and recovery for these patients. They may therefore be forced to seek other options in the city which aren't readily available or affordable to them.

I have received phone calls from people explaining what it is like in the intensive care recovery wards where people are recovering from coronary care operations and are located close to young children. Because the children's ward has been closed, the children are in with the other patients, but this is of no benefit to coronary care patients or the children and it is a disgrace. Yet it did not need to happen, and that is the tragedy and the real issue. It did not need to happen. In fact, Mount Gambier Hospital has now been reduced to the budget position that was to apply when it moved into its new facilities. Members need to understand that a new facility has much better and more up-to-date architecture and hospitals can run more efficiently with less staff, but the old Mount Gambier Hospital now has the new staff ratio and is unable to cope. The hospital is on its knees.

What is the effect of this? The hospital has acknowledged that it will probably achieve a \$1 million to \$1.25 million overrun on its budget, on a budget that should have been applied only when the hospital moved to its new facility. Also, the hospital has been told that, if it does clock up this extra debt, it will have to pay it back when it moves to the new facility. Not only was the hospital given the wrong

budget but its pleas for help were ignored and it has been told that when it moves into the new facility it will have the ball and chain of the previous debt hanging over it. What has this done to the community? There has been a reduction in staff that did not need to occur. There has been a complete demoralisation of the staff. I also heard from anaesthetists who say that after July there will only be three of them and for eight weekends, between July and December, there will be no anaesthetist service available in Mount Gambier.

There has been a loss of confidence in the community in the health system and one board member told me that the community was 'heartsick', that people were scared and actually had to face the reality that they may not have a health service that they can trust and have confidence in. After the Minister's visit to Mount Gambier the hospital reported that its occupancy rate crashed. With comments from the Minister like, 'I am used to criticism,' and, 'It's like water off a duck's back,' is it any wonder that occupancy rates crashed? Clearly, the Minister and the South Australian Health Commission ignored the advice given to them by people on the ground. They failed to assess accurately the situation in Mount Gambier and the South-East. They underestimated completely the effect that this was going to have in the community. There is a feeling of anger and complete frustration in the South-East about health services. When I spoke to the doctors they also told me about the Minister's failure to listen. In fact, I received a copy of a letter from Dr Malcolm Gale to Dr Armitage, and he finished his letter to the Minister by saying:

You talk about good faith and trying to do the best for rural South Australia. Well this is your opportunity to do this. I hope you can at least listen to this one point, because I cannot see any evidence of you having listened at all to our pleas in the past.

This is a wider issue; it is about rural health and it is about the future of rural communities. It is also about a Minister who is high-handed and who does not listen, and a Health Commission which tries to operate its rural health services from an office in Adelaide: it does not work.

Mr BASS secured the adjournment of the debate.

OLYMPIC DAM

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Bass:

That this House supports uranium mining in South Australia, acknowledges the success of the Olympic Dam operations at Roxby Downs, and supports its further expansion; and this House also notes the new Federal Government's announcement of abolishing the three mines policy and supports the explanation of the uranium industry in South Australia.

(Continued from 28 March. Page 1298.)

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): I want to make some comments about this motion. It is true to say that this is an issue about which I have strong opinions. It is an issue about which, as a mother, a grandmother and a member of this Parliament, I have more than a passing interest. Indeed, members would be well aware that I have brought to the attention of the House on numerous occasions matters relating to the use of radioactive materials. For example, I questioned the transportation and storage of radioactive waste in the State's north, and the answers from this Government have been from far from satisfactory.

Last year, along with other Australian and international politicians, I went to French Polynesia to protest the resumption of French nuclear testing. As I have stated, I have more

than a passing interest in the issues surrounding radioactive material, and my contributions in this House have demonstrated this interest. I remind the House that I am not opposed to mining, contrary to what has been furlphied around this place on numerous occasions. In fact, my father was a miner in the New South Wales coalpits. The mining industry should be commended for the improvements that have taken place over the years. Sadly, the incident at Moura in Queensland in 1994 is not reflective of those improvements.

This motion is not simply about mining, and I will endeavour to address these issues now. This motion raises important issues which this House must consider carefully. We have a mine in South Australia which produces uranium, copper and gold at present, and the revenue and jobs this provides forms an integral part of the State's economy and well-being. I will not argue that this income and the associated jobs are not good for the State. It is interesting to note, however, that the job figures originally quoted fall far short of the number of jobs created. In fact, in September 1979, the then Federal Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, Mr Viner, stated in the Federal Parliament, in reference to Roxby Downs, that there would be a construction work force of 200 000 to 300 000 jobs and a permanent operational work force of 5 000, and some 50 000 other associated jobs. In 1989, some 10 years later, this was down to 1 090. Today that figure is below 800 in total at the mine site.

I do have a philosophical objection to uranium mining for various reasons that I will explain, but I do accept my Party's policy on this matter and I abide by that. The basis for my concern is not directly related to the mine but the impact of how the uranium product is utilised. I say this not simply to bash the Government or the mining company which operates Olympic Dam; rather, I believe that we have a responsibility to the environment and the disastrous effect mining can have on the environment. The fact is that I have grave concerns about the end use of uranium both on the environment as a result of its waste and also its use in nuclear testing on the entire globe.

The uranium mining industry produces waste for which there is no known technology to permanently and safely dispose of this highly dangerous material. Efforts are being made but so far no positive results have been achieved. Perhaps the industry should devote more of its millions of dollars of investment capital towards finding productive solutions to deal with this waste, rather than merely producing more waste which will have to be dealt with one day. My concern is that we may leave this legacy to our children. Secondly, I draw the attention of members to the fact that one possible use for uranium is nuclear testing. I am of the firm belief that there is no absolute guarantee that the end of the road for our State uranium is not nuclear weapons testing. I can think of no greater crime the State's Government, of whatever persuasion, could perpetrate than to actively stick its collective head in the sand over this issue, while a product of this State finds its way into the dangerous and grubby business of nuclear weapons testing.

The Director of the Australian Safeguards Office, Mr John Carlson, clearly stated before the Senate Inquiry into Nuclear Non-Proliferation that one cannot give an absolute guarantee that Australian uranium will not enter the international weapons cycle. If, in the past, we have permitted this to occur, we should hang our heads in collective shame. To permit this to continue is an absolute disgrace. I was pleased to hear that the Premier, after three days of questions from me

some time ago—questions which he ridiculed in his replies—finally admitted:

There are also obligations on the original miner or supplier of the uranium to know exactly where it has gone.

The Premier further stated:

Certainly it is far too important just to leave it up to commercial interests.

I say to that, 'Hear, hear.' Indeed, I would argue that it is not just a national responsibility but also a State Government responsibility to ensure that the end product does not end up in the international nuclear weapons cycle. I found it incredibly strange that it took three days to prise those responses from the Premier. I would argue that any form of nuclear weapons testing clearly implies that someone is planning to build a weapon, otherwise why test something you never plan to construct? The only safe situation is one where there is no testing and no weapons. Only then will uranium miners be able to argue that their end product cannot end up in nuclear weapons.

To argue otherwise is to give support to nuclear weapons and, while it is not directly related to the function of this Parliament, it is our responsibility to ensure that a product of this State does not further threaten the safety of the world. Members of this House might not be concerned with that dimension of the debate, but I most certainly am. The fact that I am totally opposed to nuclear weapons testing is precisely why I went to French Polynesia, and it is precisely why the Tahitians were protesting about French testing. In addition, to support the expansion of Olympic Dam without taking into account the possible effects on the environment is to risk damage which is possibly unforeseen and which may lead to disastrous effects on the environment.

We are already aware of the dangers to the artesian basin, and we must monitor this at all times. The protection of the artesian water supply must take precedence over any single development considerations, and I remind members of the tailings incident. It is far too important to leave it up to commercial interests so, before any further expansion of uranium mining takes place, a comprehensive environmental impact study must be undertaken by an independent body and then submitted to the Parliament for full scrutiny. This must be an ongoing practice that is permanently factored into their business management.

This is particularly relevant to the Federal Howard Liberal Government's abolition of the three-mine policy. To put it bluntly, there is an unquestionable need for even greater caution and responsibility. As I have said, I am not absolutely opposed to the mine or its expansion, which has the potential to give us income and employment. The additional jobs associated with increased gold and copper production will be of benefit, although I do fear that an expansion will not bring the large increases in jobs that some would have us believe, and I say that based firmly on past history. What I do fear is that the environment and our responsibility to protect and care for it is taking a back seat to the economic interests of some. It is a sad reflection on the direction of this Government's environmental policy. When we talk of responsibility, let us not forget our responsibility to ensure that a product of this State is not used to further develop the international nuclear weapons industry.

Mr VENNING (Custance): I support the member for Florey's motion. I wish to reflect on what the honourable member who has just resumed her seat said. I was concerned

at her criticism that only 800 jobs have been created, because 800 jobs in that region is a credit. I know that it did not quite measure up to the original forecast, but I am positive that, with the future of this process, we will see far in excess of the original expectation. I would not add any criticism to that. The honourable member also reflected on her Party's policy in relation to this matter, and that why it is a motion on the Notice Paper. I am concerned that there are no Normie Foster's amongst the Opposition today. I only wish we did because, if it was not for him, this project would not be there, or it would be much later in its development. I am also opposed to nuclear testing but I do not see what that has to do with this motion, so it is irrelevant.

The honourable member also mentioned the protection of the Great Artesian Basin, and I remind her of the detailed investigation of the Environment, Resources and Development Committee, of which I am a member. The all clear was given even though there were some justified concerns in the first instance. That is a very extensive report and I urge the honourable member to read it again. There is no doubt that very responsible action has been taken.

In supporting this motion, I should like to expand further on the member for Florey's comments on the uranium industry. Today the world generates more electricity from nuclear power than it did from all power sources 40 years ago. In 31 countries, 438 commercial nuclear power reactors supply 17 per cent of the world's electricity, and it will soon be 20 per cent. Another 32 commercial power reactors are under construction and 73 are on order or planned. In addition, civil reactors operate in 54 countries, including Australia, for research and production of medical and industrial isotopes, and also for training.

While Australia supplies only about 10 per cent of the world's uranium oxide, it hosts about one-third of the known world's measured resources of uranium. The country's low cost reserves, its political and economic stability, and best practice supply make it the preferred uranium oxide supplier in the world, especially to nearby east Asian markets, and we hear time and time again how we need to access these markets. Australia could increase its share of the world uranium oxide market to about 30 per cent, which is a threefold increase in the next few years.

In the past decade, Australia has exported 43 000 tonnes of uranium oxide, earning almost \$2.9 billion for the country, and very valuable royalties have been earned for our economy. Nabarlek has closed and in 1994-95 the other two mines, earning Australia \$188 million, produced 4 069 tonnes, or 10 per cent of the world's production. While the growth in electricity generating capacity is levelling out in North America and most of western Europe, east and South-East Asian countries are meeting massive increases in demands that are outstripping anything seen in the world before. Currently, 83 nuclear power reactors operate in six of these countries; 14 are being built and another 58 are being planned. In the region, 14 countries operate 57 reactors.

The greatest rate of growth, not surprisingly, is expected in China, Japan and South Korea—countries of which we are well aware and to which we regularly send trade delegations. Five power reactors are under construction in South Korea, four in India, two in China, two in Japan and one in Pakistan. Countries planning to build power reactors are Japan, which plans to build 19; South Korea 14; India, 12; China, 8; North Korea, 2; Taiwan, 2; and Indonesia, 1. The demand is there.

Australia is located in the East Asia region, which is the world's largest market for uranium. Olympic Dam sells its

uranium oxide for electricity generation to the power utilities in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, South Korea, Japan, the US and even Canada, which surprisingly is the world's leading supplier of uranium. As the previous speaker said a moment ago, our uranium is so sought after for power generation that very little would ever go into weapons.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr VENNING: None of it should: I agree with the honourable member. In percentage terms, 55 per cent goes to Europe, 26 per cent to Japan, 11 per cent to Korea and 8 per cent to North America. In 1994-95 Olympic Dam produced 1 084 tonnes of uranium oxide, which will yield 40 000 gigawatts of electricity. That is a lot of power, equivalent to 25 per cent of Australia's net electricity production.

Currently, Olympic Dam has the capacity to produce 1 500 tonnes of uranium oxide each year—an energy equivalent of 21 million tonnes of black coal. Olympic Dam's total sales revenue is about \$350 million per year. Uranium oxide accounts for about 20 per cent of this figure, copper accounts for 75 per cent, and gold and silver 5 per cent. This is magnificent for South Australia and not one jot of credit can go to the Opposition, as it opposed it.

Of those who opposed uranium mining I ask several questions: first, how can we, as part of a country that is rich in natural resources, refuse to supply other countries with the means to provide power for their populations? Often they have no choice. It is clean power free of carbon. Just because we do not choose to have any nuclear power generation facilities ourselves, why should we then refuse to provide the vital resource to others?

Time will show that these countries are doing the right thing and we are not. We know what is happening in the environment world and we will shortly see carbon emitting taxes being put on our power stations. In future I am sure taxes will apply to our coal fired power stations because they have emissions. These countries with nuclear reactors will pay nothing. Regarding waste, technology is catching up all the time. There is such a minimal amount of waste that in the next few years technology will have an adequate ways of disposing of it.

If Australia has no coal or natural gas left to produce electricity, I am sure we will see a big difference in the attitude towards nuclear power. The greenies are strong on philosophy, but they still expect the light to glow when they flick a switch. They have to realise that power has to be generated from materials that come from the ground. If it is not coal or natural gas, it has to be uranium. In those countries with well established nuclear power systems there would appear to be little opposition from the general population: people simply welcome the fact that power is readily available as a result.

How can we possibly deny Australia the economic and social benefits associated with uranium mining? Members might cringe at the words 'social benefits'. Those working in the thriving community of Roxby Downs—all 800 of them—are only too pleased to be earning a good living and providing an excellent way of life for their families, not to mention the economic benefits that help sustain the country in general and in turn provide social welfare, a public health system and an education system—the list goes on. I remind the House that there would be a further 1 000 or more people in allied businesses that go with that. I have visited nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom and I was very impressed with the success. I support the motion.

Motion carried.

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

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION (LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL

Her Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Her Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

NAILSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL OVAL

A petition signed by 459 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to retain the eastern oval on the Nailsworth High School site as a community recreation facility was presented by Mr Clarke.

Petition received.

GLENSIDE HOSPITAL

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Health): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: In the House yesterday I was asked a question by the Leader of the Opposition about psychiatric patients being booked into a city hotel because 'no other accommodation is available for them'. The claim is completely unfounded and a quite reprehensible attack on the professionalism of staff at Glenside Hospital who work very hard and with great compassion for their clients. The Leader alleged that on 25 May a client presented to casualty at Glenside and was booked into a city hotel because of a lack of accommodation. That claim is demonstrably wrong.

In fact, at midnight on the night in question, one hour before this person presented as a self-referee, I am informed that the bed situation was as follows: three open acute beds were available; two 'closed' or intensive care beds were available; 20 extended care beds were available; and 15 services to the elderly acute beds were available. That lays to rest the allegation by the Leader that the client was booked into a hotel because of an accommodation shortage—a claim that he obviously did not bother to check out with Glenside. For the purpose of cynically scoring a few cheap political points, the Leader of the Opposition has not only impugned the professionalism of staff at Glenside but has used the most vulnerable members of the community to do so.

QUESTION TIME

COUNCILLORS, POLICE PROTECTION

Mr QUIRKE (Playford): Will the Minister for Police take up the matter of death threats made against councillors and other persons as a result of the proposed Elizabeth-Munno Para amalgamations, and will he say under what circumstances police protection will be provided to those who have been threatened? I have been advised that death threats have been made against councillors and others who voted in

Munno Para for amalgamation with the City of Elizabeth. I understand that these disturbing reports have now been communicated to the local police.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: On this occasion, I will not say that I thank the member for Playford for his question. The honourable member is normally fairly astute in the way that he operates, but on this occasion I question whether he has done the right thing. I will certainly take up the issue and trust that I will be provided with the relevant details. I have some difficulty reconciling the need for a person's safety with a matter involving a threat, because we are all under threat at various times during the year and I, like many others, have received a number of threats over the years. The seriousness of those threats must be taken into account, however, and I am not denying that this might be a very serious case, as there have been other serious cases involving members of the community.

It would have been more appropriate to raise this matter in a less than public forum: I do not think it is appropriate to obtain such information in this way. However, as soon as the information is available I will ensure that any necessary action is taken. I shall be pleased to do whatever has to be done in this case. I question the wisdom of raising these matters in the Parliament because it then focuses on individuals and puts them under a great deal more stress than they may otherwise be under at the time. I am happy to take up the member for Playford's question and to ask the Commissioner of Police to personally look into this issue, although, as I have indicated, I have some grave reservations about the way in which the matter has been raised.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Mr CUMMINS (Norwood): Will the Premier confirm that the Government has received an approach from the Labor Party for assistance in policy development?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will answer only those matters that are relevant to his portfolio.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Yes, I can confirm that the South Australian Labor Party through its Secretary, John Hill, on 3 May wrote to the State Government seeking our support to help develop what they call their community development policy. I have been saying for some time that I thought the Leader of the Opposition, in fact the whole of the Opposition, were rather void of ideas, and this has well and truly confirmed that. We have a letter from John Hill as State Secretary writing to the Government and asking whether we can help develop their community development policy—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: —and their transport policy, which I find particularly interesting because Terry Cameron, who is the shadow Minister for Transport, has been one who has been very violently opposed to what the Government has been doing in terms of trying to achieve efficiency within the transport sector. Now it appears that the Labor Party has realised that Terry Cameron is not worth supporting, that his ideas and policies are not worth supporting, and it has turned to the Government to help it with its policy development. I make the point, though, that I find inherent difficulty in helping the Labor Party with policy development when it has come out time after time and opposed things such as contracting out to save taxpayers' money in order to deliver additional services and public transport to people in this State.

All it wants to do, it would appear at least in Parliament, is go back to the old times. If it wants to come on board with the Government's initiatives—and it would appear from this that it does because it has come specifically to the Government and asked for help in developing its policies—I am hopeful it will listen to what we have to say. I also highlight the other area of inconsistency from members opposite, namely, their opposition to a restructuring of ETSA which they were demonstrating last night—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: They were opposing the restructuring of ETSA in South Australia.

Mr CLARKE: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I am having difficulty hearing the honourable member because of the interjections.

Mr CLARKE: The Premier is either misinformed or has deliberately misled the House in respect of that last statement.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the Leader of the Opposition for the first time. He had ample warning yesterday. I suggest to the Premier that he round off his answer; I think he has given adequate information. I remind all members that this is an important day in the parliamentary calendar, and I would expect all members to conduct themselves in the manner which the public expects of them as elected representatives.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I was about to point out that it was then revealed in Parliament this week that they were trying to sell off a great big chunk of ETSA. So, there is inherent inconsistency between what members of the Labor Party are saying and what they have been practising. All I would ask is that they sort out their own predicament, find out what direction they want to head in and then, when they have worked that out, come to the Government and we will continue to help them with their policy development. Just follow us, because we are clearly setting a new course for South Australia; and today's budget shows the benefit of that to this State and its people.

YATALA LABOUR PRISON

Mr QUIRKE (Playford): Will the Minister for Correctional Services advise the House about current conditions in B Division in Yatala and whether and by what means the security of the protectees, the general prisoners and the guards has been achieved?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not want any interjections from my right.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: I remind the House that the last time the member for Playford asked me a question on Correctional Services matters was 16 November 1995, so I have been looking forward for some time to having a question from him. It would seem that it takes an incident at Yatala to get a question about this portfolio. I assure him that the department has been waiting with interest, too, to see whether the Opposition cares about the incarceration of offenders in our society.

The incident which occurred at Yatala is not one about which the Government is particularly happy, for obvious reasons. An investigation has been conducted into the incident that occurred at the institution. The investigation report is due to come to me shortly; it is due to be completed today. There is no doubt that matters revealed in that report

will ultimately be released publicly. However, at this time I have a difficulty before me in that a second investigation—a police investigation—has also occurred, with a view to laying charges. I expect that will happen, and therefore it will not be possible to release aspects of the findings of the Correctional Services investigative report publicly until such time as the matters that finally come before the court are dispensed with.

Despite that, I am happy to publicly offer the honourable member an opportunity for a private briefing as to the findings of that investigation so that he can satisfy himself that the investigation has been thorough and that the findings of that investigation are then implemented. I believe that is a way of offering the Opposition an opportunity effectively to examine the process of Government and the aftermath of an incident like this without in any way, shape or form jeopardising the matters that are before the court.

Needless to say, there has been a change to some procedures in Yatala prison. As at yesterday, the prison was at the stage where all prison industries were back to normal; the staffing regimes in part of the prison were back to normal; managers continue to negotiate some changed procedures with staff in the remainder of the prison; and there have been changes to the way in which protectees are accommodated within and work through the prison. The day after the incident I personally visited the prison and spent some three hours talking with staff and examining the damage. A number of things need to be said at this juncture. The way in which some of the media reported the incident at Yatala was nothing short of a public disgrace. The public has a right to receive accurate information, and I believe our media are duty bound to ensure that such information is accurately portrayed.

To give an example, one newspaper in this town carried a front page story highlighting the Yatala situation, claiming that prisoners wielding iron bars and knives had rioted at the institution. Other media picked up that story thereafter. I asked a number of media representatives how the prisoners came to be armed with iron bars, and they replied to me, 'They broke the legs off the chairs.' I hope all media understand that the chairs used in prisons in South Australia and throughout Australia and, indeed, many parts of the world, are Sebel Australia plastic chairs. They do not have metal legs. They are a very good chair and they are used throughout the world, and I commend the Sebel company for its product and its initiative in marketing in that way. Also, prisoners were not rioting and wielding knives as reported in the media, but that will come out in the future court case. The information was not accurate. It did not make the job any easier for staff.

On the night I went to the prison and spent three hours there, the media were running claims that the place was about to erupt yet again. I spoke with upset staff as they watched those media broadcasts, and they said, 'Minister, you are here; you can walk through the place and talk to the staff. This place is not about to erupt again. Why are they saying those things?' That does not help staff after a particularly difficult incident at a particularly difficult time.

What also did not help the staff was the way in which their union carried on. The day I was at the prison, PSA Secretary Jan McMahon was claiming on all TV stations that I had refused requests to meet with the staff. As at today, there has been no telephone call, no facsimile request and no letter from the Public Service Association asking me to go to that institution. I went there of my own volition, as would normally be the case, the following day, yet it was claimed that I had not turned up. I also visited some of the injured

staff in hospital without media present in my own time to talk to them about their experiences. I say to all media and all members that when such incidents occur, as they are bound to occur in prisons—they are very difficult institutions to manage; they do not house the nicest people in our society—to please be level-headed and report the facts.

RACING INDUSTRY

Mr BASS (Florey): Will the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing please inform the House of the progress being made in the revitalisation of South Australia's racing industry? Earlier this year the Minister set a strict timetable for the establishment of new structures to control the industry, and I ask the question so the House can be informed of the progress made.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Back in March this Parliament passed legislation enabling the TAB to be restructured. The new board is now in place and tomorrow the new General Manager will be announced. There has been a total investigative report on the TAB by Price Waterhouse. That basis has now been supplied by the AMTF to the board. It sets out clearly the benchmark as it relates to all other TABs around Australia, and it will now enable the TAB board to make some very important decisions. First, with respect to expenses and costs, the report shows clearly that we are the highest rating TAB in Australia, so there is a hell of an opportunity for us to improve the performance of the TAB and, consequently, and most importantly, to return a larger income to both the Government and industry. Secondly, the sum of \$2.5 million was granted to the industry approximately one month ago, and that will be used for the total restructuring and development of the industry.

The three authorities established under the Act have all been put into place. They all had their first meetings last week. I had a meeting today with the chairmen of the four boards, and we established clearly that, through the Act, the Government has given RIDA an opportunity to totally restructure the industry. It has been made very clear to all the codes—and I am pleased to say that all the codes have reacted favourably—that a massive restructuring needs to take place, and that includes breeder-owner schemes. At this point I take the opportunity to put on record the work that the previous Minister, the member for Morphett, made in this area, because the basis of the breeder-owner scheme was well and truly developed when he was the Minister.

Stake money issues and marketing of the industry have been put in place for very significant changes. The most important issue has been the announcement of the sale of 5AA. The sale profit will go back to the TAB so that we can quickly upgrade the technology transfer systems and the capital works that are needed in the agencies to ensure that we have an up-to-date, modern communications system in the TAB.

We have formally advised the boards today that the Inns and Delaney reports, which were commissioned by the previous Minister, will be the basis for restructuring of both the harness racing and greyhound industries. Significant movement has occurred in the past three months and I thought it was worthwhile advising this House as to the process and developments which have taken place.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): My question is directed to the Minister representing the Attorney-General. Is the Government aware that it is possible to obtain from the South Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry, without proof of identity, someone else's birth certificate and thus obtain 70 points of identification; and when will the Government instruct the registry to require proof of identity?

The Channel 7 Adelaide current affairs program *Today Tonight* sent a member of its staff to the South Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry; that person has obtained a birth certificate in someone else's name merely by posing as that person. In Queensland, a racket based on this practice allowed offenders to obtain 70 points of identification by obtaining a birth certificate and then to build on it to 100 points by enrolling at TAFE to obtain student identification, or obtaining a driver's licence in that name or a Medicare card and, finally, opening a bank account. The Queensland Attorney-General has ordered the registry practices be tightened.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I thank the honourable member for his question. I will certainly relay that question to the Attorney-General. I question the extent to which the rules should be tightened. I know that on occasions other members of my family and I have obtained birth certificates for other members of the family because they have been interstate or overseas when they needed to have birth certificates. That has worked in practice. When I went to the office, I filled out and signed a form and obtained the birth certificate for a member of my family. I do not believe that practice should cease. Certainly, I will refer the matter to the Attorney-General to ascertain the practices within the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry and, indeed, to what extent the rules should be tightened.

RECONCILIATION WEEK

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): Before I ask my question, on behalf of all members in this House I congratulate the Deputy Premier on reaching his 50th year.

Mr Clarke: That will not save him.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: On a point of order, Sir, is this Question Time or a preselection speech?

The SPEAKER: Neither—and that is not a point of order. The member for Unley.

Mr BRINDAL: And you, Sir, and the member for Peake on serving this House for 26 years. My question is directed to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. In Reconciliation Week, what cooperative initiatives does the Minister plan to undertake to ensure greater reconciliation between European groups and the indigenous people of this State?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: I thank the member for Unley for his question, which is a very important question in Reconciliation Week. Indeed, the Brown Government has been a very staunch supporter of the reconciliation process. We believe that it is an active process, making sure that, as the questioner said, the European community has a very positive relationship with the Aboriginal community so that from it we can take positive action. Positive action must be taken to address many of the well recognised needs such as health, education and housing of the Aboriginal community.

In terms of action, it was my pleasure last week to be part of the culmination of a very exciting health and education

initiative when I represented this Parliament as part of the Pitjantjatjara lands parliamentary committee, and I acknowledge your interest, Mr Speaker, as a member of that committee, as I acknowledge the presence of the member for Norwood, the member for Ross Smith (the shadow Minister), and the member for Napier as members of the committee at an event where it was my privilege to present certificates to nine Aboriginal health workers who have all passed certificate 2 in Aboriginal primary health care.

This is a fully accredited course in South Australia and nationally. It is part of a curriculum framework which has been developed as a joint project between TAFE, Nganampa Health Council on the AP lands, and the Aboriginal Health Council, and it stems from an agreement in 1987-88 when Nganampa health developed a curriculum for health workers and their training, specifically to address the issues on the AP lands. That course was unaccredited, but it formed the seed from which this new course grew, and it certainly sets the ground rules for health workers in South Australia to continue their education as well as being accredited for that training. It is a milestone in Anangu health and Anangu education.

Twelve months ago AP became an accredited training provider, and that allowed members of the community on the AP lands to access and be involved in the delivery of accredited courses. The committee was there a year ago, we saw the training centre in the final stages of being built, and the graduates to whom I presented certificates were the first graduates from that training centre. The nine Aboriginal health workers will now be deployed around the nine clinics throughout the lands and they will be front-line workers in delivering appropriate health care, which is particularly important for the Aboriginal communities. It is a cooperative initiative between Nganampa health, TAFE and the health system and I am absolutely sure that those sorts of cooperative, productive actions will foster reconciliation.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): Does the Minister for Health agree with the Chair of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (Dr Jo Lammersma), who yesterday publicly stated that there is a crisis in our mental health system and that there is a severe lack of acute beds for short-term patients? Late yesterday afternoon, Dr Lammersma told a local radio station that the Minister's comment about institutionalisation of mental health patients was 'a furphy' and that the real issue was about patients who needed to be admitted for short periods of time in acute beds. Dr Lammersma said:

The shortage is not in the long-term beds at Glenside Hospital. They in fact have vacancies . . . for people who require long-term hospitalisation. We are talking about a shortage of acute beds.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is using the remarks of another person to comment, and that goes far beyond a normal explanation. I ask the honourable member to complete her brief explanation or leave will be withdrawn.

Ms STEVENS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. On Tuesday last week, Glenside Hospital staff reported there were no acute beds available and on Tuesday this week staff reported a shortage of six acute beds.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: I did not hear the report, but during the past week I did speak with Dr Lammersma about the community teams we are putting into place. Indeed, it was a most illuminative discussion, because Dr Lammersma had just returned from a meeting of the Royal

Australasian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in Wellington and she was delighted to tell me that the college had, in her view, struck a blow for freedom by developing a group which is to deal with ways in which psychiatry can be provided in the community to people who are living in the community.

I then asked her, given that we are now getting towards the end of this process that was started by the previous Government to do just that, whether we as South Australians have a representative on that committee. Not only do we have a representative on the committee but Dr Lammersma is actually the chairperson of that committee. She maintained that it was an extraordinarily innovative committee because it is the first time that the College of Psychiatrists will have a consumer on its committees. That shows that even the College of Psychiatrists is prepared to embrace the sorts of changes that we have looked at.

I have said time and again that there are beds available, and I have said that that is tight whilst we are working out the problems in getting to the final phase of community care. However, expecting a similar question today, I am able to inform the House that at 8 o'clock this morning there were five closed beds, two in Brentwood North and two in Brentwood South, an open bed in Cleland, an open bed in Paterson East, four open beds in Woodleigh and two in the Repatriation Hospital—making a total of 13 beds that were available at 8 o'clock this morning. Although the Opposition wants us to have large numbers of staffed unused beds, that number is enough to cope whilst we put in what is the most appropriate form of care.

MULTIFUNCTION POLIS

Mrs KOTZ (Newland): Can the Minister for Infrastructure advise the House what commitment the Government has given and will give to the MFP, and say what has been achieved so far?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: At the end of last year the Government indicated that there were some targets to be established for the MFP which had to be delivered during the calendar year 1996. I am happy to note that a number of those targets are being met and that, as regards the sign-up between the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments on agreed outcomes, the MFP is on track to deliver them. In fact, it has made substantial progress in delivering those major projects.

For example, the Virginia pipeline project is well advanced, and this will enable growers in the Virginia area to at least double the farmgate value of their production, much of which is destined for the export markets, adding as much as \$100 million a year to the South Australian economy, and, as identified by the growers themselves, the possible creation of 1 300 additional jobs. In addition, the pipeline will remove a source of pollution from Gulf St Vincent which the EPA has constantly said we ought to be redirecting, and that has a very positive impact on the commercial and recreational fishing industries in Gulf St Vincent.

The wetlands projects, for example, are virtually complete; I think that they are some 95 per cent complete at this stage. That will have a similar effect of reducing gulf pollution, because they provide an answer to the problem of stormwater pollution which affects cities around the world. Already Brunei has looked at the model of the wetlands, the management of stormwater and pollution, and how that might have some application to its region. As regards Bangkok,

Manila and other cities throughout the Asia region, the international reference or demonstration site that has been established with the wetlands and the stormwater run-off will enable us to demonstrate and, hopefully, project manage similar schemes in the Asian market in the future.

The MFP's international education program for executives—the Australian Asia Business Consortium—will help break down many barriers in the conduct of international business, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. It is an education export earner for South Australia, with a target of 15 countries taking part.

It is interesting to note that some 17 multinational companies have signed off to establish the AABC at MFP in South Australia. That will be completed in the last quarter of 1996. That clearly indicates that that grouping of specific targeted projects, projects that we said had to have delivery during 1996, are well on track to deliver. I am sure that reports soon to be released will underscore that point.

ELIZABETH PROPERTY ENCUMBRANCES

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): Will the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations inform the House of any progress in relation to the lifting of restrictive encumbrances on properties in the Elizabeth area? A deputation of local, State and Federal Government representatives met with the Minister earlier this year outlining the significant disadvantage suffered by Elizabeth, particularly in attracting business and industry, leading to Elizabeth's missing out on several large-scale developments.

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: As the honourable member knows, I am fully supportive and doing all I can to assist in overcoming the problems that have been inherited out there because of the restrictions that have been placed on commercial properties in Elizabeth. I am also aware of an article that was in the local Messenger newspaper which advised that the Mayor was expressing some concern that she had evidently been told we were looking at a 10-year program, or something of that nature. That was the first I had ever heard of that suggestion. I have asked my officers to provide me with a full report on how that occurred, because I have no knowledge of it. I am looking forward to that report being available in the very near future, but in the meantime I assure the honourable member, as I did at the meeting we had with her, that I will be doing everything I can to assist in this matter.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY PRODUCE

Mr ANDREW (Chaffey): Will the Minister for Primary Industries outline to the House any initiatives that may be in place to promote South Australian primary produce at the forthcoming Olympic Games in Atlanta this year?

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Whilst it is not his birthday, I would like to congratulate the member for Chaffey on his efforts for the citrus industry and acknowledge his great knowledge of that industry and the help that he gives me. I know that he will share my satisfaction that South Australia's valuable citrus industry has formed a close alliance with companies in New South Wales and Victoria to supply a lucrative \$50 million window of opportunity in the United States market. Navel oranges packed under the Riversun brand continue to leave Port Adelaide as part of a multi-million dollar deal to supply the East Coast US markets. I would like to congratulate members of the citrus industry in

those areas for continuing to use Port Adelaide when they have come under great pressure from interstate interests to ship out of the Eastern Seaboard.

Riversun's exports to the US are expected to double this year, which will add \$20 million more to the economy, and the tri-State initiative will help secure this market for our quality produce. As a bonus, these oranges will be at Atlanta for the Olympic Games next month. Australia's fresh produce will be feeding the world's elite athletes and getting our produce not only a most influential international audience but also an excellent marketing promotion. More than 350 000 cartons of navel oranges were exported under the Riversun label last year and almost 700 000 cartons will leave our shores this year. That is an achievement of which the industry is rightly proud.

Riversun estimates that these figures will increase by another 20 or 30 per cent next season and, on a combined level, the three States are ensuring not only consistent quality but also consistency of supply to the US market. This program is a shining light for the citrus industry and reflects the sharp market focus being applied to many industries within the primary industries sector. Its success is proof of current policy directions, where we are encouraging industries to be market driven. That market focus is resulting in South Australia's farmers and all members of the primary industries sector leading the way to economic recovery and significant economic growth for this State, with exports last year of a record \$2.5 billion, which represents over 50 per cent of the State's exports.

Government and industry are practising a balanced approach to economic development, resource management and international market intelligence that ensures that the primary industries sector will continue to grow in a sustainable way and be of great benefit to all South Australians.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Will the Minister for Industrial Affairs rule out amendments to the State Industrial Relations Act that would remove the right of the State Industrial Relations Commission to oversee and approve enterprise agreements, the deletion of the existing no-disadvantage test and the abolition of State paid rates awards?

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: The Deputy Leader is quite amazing. He comes into this place and asks whether we will bring in legislation. If we do bring in the legislation and we happen to believe that there is a necessary change, once the Federal legislation is through the Upper House, the Deputy Leader will not need to worry because he will be able to see it at first hand and it will be here. One of the most important things that happened on 2 March was a recognition by the people of Australia that there had to be a change—

Mr Clarke interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will not interject again. He has asked his question and he will show courtesy to other members by allowing the Minister to answer it or he will not be here for the rest of the afternoon.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: As I said, on 2 March one of the most important things that happened was a change of direction in industrial relations in this country. It was the single biggest overwhelming vote that we have ever had for change in industrial relations in the history of South Australia. The honourable member opposite ought to know that

more than 200 000 blue collar workers changed their vote and voted for the Liberal Party at the last election. One of the reasons for this was that they were sick and tired of the old fashioned, stand on everybody's head union belting that has occurred in the workplace. Thirty per cent of all the workers in South Australia are members of a union.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has a point of order.

Mr CLARKE: My point of order is the forlorn hope that Standing Order 98 might be enforced with respect to Ministers answering the substance of the question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not need any assistance on my right. When the House comes to order I will give a ruling.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Peake, I think. When the House comes to order we will proceed. As I have pointed out to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on previous occasions, Ministers have more latitude in answering questions than do members in asking them. However, I concede to the Deputy Leader that I think the Minister is now starting to get a little wide of the mark, and I would ask him to complete his answer without straying from the subject matter of the question.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Clearly, in developing the reply I had to bring in the result of the 2 March Federal election, and clearly the position is that, if the legislation significantly changes in the Federal arena, as a State Government we would be quite foolish if we disadvantaged all the employers and employees in this State with this very significant change federally. One of the major things we agreed with the incoming Federal Government was that once the legislation was passed we would sit down and talk and introduce harmony into this place in the bringing together of State and Federal legislation in areas that could be consistent.

In answering the question of the Deputy Leader, if those issues happen to pass through the Federal Parliament and we believe they ought to be brought into this House and changes ought to be made in South Australian legislation, we will make them.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATIONS

Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna): Will the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations provide information to the House on the latest situation with relation to local government boundary reform?

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: I am delighted to answer this question, in light of the nonsense that was pedalled in this House yesterday by the member for Napier. The honourable member made a number of statements, which are absolutely incorrect. First, the honourable member stated that we have had only one amalgamation since the legislation went through. The honourable member is only 100 per cent out: we have had two. The member for Napier then made a number of other allegations, including the suggestion that the whole reform process was in disarray and there was no leadership. Let us go through the statistics. As I said, in that very short time two amalgamations have been completed, and 37 groups of councils—comprising 98 councils—are exploring and developing council initiated proposals. That, in itself, shows how far this is progressing. At this time only a few board initiated proposals are even anticipated because the process is going so well. At the moment we are quite confident that the 50 per cent that we anticipated will be achieved.

The member for Napier laughs because she has no understanding whatsoever of what the process involves. We require considerable community consultation and, because of that, there is a period over which these amalgamations will be developed. Again, for the member's information, during the months of August, September and October a considerable number of amalgamation proposals will be lodged with the board, because at that time the due process of consultation will have been concluded. I do not know whether or not the member is saying that we should not consult or what on earth she wants, but the point is that, just a few months after we brought in this Act, we have already had two amalgamations and we have at least 34 more groups talking together—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: In a number of cases we have four councils working together toward amalgamation. If the honourable member says that nothing is happening, I suggest that she do what I do; that is, get out and meet the councils in all rural and metropolitan areas, because then she will then find out for herself that the amalgamation process is going extremely well and that local government very much appreciates the leadership that has been shown by this Government.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Will the Minister for Emergency Services provide the House with an update on the paramedics program being established by the South Australian Ambulance Service and the effect of the program across the State?

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: I thank the member for Hartley for his question and for his genuine interest in the provision of emergency medical treatment. The introduction of the paramedic program in South Australia's Ambulance Service is one of the most exciting programs to be introduced into the service for many years. The program is about introducing intensive training, new procedures and saving lives. There are now 24 qualified paramedic ambulance officers spread across the State. A further nine officers are presently undertaking an intensive 27 week training program to become paramedics. Initially, the program is of 11 weeks duration, seven weeks of which are spent in the classroom and four weeks in a clinical placement in Adelaide's major teaching hospitals. If officers successfully pass their course—and, to date, all officers have done so—they spend a further 16 weeks as interns at nominated ambulance stations.

By the end of August this year South Australia will have 33 qualified paramedics, with a further 18 officers expected to have completed or almost completed their paramedic program in 12 months. The aim is that, by the turn of the century, the South Australian Ambulance Service will have a paramedic riding in each ambulance throughout the metropolitan area, as well as in our major regional centres. That will necessitate the training of 105 staff to paramedic level by the year 2000. Currently, paramedics are stationed as far north as Whyalla through to Campbelltown, Port Adelaide, Prospect, Fulham, Noarlunga, Mount Barker, Aldinga and Murray Bridge. The program, which has been put together by the service and its officers, is one of which they are justifiably proud.

Initially, I advised the House that the State's first paramedics were trained in New South Wales because, under the previous Government, despite the fact that the rest of the world and the rest of Australia were moving to paramedic

programs, no such moves had occurred in South Australia. Those officers returned from New South Wales with expertise and knowledge that they are using to train other officers in South Australia to develop their skills and to better prepare them to save lives. The results of the program already are starting to speak for themselves. Since the introduction of the program we have seen the survival rate of cardiac arrest patients increase to 30 per cent. In 1992-1993, which was prior to the program, the survival rate of cardiac arrest patients was 20 per cent. It spells good news for people who suffer cardiac arrest that our small number of trained paramedic officers are already better able to guarantee an increased survival rate.

There has also been an increase in the number of successful revivals of individual asthma and trauma cases. Their chances of survival would have been very small prior to the training those officers have received. Today, the Ambulance Service is developing as a more professional service under the professional guidance of its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ian Pickering, and a professional ambulance board that has been hand-picked and put into place by this Government. All South Australians can be confident in the knowledge that their Ambulance Service is developing to a much more professional level, is better equipped and better trained to do what South Australians expect of it; that is, to save lives and get people to hospital quickly so that the professionals in the hospital service can then take over.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT

Ms HURLEY (Napier): Will the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations assure public housing tenants that he will not, in future, implement the Government's Audit Commission recommendation that rents now set at a maximum of 25 per cent of income be increased to 30 per cent of income? Under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, the Government was not able to implement this recommendation. There are now indications that the new Federal Liberal Government will loosen the requirements of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member was commenting.

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: The member for Napier seems to be trying to take over the mantle of the member for Elizabeth in spreading furrphies, because certainly I have heard absolutely nothing whatsoever—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The House has been far better behaved today; I do not want members to return to bad habits.

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: Certainly, I have heard nothing yet from the Federal Government that would indicate that that is the direction in which it is moving. I can certainly indicate that neither me, my officers nor the Housing Trust have thought of anything but the 25 per cent maximum.

SALISBURY NORTH PROJECT

Ms WHITE (Taylor): My question is directed to the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations. Will the removal of Federal Better Cities funding from the Salisbury North redevelopment project delay the upgrade of Housing Trust homes in that suburb and, if so, when will this redevelopment work

commence and has the proposal been downgraded in any way because of this funding cut back?

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: I do not know where the honourable member obtained the information about the supposed cut back, but I assure her that I am undertaking continuing discussions with my officers and also with the Salisbury council in relation to the funding that I have already committed to the redevelopment in that area. If the honourable member had checked with the mayor of Salisbury, I am sure that she would have been told that the mayor was delighted when I offered him \$70 000 to assist in a study for work to be undertaken in the Salisbury North area and the way in which the area will be redeveloped. Again, like other members opposite, the member for Taylor seems to be throwing some furrphies around. As I said, certainly we are looking at locating one of the major redevelopments in the northern area. I do not know why members opposite try to spread these scare tactics to try to frighten people.

FLINDERS RANGES

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I direct my question to the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources.

Mr Clarke: You're supposed to be his parliamentary secretary.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. The Deputy Leader is supposed to comply with Standing Order 137. I do not know whether he does not understand it, but I would suggest to him that, in view of the fact that if he is suspended he is out for four days, he take stock and have a good read of that standing order.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Will the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources outline details of initiatives to help restore to its natural state one of the State's prime conservation areas, namely, the Flinders Ranges?

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Mr Speaker, I recognise the interest that you also have in this matter. I thank—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Well, he has looked after the area very well over the past 26 years. I might say, in line with the mirth that has been created opposite over the fact that the honourable member has asked me a question, that I am delighted with the support that I am receiving from the member for Mawson. I would have thought that, with the interest most people have in the Flinders Ranges, there would be particular interest in this question, because it is one of the State's best—if not the best—internationally known conservation areas. I am pleased to inform the House of a scheme that will help restore the Flinders Ranges National Park to its best condition in living history. The aim is to rid the Flinders Ranges of vermin by the year 2000.

This project is being hailed as a forerunner to similar programs elsewhere throughout Australia—and indeed a lot of interest is being shown in the program—with the eventual aim of returning threatened species to areas previously overrun with pest plants and pest animals. Personally, that is a matter that has been of concern to me for quite some time. This scheme builds on the outbreak of the rabbit calicivirus that I am told has already claimed up to 3 million rabbits within the region. This outbreak has opened exciting new doors for South Australia, allowing the State to seize control of the conservation future of the region.

The Government's vision is already paying dividends. In just a few months since the introduction of the calicivirus, some plant species previously thought extinct have regener-

ated, and I am pleased to say that further species are expected to return after the winter rains. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is now working towards the target of ridding the 100 000 hectare Flinders Ranges National Park of foxes, cats, goats, and rabbits through a program codenamed Operation Bounceback. Already goat and fox numbers are under control, and it is the first time that that has been the case for a fair while. About 8 000 rabbit warrens over an 80 square kilometre section are also now inactive. Immediate results are showing increasing numbers of threatened yellow footed rock wallabies with young either in their pouch or at foot.

There is a considerable amount of interest and delight in what is happening on the part of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Feral animal control programs and vegetation recovery in the Flinders Ranges National Park have now progressed to the point where a monitored release of native animals such as the bettong can occur, to test whether the wildlife habitats have been restored. I am particularly pleased with the program. I particularly refer to and acknowledge the ambition and dedication of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in its role in creating a quality State and in the interest it is showing, particularly in this important part of South Australia.

HOUSING TRUST TENANTS

Ms HURLEY (Napier): Will the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations maintain security of tenure for current and future Housing Trust tenants?

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: Again I do not know the direction of the question that is being asked. A number of aspects apply to the security of tenure of Housing Trust tenants. All I can indicate to the honourable member is that the policy is as it has always been in the past, and I have given no consideration whatsoever to changing it.

TANCRED

Ms WHITE (Taylor): Will the Minister for Tourism intervene to stop the historic tugboat the *Tancred* from being sold for scrap metal and arrange instead for that unseaworthy boat to be sunk to create an underwater dive tourism attraction? The *Tancred* was built by women during the second world war and participated in many rescue operations in the Pacific during that war. A proposal has been put to the Government that would see the vessel towed off our shores and sunk to create an artificial reef to attract a larger share of Australia's lucrative dive tourism market.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I thank the honourable member for her question.

Mr Becker interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Peake is making it difficult to hear.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: It is a very good question, the sort that requires a very considered reply. I will get that for her and give it to her next week.

MARINE CONSERVATION

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I direct my question to the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources. What steps are being undertaken by the State Government to prepare a strategy to help protect and conserve South

Australia's unique marine environment? The announcement of the extension of the Great Australian Bight marine park has created enormous interest within the community and particularly within the fishing industries located in my electorate. There are now calls for the preparation of an overall marine conservation strategy for the whole of South Australia that takes into account the environment as well as the legitimate economic activity of the fishing, tourism and mining industries and of recreational activities such as diving and boating.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Again I thank the member for Flinders for her question. Certainly a considerable amount of interest has been raised both in this State and throughout Australia with the creation of the Great Australian Bight marine park. The park, at a size of 1 680 square kilometres, extends almost tenfold the size of marine protected areas in this State. I agree with the member for Flinders: South Australia certainly does have a unique marine environment, and one that continues to attract attention throughout the world. For example, South Australia is recognised as having some of the most unique marine biodiversity in the world. I am pleased to be able to tell the member for Flinders that, as part of the Government's overall conservation efforts, the State Government has now committed itself to develop a marine conservation strategy for South Australia. I think that strategy is well overdue.

This is the first time a Government in South Australia has undertaken such a project, which will become an important part of the State's overall conservation commitment. The strategy will be prepared across a number of agencies. It will certainly involve the Department of Primary Industries and it will look at issues of preserving and caring for the quality of our marine environment, for which South Australia is very well known. It will be a vital document in helping to provide a balance between the environment, industry, tourism and recreation, as the member for Flinders has suggested. It will also recognise the importance of economic development, pointing out the immense financial benefits that are derived from our marine waters and the need to ensure that our marine environment is adequately protected.

I note that South Australia is well positioned in the export sense in being able to use the relatively clean and unpolluted waters of South Australia in developing new markets, particularly in aquaculture. I note again the interest the member for Flinders has in that industry. This is becoming increasingly important with our trading partners looking for strong environmental commitment among countries with which they do business. We recognise that it is a thriving industry.

In developing the marine strategy, a working group comprising representatives of the relevant agencies will be formed to provide vital input to look at issues that need to be included in this very important strategy. It is a tremendous start in addressing the issues of our marine environment and ensuring that all agencies can play a role in developing a blueprint that will protect and conserve our marine environment for all future generations.

BUDGET PAPERS

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer): By command, I lay on the table Estimates of Payments and Receipts 1996-97, Financial Statement 1996-97 and Capital Works Program 1996-97 and move:

That they be printed.

Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION BILL

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the financial year ending 30 June 1997, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

In doing so, I present the budget for the year 1996-97. This budget continues the task of repairing the State's finances. We have broken the back of the debt burden—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Before we commence, I want to make clear to everyone that this is a very important speech and there will be no interjections.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER:

We have broken the back of the debt burden we inherited. By the turn of the century debt, as a share of the State's economy, will be at its lowest level on record.

Through determined Government action and sound management, South Australians are taking back control of their future. We can look ahead with confidence.

This Government has made the big changes.

Those changes were vital to give our State a future in a rapidly changing world. It is not change for the sake of change. It is change to address the damage done to this state by the economic and financial disasters of the late eighties and early nineties wrought upon us by the previous Labor Government.

The changes were fair in their impact and implementation. They have been achieved in a co-operative way. This is the South Australian way—moving forward together—doing what's right for South Australia.

Now we can focus on the future we are building and want to secure.

We are building on South Australia's unique advantages.

We are building new opportunities in a State which is confident, competitive, creative and caring.

Economic growth is up and State debt is down.

Spending on key services is up.

We are delivering services more efficiently.

Future generations will be able to plan with much more confidence. Their living standards will no longer be hostage to crippling interest bills on State debt.

We're pioneering new export opportunities for our State—exporting goods and services to the world on a scale we have never done before as we fundamentally restructure South Australia's economy.

Wine to France, cars to the US and Japan, food to Asia and computer software to the US – because our workplaces are the most creative and competitive in Australia, with their quality of production and co-operation between employees and employers second to none. Our rural sector is adopting new technologies to meet the emerging and diverse demands of other countries.

Like no other Government in Australia, we are building new industries by encouraging the private sector to participate much more in the provision of Government services.

New industries are being created at the leading edge in technology, creating jobs and wealth for South Australians. We are reducing the burden of Government regulation on industry and individuals.

Further progress and prosperity will be achieved through creativity at all levels of school, training and work. We have a highly educated and vocationally trained workforce, embracing coming generations of school leavers in the jobs of their choice.

By being creative and competitive, we are also a caring State—able to assist those in need because of our stronger economy and because it's right for South Australia.

Our public service is responsive, moving forward with the community to provide the highest possible standards in services on which the community depends.

South Australians working in our health and hospital system are promptly meeting the needs of the community, offering care based on high levels of individual skill and the latest advances in medicine and technology.

Good health is being promoted by a clean environment as we repair past neglect to the land and our waterways. Our environment also encourages our tourism industry to develop and expand with confidence, improving the diversity and strength of our regions. Adelaide is the most accessible capital city in Australia and there are good transport links to the suburbs and the regions.

In all it does, the South Australian Government is allowing the private sector and all South Australians to move forward together to a much more secure future, confident we are back on track.

This is the South Australian way—increasingly recognised and respected world-wide.

This is the new South Australia—Confident, Competitive, Creative and Caring.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

This budget provides yet another rock solid demonstration of our commitment to repair the ravage and ruin this Government inherited. When the people gave this Government its overwhelming mandate, no one pretended it would be easy. Hard decisions had to be taken.

I am pleased to announce that the budget I bring down today, is not a flashy, showpiece budget.

It is a responsible budget—it remains steadfastly on the course set by the Government in the May 1994 Financial Statement.

And, it is a fair budget—putting the additional spending that could be afforded where it is needed most—in health, education, community services and young unemployed.

But, Mr Speaker, unlike our predecessors, we have not booked up these initiatives on the credit card—they are fully paid for, they are sustainable.

This budget puts the interests of all South Australians to the forefront. It does not confer benefits on some at the expense of others.

Perhaps as significant as the turnaround in State finances, is the turnaround in the level of confidence and trust held by South Australians in their elected Government.

When its Government sets forward a vision and a plan, South Australians can be confident that action will follow, goals will be achieved and targets will be met. The Liberal Government has restored much needed leadership, certainty and accountability to Government in this State.

Mr Speaker, with this budget—the Government's third—the debt and the deficit are under control.

Debt as a proportion of gross state product is forecast to be down to 20.3 per cent by June 1997—a full two percentage points lower than forecast in the May 1994 Statement, and a far cry from 28.1 per cent prior to the last election.

Looking to the year ahead, the underlying deficit in the non commercial sector is \$60 million—slightly less than forecast a year ago, and a further improvement on the \$106 million now expected for 1995-96.

The underlying deficit is firmly on the path to surplus in 1997-98—as promised.

In order to put these numbers into context, Mr Speaker, it is only necessary to recall that when this Government took office—just over two years ago—the underlying annual deficit stood at a staggering \$350 million.

In eliminating the underlying non commercial sector deficit, the Government's aim was to generate a sufficiently large surplus on the current account to fund social capital in the form of schools, hospitals, prisons and so on—without borrowing.

This budget produces a healthy underlying surplus on the current account of \$374 million.

On current policy settings, forward estimates prepared by Treasury and Finance show the underlying surplus on the current account rising to \$434 million in 1997-98 sufficient to meet the cost of all social capital.

This healthy current surplus is all the more noteworthy because it has been achieved, while at the same time we are making a very solid start to the planned elimination of unfunded superannuation liabilities by the year 2024.

Mr Speaker, it is worth recalling that, at the time this Government assumed office, the Commission of Audit estimated the total unfunded superannuation liability at \$4.4 billion and growing.

The first three budgets of this Government have set aside a total of \$528 million toward that liability, \$67 million more than budgeted in 1994-95.

Mr Speaker, on current policy settings—that is without further budget cuts or asset sales beyond those already announced—public sector net debt will fall to around 16 per cent of GSP at the turn of the century, the lowest level on record for this State, and a far cry from the scandalous 28.1 per cent which the previous Government left behind.

Through budgetary adjustment, and a very successful asset sales program, the first three budgets of this Government reduce debt by \$1 673 million in real terms, representing about one-fifth of total public sector net debt.

The asset sales program has made significant contributions towards achieving the Government's targets, realising good value for the assets sold to date.

On the 2 June 1995 BankSA was sold to Advance Bank for \$730 million. The sale represented the culmination of a corporatisation process that was implemented in July 1994 and a sale process managed by Treasury and Finance. The Asset Management Task Force (AMTF), which I established in February 1994, has made a significant contribution to the Government's debt reduction achievements by managing the sale of several major assets, including SGIC, State Fleet and the Pipelines Authority of SA. It will continue the asset sale process in 1996-97.

Since this Government came into power, the asset sales program has generated proceeds of over \$1 600 million.

Mr Speaker, I wish to make this point very clear. Unlike in other jurisdictions, the net proceeds from asset sales have been applied to debt reduction—not propping up budget spending.

But to illustrate the extent of South Australia's financial turnaround—if we include proceeds of asset sales, as does the Victorian and former Commonwealth governments thereby inflating the budget outcomes—the South Australian Public

Sector shows a surplus in the order of \$726 million in 1995-96 and \$263 million in 1996-97.

However, we cannot afford to become complacent. Looking ahead, there are some significant hurdles that must be dealt with.

Wage pressures which have been building over the past year or so, remain a major threat. The Government has remained firm in this area. We cannot permit the interests of a few to endanger the wider community interest.

The Government has demonstrated that it is prepared to negotiate fair wage increases which reward improved productivity. But we will not be hostage to a few union leaders.

For 1996-97, the budget has made provision for an additional \$67 million over and above the forward estimates, to accommodate offers already made. The Government has made adjustments elsewhere in the budget to accommodate these increased costs without affecting the deficit targets.

The other area of uncertainty relates to the possible impact on the State of the Commonwealth Budget due in August this year. I now turn to that subject.

COMMONWEALTH/STATE RELATIONS

With a Coalition Government in Canberra, the South Australian Government is optimistic about the likelihood of reform of long standing issues in Commonwealth State relations.

I particularly refer to duplication between the two levels of Government, excessive bureaucracy created by the system of tied grants which has grown out of control under the previous Labor administration, and the gross imbalance between spending responsibilities and taxing powers.

The Commonwealth Government has foreshadowed its intention to address the huge underlying structural deficit created by the former Prime Minister, Mr Keating and his Finance Minister, Mr Beasley.

The Premier, and all other Premiers and Chief Ministers, have lent their support to that intention, but have urged the Commonwealth to critically examine its own expenditures and not attempt to solve its problems by cutting grants to the States.

As Treasurer of South Australia, I had to lead the process of budgetary adjustment in this State, and I call upon the Commonwealth to put its own house in order, just as we have done.

South Australia—as with other States bringing down early budgets—has based its budget priorities on the presumption of the continuing agreement on real terms per capita maintenance of General Purpose funding for 1996-97—as confirmed by the incoming Coalition Government.

However Mr Speaker, should the Commonwealth decide, as part of its budgetary process, to reduce or eliminate specific tied programs delivered by the State, then we will have to reduce those programs in accordance with the changed Commonwealth funding priorities. The State will have no choice in this regard.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Mr Speaker,

Evidence that our strategy is working is there for all to see. With the State's finances again under control, the economy has revived.

Business investment in South Australia has bounced back strongly in the last two years. The average level of business investment has been 30 per cent higher than the average for the three years before that—a clear indication that the Government's policies are working.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, gross state product grew 4.9 per cent through the year to the December 1995.

The rural sector's contribution to the economy through exports is vital as clearly demonstrated over the last year.

Looking forward to 1996-97, there are good prospects for further major investment in the resources and manufacturing sectors—vital areas for the South Australian economy. Major recent and prospective projects include:

- investment expenditure by General Motors Holden's Ltd totalling \$1.4 billion over five years associated with a new model Commodore and establishing production of the Vectra primarily for supply to Asia Pacific markets;
- investment expenditures of \$525 million by Mitsubishi Motors Australia Ltd to produce a new Magna model for Australian and overseas markets;
- construction of a \$170 million cogeneration power plant in Adelaide;
- investment of over \$1 billion to double the output of the Olympic Dam mining and processing facility; and
- expenditure of \$200 million over three years on Cooper Basin exploration.

These very important indicators are no fluke.

They reflect increased confidence and certainty in our State—the direct result of this Government's policies.

According to a recent independent study, Adelaide's competitive cost structure makes it at least 20 per cent cheaper to do business here compared with either Sydney or Melbourne.

We have a level of taxation lower than the national average and a level of industrial disputation which showed, for the year ending in December 1995, 28 days lost per thousand employees compared with a national average of 79 days.

I now turn to some of the main details of the Budget.

REVENUE

Mr Speaker, in its first two budgets the Government rejected taxation measures as a short term method of budget adjustment. With this budget, I continue that policy.

South Australia maintains its status as a low tax State relative to other States and Territories.

The Government is determined to enhance the State's economic competitiveness through maintaining a taxation regime that attracts, not repels, business investment.

The budget contains two measures in response to specific concerns in the South Australian community.

The Government acknowledges advice from the peak business bodies that the priorities for tax relief are payroll tax and business stamp duties.

Recently, both New South Wales and Victoria announced the elimination of stamp duty on refinancing of mortgages for business and also, in the case of New South Wales, on home mortgage refinancing.

As a result of these changes (and others relating to hire purchase and leasing), the Government intends to re-assess stamp duties and other taxation (including the application of payroll tax exemptions for exports) to ensure South Australia retains its competitive edge.

From 1 July 1996, a two-tier progressive tax structure based on net gambling revenue will apply to gaming machines in licensed clubs and hotels. This has been agreed with the hotel and club industry following a report into the effects of gaming machines and widespread community disquiet about those effects.

From the revenues raised from gaming machine taxation, \$2.5 million per annum will be paid into a Sport and Recreation Fund, \$3 million per annum will be paid into a Charit-

able and Social Welfare Fund and \$19.5 million per annum will be paid into a Community Development Fund.

The revised tax structure based on net gambling revenue will also apply to gaming machines at the Casino.

OUTLAYS

Mr Speaker, while the budget continues the Government's program of ongoing outlays restraint as its primary means of deficit reduction, some specific but targeted outlay increases are provided for.

Overall, underlying outlays are down 0.5 per cent in real terms. Current outlays fall by 1.1 per cent, but this is partially offset by real growth in capital outlays of 5 per cent.

Although current outlays fall in real terms overall, outlays have increased in some specific priority areas. I will come to these areas later.

The budget provides a major boost in capital spending—a long term investment in the State's capital infrastructure and a further leverage to economic growth and job creation.

In the past, spending in many areas has exceeded the standardised average of the States, as measured by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. Governments in the past have often made a virtue of high spending, without taking sufficient care to ensure quality outcomes.

This Government has reversed that tendency. Under this Government, spending decisions focus on outputs and outcomes rather than inputs.

In many of the key public services, through reform in management and delivery, moving from monopolistic to competitive approaches, the Government is improving the quality of services while costs have been contained or reduced.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

Mr Speaker, a major reduction in the size of the public sector workforce was necessary for the Government's deficit and debt reduction strategies to be achieved.

A reduction of 12 400 full time equivalent (FTE) employees—8 300 FTE employees in the non commercial sector and 4 100 FTE employees in the commercial sector—was planned for the five year period to 30 June 1997.

That target reflected outlay savings in agencies and projected productivity improvements through the enterprise bargaining process. It is on track to be achieved as announced.

Beyond those reductions the Government has:

- pursued, where appropriate, opportunities for contracting out particular activities to realise cost efficiencies without having an adverse impact on service provision; and
- quit businesses that are not core activities of Government.

The effect on public sector employment to 30 June 1996 has been an estimated 1 100 FTE employees, shifting from the public sector to the private sector.

Contracting out initiatives include, but are not limited to, computing, water, transport and hospital management and hotel services. Also, the Government has finalised the sale of the Pipelines Authority of South Australia since the last Budget and is in the process of preparing Forwood Products for sale.

As a result of these contracting out initiatives, the Government has reduced its costs by tens of millions of dollars each year.

I now turn to the major items of budget spending.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The 1996-97 Budget continues the Government's strong commitment to strengthening and rebuilding the State's economy.

Economic development initiatives costing around \$144 million are planned for 1996-97.

Ongoing funding has been made available to continue the South Australian Development Council's role in advising on the key strategic directions for the State's economic growth. During the year the Government reorganised its economic development agencies in order to maximise their focus on key growth opportunities.

The Department of Information Industries has been established to focus on high priority IT projects, target and attract key IT investment opportunities and assist the local IT industry to increase export market sales in the Asia Pacific region.

Building on the success of the IT infrastructure services contract with EDS, which will create at least 900 jobs, the Government has offered a package of start up projects to prospective private sector spatial partners in order to establish a spatial IT industry in South Australia.

Other significant IT industry development initiatives include a Heads of Agreement signed with Integrated Systems Solutions Corporation to develop strategic implementation plans for possible electronic services business applications, tenders for a whole of government telecommunications service manager and advanced planning for a government communications network contract.

The new Department of Manufacturing Industry, Small Business and Regional Development will focus on the manufacturing and traded services sectors of the economy. Funds of \$2 million have been set aside to progress the establishment of a Cast Metals precinct at Wingfield in Adelaide's north-west industrial area.

\$5 million has been provided to maintain an emphasis on the Government's industry and investment attraction activities. Major infrastructure projects to support South Australia's competitive business climate continue in 1996-97.

\$15.2 million has been allocated to progress diversionary works associated with the extension of the Adelaide Airport runway, planned for completion in June 1998.

Funding has been set aside in 1996-97 to provide for the development of the Bolivar-Virginia pipeline scheme.

The Government has continued its support for the South Australian Exploration Initiative, with a further \$2.5 million available to increase mining investment in South Australia. Funding of \$5 million has been provided to the Australian Major Events organisation in 1996-97 to ensure the State has the ability to continue to attract high profile major events to South Australia.

An emphasis on developing the Tourism infrastructure within the State continues with \$8 million allocated to assist the construction of a marina as part of a \$200 million private development of Wirrina.

This is a part of a \$14 million package of Tourism infrastructure assistance funds available for the 1996-97 year.

EDUCATION

Spending on Primary and Secondary Education and Children's Services rises by over \$61 million compared to the 1995-96 expected outcome, a clear demonstration of the priority accorded that portfolio.

Notwithstanding the need for savings as part of the Government's deficit reduction strategy the emphasis has been on improved efficiency while maintaining a strong commitment to choice, excellence and equity in schools.

In fact the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows South Australia continues to have the best teacher pupil ratio of all Australian States.

Included in the Budget is full provision for the Government's 12 per cent salary offer, and guarantees to conditions. Some \$27.3 million of additional funding has been provided to meet this cost.

The budget provides a major boost to capital works program this year with total expenditure planned of over \$102 million, some \$14 million more than the expected 1995-96 level.

This allocation reflects the Government's concern to finance a sustainable level of capital works and adequate maintenance of the asset base, often neglected in the past.

The budget incorporates a specific capital works allocation of \$15 million for the first year of a 5 year information technology plan for schools—ensuring that information technology becomes an integral part of school learning activities. \$9 million of this increased funding comes from the new Community Development Fund.

The budget funds a number of initiatives which reflect the Government's commitment to the important early years of education in its Early Years Strategy.

In particular, \$3 million in cash grants will be given to schools to provide extra assistance to children with learning difficulties in the early years of schooling. Schools will have the freedom to choose how this money is spent, but one option is that it can be used for School Services Officer hours to provide extra classroom help for those with learning difficulties.

The budget also provides for an increase in total outlays of \$5 million in the Department for Employment, Training and Further Education reflecting specifically targeted priority initiatives and an increase in funding for major capital works. Funds have been allocated for an Information Industry Workforce Program to assist in meeting the shortfall in graduate supply created by the expanding information industries sector in South Australia.

Additional funding has also been provided for a number of new initiatives for young people to create and develop pathways for their active participation in public life.

Consistent with the Government's aim to stimulate employment, the budget continues funding for labour market programs expected to involve around 12 000 participants during 1996-97 and specifically target the unemployed, youth, mature age, part time employment, small business and regional skill shortages.

HEALTH

Mr Speaker, the Government has decided to provide a significant increase in funding in health this year.

Overall current spending will rise some \$52 million, while capital spending in health rises some \$39 million compared with 1995-96.

This represents real growth in spending on health of 3.1 per cent in comparison with the estimated 1995-96 outcome.

Improved management of the health sector has meant that savings have been achieved in accordance with deficit reduction targets set by the Government while at the same time there has been a marked increase in the volume of patient services provided.

Already over the past two years, total admissions to public hospitals have increased by 6 per cent.

Increased current funding in 1996-97, together with ongoing efficiency improvements, will result in a further jump in admission levels through the public hospital system—thereby helping taking pressure off booking lists.

On top of this, the Government has allocated \$6 million from the Community Development Fund in 1996-97 to further increase hospital admissions.

In the area of disability care, the Government has allocated an additional \$3 million, also from the Community Development Fund, for new high priority services, targeting post school options services, equipment and home care services. The capital works program continues to focus on the strategic planning of health facilities to improve patient care and service efficiency with a major boost in funding in 1996-97. During 1995-96, the health sector has continued its drive to become more efficient and effective.

Indeed the 'First National Report on Health Sector Performance' rates this State's hospitals the most efficient in the nation.

In 1996-97, further streamlining in administration of services and expansion of competitive tendering processes will ensure that the health care needs of the whole community can be met more effectively.

Innovative approaches to involve the private sector in the provision of health and associated services and health infrastructure and to gain benefit from collocated public/private facilities will continue in 1996-97.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Consistent with the Government's approach to the 1996-97 Budget welfare expenditure increases in real terms by 1.9 per cent.

The Budget reflects an increased emphasis on programs that strengthen family life and enhance the welfare of the State's children.

A \$3 million Charitable and Social Welfare Fund has been established to provide a new avenue for directing resources into the community through non-government agencies and charities.

This money, sourced from additional gaming machine tax revenues, will be available for community groups, social welfare agencies and charities for a range of activities which will help families and others in need.

An additional \$500 000 will be provided to spearhead a new positive parenting campaign to be coordinated by the Office for Families and Children. The campaign will help complement the \$6.4 million funding allocation to the non-government sector to specifically provide Family and Community Development Programs.

An increase of \$1.3 million, to be provided in concessions, a program that will assist more than 270 000 people, including holders of seniors cards, social security recipients and pensioners, in the payment of council, electricity and water bills, and transport costs.

Grants provided under the Home and Community Care program are planned to increase by \$7.1 million to \$66.9 million. The program provides services to allow frail aged and younger people with disabilities to remain in their home environment.

An additional \$1 million will be made available for Aboriginal housing.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr Speaker, in pursuing its deficit reduction strategy and the associated voluntary separation of employees the Government has been mindful of high youth unemployment and the ageing of the public sector workforce.

In response to its concerns, the Government in February 1996, approved the engagement of up to 1 500 young people under 21 years of age for training and work experience in the South Australian public sector, in a joint arrangement with the Commonwealth Government.

The additional trainees will be engaged over twelve months. The Government has allocated \$10.2 million for the program,

and the Commonwealth Government agreed to match this amount.

Trainees will be engaged in a range of occupational categories which will enhance their future employment prospects in the public and private sectors. Experience has shown that a significant proportion of these trainees will obtain employment in either the public or private sector on completion of the initial twelve month training period.

The extension of the Youth Training Scheme demonstrates the Government's commitment to providing youth with training and work experience. Since coming to office more than 2 000 young people between the ages of 17 and 24 had already been engaged for training in the South Australian public sector.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr Speaker,

The 1996-97 budget provides for a gross capital works program totalling \$1 234 million, including private sector funded infrastructure projects of the order of \$150 million. Forecast gross capital expenditure during 1996-97 is up by about 11.9 per cent in real terms compared with the estimated 1995-96 outcome.

The 1996-97 capital works program again places a strong emphasis on social infrastructure and other works aimed at further stimulating economic recovery and growth, the creation of jobs for South Australians and encouraging the involvement of the private sector in the provision of infrastructure.

A number of initiatives support the Government's IT2000 Vision.

These initiatives not only underpin the Government's aim to establish Information Technology and Telecommunications (IT&T) industries in South Australia but also improve the delivery and accessibility of public services while at the same time reducing operating costs through the innovative use of information technology.

Major IT&T initiatives include a package of start up projects to be offered to prospective spatial alliance partners, a number of medical software applications in the health sector under the INFO 2000 project and the DECStech 2001 initiative in schools.

The building and construction industry will benefit significantly in this year's program with an increase in major works funding being allocated to the Education, Health and Transport.

Overall, Mr Speaker, the 1996-97 capital works provided is expected to boost construction industry employment in South Australia by 2 500 extra jobs.

Major projects in the 1996-97 capital works program include:

- \$102 million for capital works in schools, preschools and child care centres including:
 - \$15 million for the first year of the five year DECStech 2001 initiative which has an objective to provide one computer for every five students by the end of the five year plan. All classrooms will be provided with the necessary high speed network access to enable connection to the Internet and network links to all schools in the State;
 - \$12.5 million towards priority maintenance and minor works at schools in a continuation of the successful *Back to School* program;
 - construction of two new primary schools at Gawler North (Hewett) and Smithfield East, and major new works at a variety of existing primary and secondary schools; and

- new child care facilities at Clare and Port Augusta and work commencing on preschools at Netherby and Aldinga.
- . \$13 million for redevelopment of the Regency Institute of Vocational Education and \$14 million for the Centre for Performing Arts;
- . \$124 million for capital works in the health sector including \$59 million and \$20 million for metropolitan and country facilities respectively and \$20 million for INFO 2000 initiatives together with \$19 million for minor equipment purchases. Specific works include:
 - \$4.3 million for high priority works as part of the proposed major redevelopment of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital;
 - \$6.4 million of high priority works at the Royal Adelaide Hospital;
 - \$3.5 million at the Flinders Medical Centre for the upgrading of existing operating theatres as well as establishing, in association with Lions International, a public eye clinic; and
 - \$4 million on redevelopment of country hospital facilities, including the Port Lincoln Hospital, South Coast, Millicent and Northern Yorke Peninsula District Hospitals.
- . continued redevelopment of the Adelaide Magistrates Court;
- . \$79.1 million for capital works by the South Australian Housing Trust including the construction of 230 rental dwellings and upgrading 850 dwellings, and \$8 million for major renewal of existing housing stock primarily at Hillcrest, Mitchell Park and The Parks;
- . a number of urban renewal projects including \$4.6 million of works for the remediation of the Harbourside Quay and the provision of infrastructure as part of the Port Water-front project;
- . the progression of works associated with the rehabilitation of the Patawalonga and commencement of infrastructure works and recreation facilities, including a safe harbour and berth for the Kangaroo Island ferry at a cost of \$7 million, to assist in the development of the Glenelg/West Beach area;
- . the continuation of the successful Industrial Premises Development Scheme including the construction of a new facility for Bankers Trust Australia Ltd at Science Park;
- . planning work on an Aboriginal Cultures Gallery in the SA Museum at an estimated cost on completion in excess of \$10 million;
- . \$1.7 million for ongoing upgrading of the Adelaide Festival Centre, including seating refurbishment and acoustic improvement;
- . ongoing allocations for National Parks infrastructure and tourist amenities with particular emphasis on road works in high visitation parks;
- . completion of the Mount Lofty redevelopment;
- . expenditure in excess of \$7 million for the redevelopment of information technology systems, including the Land Ownership and Tenure System, Property Cadastre and Integration Services projects as elements of the Government's initiative to establish a spatial information industry in South Australia;
- . \$15.2 million for diversion works associated with the proposed extension of the Adelaide Airport runway;
- . major road works including \$29.3 million on Stage 1 of the Southern Expressway, continuation of the sealing of the South Coast tourist road on Kangaroo Island, and

- \$20 million for the construction of the Adelaide to Crafers Highway;
- . \$5.6 million for sealing of unsealed rural arterial roads;
- . \$14 million for the upgrade of infrastructure at the Wirrina and Wilpena Resorts and other tourist destinations; and
- . \$2 million for the extension of reticulated water supply west of Ceduna.

In addition it is anticipated that private sector infrastructure projects expected to continue or commence during 1996-97 include:

- . in cooperation with major airlines, investigations are continuing on a proposal to integrate and upgrade the terminals at Adelaide Airport to enhance service delivery to passengers and economic development opportunities for the State;
- . major health facilities including new hospitals at Mount Gambier and Pt Augusta and private sector development of an on campus private hospital at the Flinders Medical Centre;
- . accommodation for the Information Industries Development Centre, along with a multi-tenant space for other information technology related companies;
- . water treatment plants to service the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley, Mid North and larger Riverland towns and Swan Reach and a waste water treatment plant at Aldinga;
- . the Bolivar to Virginia reclaimed effluent pipeline;
- . major sporting facilities including the upgrade of the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium and the construction of a new netball facility at Mile End;
- . construction of a new bridge across the River Murray at Berri; and
- . private sector consortium financed and constructed cogeneration plant.

Mr Speaker, this is a very significant boost to the capital works program.

The Government's capacity to inject these funds is directly attributable to the turnaround in the State's financial position.

The 1996-97 capital works program signals the Government's commitment to the development of South Australia and to rebuilding confidence in the State's future through the provision of quality assets and community facilities.

GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Mr Speaker, over the last two and a half years the Government has initiated reforms in the public sector which now see this State at the forefront in many areas of government administration.

These reforms have been instrumental to the improvement and enhancement of services to the public in a period of major budgetary adjustment.

While we have slashed the deficit and the debt, we have not slashed services. Neither have we relied on incremental or superficial change. In many areas we have found totally new, more effective but less costly ways of getting results.

In many areas our innovative ways of doing business have us leading Australia, if not the world.

Contracting of Government information technology services to EDS—the first time in the world that this has been done on a whole of government basis—will deliver substantial benefits to South Australians.

The nine year contract offers an opportunity to significantly reduce public sector operating costs and generate improvements in service delivery through benchmarking against best practices and pricing.

The agreement will create at least 900 jobs in South Australia.

Industry development is a substantial element of the contract with EDS. Its Asia/Pacific Resource Centre, to be developed in Adelaide, is a major focus for export investment in the Asia Pacific region.

The contracting of management of water and waste water to United Water together private sector construction of new facilities will, over the next ten years, generate cost savings of \$164 million, new net exports of \$628 million from South Australia and create 1 100 new jobs.

In public transport, competition and innovation is enhancing services and reducing costs.

Adelaide's public transport system has been divided into service parcels which are being tendered over approximately three years. Of the two completed tenders, TransAdelaide was the successful tenderer in the outer south and commenced providing services in January 1996, under a three year contract with the Passenger Transport Board.

A private company, Serco, was the successful tenderer in the outer north and has commenced services under a two and a half year contract.

Tenders for a further three service parcels, the inner north and two O-Bahn services, closed in mid-April 1996 with the outcomes of evaluation expected in July and services under the contracts expected to begin in October 1996.

The Department of Transport has been substantially re-structured, resulting in a halving of Departmental staff by December 1996, and more funds for road construction and maintenance.

The South Australian Health Commission has developed a program for tendering public patient services at metropolitan and country public hospitals and is pursuing outsourcing of non core services, including cleaning, catering, portage and diagnostic services.

In 1995, Modbury Hospital became the first major public hospital in South Australia to be managed and operated by the private sector.

The Health Commission is encouraging private sector involvement in co-location on metropolitan public hospital campuses and is seeking private sector funds to provide facilities which can be efficiently used by both public and private patients.

The contracting out of management of the Mount Gambier Prison is to be followed by the contracting out of prisoner transport and in-court management and prisoner health services.

These are only a few of the innovative reforms introduced under the Liberal Government.

Not only have we dealt with the budget crisis created by the previous administration but we have worked cooperatively with the public sector to develop new and better ways of delivering services—services to benefit all South Australians.

SUMMARY

Mr Speaker,

I acknowledge the cooperation of the Ministers and their officers in working with the officers of Treasury and Finance on what has been a difficult and challenging task.

This budget continues the hard work necessary to repair and restore the State's finances. This is the final year before the budget moves into surplus.

Moreover, this is a budget which provides some new spending in the areas of highest priority—hospitals, schools, community services and the young unemployed.

It is a budget which will secure lasting benefits for the State and all South Australians.

In summary Mr Speaker,

- . we have slashed debt and are on the verge of eliminating the budget deficit;
- . we have maintained South Australia as a low tax State;
- . we have achieved economic development in key export growth sectors;
- . we are reducing the burden of regulation and red tape;
- . we have reduced the cost of doing business in South Australia;
- . we have made our public sector more competitive; and
- . we are leading the way with partnerships with the private sector both to improve the provision of public services and to create enhanced economic development and job prospects for our State.

I commend the budget to the House.

I seek leave to have the remainder of the explanation incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Clause 1 is formal.

Clause 2 provides for the Bill to operate retrospectively to 1 July 1996. Until the Bill is passed, expenditure is financed from appropriation authority provided by Supply Acts.

Clause 3 provides relevant definitions.

Clause 4 provides for the issue and application of the sums shown in the schedule to the Bill.

Sub-section (2) makes it clear that appropriation authority provided by the Supply Act is superseded by this Bill.

Clause 5 is designed to ensure that where Parliament has appropriated funds to an agency to enable it to carry out particular functions or duties and those functions or duties become the responsibility of another agency, the funds may be used by the responsible agency in accordance with Parliament's original intentions without further appropriation.

Clause 6 provides authority for the Treasurer to issue and apply money from the Hospitals Fund for the provision of facilities in public hospitals.

Clause 7 makes it clear that appropriation authority provided by this Bill is additional to authority provided in other Acts of Parliament, except, of course, in Supply Acts.

Clause 8 sets a limit of \$50 million on the amount which the Government may borrow by way of overdraft in 1996-97.

Mr CLARKE Secured the adjournment of the debate.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION (LEVY) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1978. Read a first time.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: 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 seeks to increase the criminal injuries compensation levy. Criminal injuries compensation provides compensation for the victims of criminal offences. It is a compensation of last resort.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is established under the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act* for the purpose of meeting the payments of compensation made under the Act. The principal sources of revenue for the Fund are General Revenue, a percentage of fines collected and the levies imposed pursuant to section 13 of the *Criminal Injuries Compensation Act*.

The levy was first introduced in 1988 in order to provide continued funding without impacting further on the State Budget. Section 13 sets out the rate of the levy as follows:

Expiated offences	\$6.00
Summary Offences	\$25.00
Indictable Offences	\$40.00

Offences by Children \$13.00.

There has been no increase in the criminal injuries compensation levy since 1993.

This Bill proposes an increase in the levy to take into account the increase in the Consumer Price Index. The new rates are as follows:

Expiated Offences	\$7.00
Summary Offences	\$28.00
Indictable Offences	\$44.00
Offences by Children	\$14.00.

Compensation payments under the Act continue to increase. Compensation payments totalled \$13.6 million in 1994-95 compared to \$13.2 million during 1993-94. An amount of \$8.4 million was required out of general revenue to meet the deficiency in funding in the 1994-95 year. In addition, the Fund received \$2.1 million being a proportion of fines collected by the Government.

The total amount collected from the criminal injuries compensation levy in 1994-95 was \$3 074 000. The predicted collections

for 1995-96 are \$2 819 000. It is estimated that the increase in the levy will yield an additional \$282 000 based on the predicted collections for 1995-96.

I commend this Bill to honourable members.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1: Short title

Clause 2: Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Clause 3: Amendment of s. 13—Imposition of levy

This clause replaces subsections (3) and (4) of section 13. The new subsections are identical in wording to the current subsections, but increase the amount of the levy payable.

Mr ATKINSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.50 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 4 June at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 28 May 1996

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FRUIT FLY

61. **Ms WHITE:**

1. Will the Minister provide assistance for the planning and design of a permanent fumigation and treatment facility at Virginia for fruit and vegetable products?

2. Will the Minister provide some decrease in travel, inspection and certification costs involved in fumigation and treatment of fruit products?

3. Is there any financial assistance available under Rural Adjustment schemes for growers suffering genuine hardship as a result of compulsory compliance under the Fruit Fly Protection Act following the outbreak of Mediterranean Fruit Fly at Salisbury in January?

The Hon. R.G. KERIN:

1. Following the outbreak of Mediterranean fruit fly at Salisbury East on 5 January 1996, eastern States and Northern Territory imposed legislative requirements in relation to the movement of Mediterranean fruit fly host produce. On 22 January 1996, PISA officers met with fruit and vegetable industry representatives from the northern Adelaide Plains to discuss concerns regarding the availability of suitable treatment facilities to satisfy interstate treatment requirements. At that meeting the concept of an industry owned permanent disinfestation facility was discussed and the industry group agreed to develop the concept further and investigate possible sites. I understand that to date no further contact has been made with PISA by the group to progress the matter.

PISA will assist where possible with advice on planning and design of such a facility should it be requested by industry.

2. PISA has worked with affected growers and exporters to ensure that inspection charges have been kept to a minimum in relation to treatment requirements to meet interstate import conditions. There have been several centralised treatment facilities negotiated and set up in the Virginia and northern suburbs areas which provide growers and exporters with a range of options for bulk treatment of produce and subsequent minimisation of the charges. There are however a number of producers who require inspectors to visit their properties to inspect produce or supervise treatments and these producers are charged accordingly.

3. The Rural Adjustment Scheme is not a compensation scheme.

Specific policy guidelines and determinations are set down by the Commonwealth Government under the Rural Adjustment Act 1992 which are agreed to by each of the State Ministers.

The Rural Adjustment Scheme (RAS) provides for a grant of up to 50 per cent of the interest costs on a primary producers commercial farm debts to:

- (1) help develop a more profitable and competitive farm sector.
- (2) help improve the competitiveness of the farm sector in a sustainable way.

To achieve these objectives, the Scheme aims to:

- (a) provide better financial, technical and management skills.
- (b) support farmers who are able to maintain long-term profitability by improving the productivity of their farms.
- (c) help farmers to become financially independent of that support in a reasonable time.

Any farmer who meets the eligibility criteria set down under the Act is entitled to lodge an application to Rural Finance and Development for assistance for help to increase the productivity of their farm.

TRUANCY

65. **Mr ATKINSON:** What has been done in the past two years to reduce truancy from State schools?

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: The following programs/strategies have operated or been initiated in the last two years to reduce truancy from State schools:

- Schools have reported improved attendance where students and the parent community are jointly involved in developing attendance guidelines to suit local conditions by:
 - identifying non-attendance as a problem
 - developing an attendance policy
 - developing strategies to improve attendance and participation by all students
 - monitoring improvements.
- Schools were asked to monitor attendance, in particular those days of non-attendance which were unexplained by the student or the student's parents, during 1996. At the end of the year schools will report to the Executive Director, School Operations, through District Superintendents of Education, on their strategies for improving attendance.
- Clear and specific directions on how to monitor attendance were re-issued to schools to emphasise the recording of non-attendance in both the manual roll book and the EDSAS electronic attendance module. Absences are coded to differentiate the reason for non-attendance. The codes used indicate illness, exclusion, suspension, family reason, exemption, or unexplained. Patterns of non-attendance are to be identified by the school and early intervention is to occur. An intervention may include contacting the home to ascertain why the student is absent.
- The EDSAS attendance module was introduced to some schools during 1995. By the beginning of 1997, all schools are expected to be using EDSAS for data collection.
- One successful interagency collaboration initiative is Possibility 14, a program which aims to give young people the skills to enter employment. Work experience and literacy skills are integral parts of this program. A range of other agencies, including TAFE, and Family and Community Services, support this program.
- The Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS) has developed formal protocols with the Independent Schools Board and the Catholic Education Office for exchanging attendance information when students transfer between government and non-government schools.
- In 1995, DECS presented a submission on behalf of the South Australian Government to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training in 1995. A national report with recommendations was published. These recommendations will have an impact that are still to be decided by Government.
- Interagency links which exist in South Australia were acknowledged as important to the increased safety of children by the Organisation for Economic and Cooperation and Development (OECD) in a visit to South Australia in 1995.
- Schools are encouraged to
 - keep pregnant girls in education. Some schools provide units for pregnant girls or young mothers to help them to continue their education.
 - focus on the non-attendance of Aboriginal Students.
- Special programs exist in some schools to improve attendance:
 - The Student At Risk (*STAR*) program targets young people who are not achieving at school, some through homelessness, and who are likely to leave education.
 - Some schools offer *New Start* programs for students who are deficient in basic skills because of protracted non-attendance, especially in literacy, numeracy and the teaching of appropriate school behaviour.
 - The *Middle School* concept focuses on the needs of young adolescents and their preferred learning environment.
 - Programs target the successful transition from primary to secondary school.
- Student counsellors in primary and high schools assist the school community to develop, implement and evaluate whole school programs to manage student behaviour, and offer student welfare in a variety of ways, including career counselling, arranging work programs, family support, adapting programs for students needs, and liaising with other agencies.
- Schools can refer persistent non-attendance to Regional Service personnel, specifically to:
 - Student Attendance Counsellors
 - Aboriginal Attendance Officers
 - "Hot Spot" Attendance Counsellors, Special Projects, who conduct special programs in places like Rundle Mall, and Shopping Centres to target children under compulsion who are in public places during the day.
- Interagency collaboration includes:

- A joint initiative with the Crime Prevention Unit within the Attorney-General's Department, called the Mentor Program, which matches one young person (aged 10-13) who is a serious truant, with one unemployed trained young adult to establish a relationship to encourage participation in education.
- Interagency Referral Managers provide a "one stop shop" for support for students with a variety of difficulties.
- Local police networking with local schools to establish a close cooperative working relationship.
- The Family Conference Team, within Courts Authority, working with schools where truancy and offending are identified.
- DECS has developed formal protocols with:
 - Family and Community Services, to collaborate in serious cases of truancy which also involve issues of care and protection.
 - SA Police in relation to truancy by students under the age of compulsion who are in public places during school hours. A change to the Education Act in 1993 gave police the power to take truants into custody and return them to home or school. A review on this protocol has begun and will be finalised by mid 1996.

WILLOW CONTROL

66. **Mr ATKINSON:** Does the Government support the removal of willow trees from the banks of the Murray River and, if so, why; what is the program for their removal; and with what trees, if any, are the willows being replaced?

Have these been trial plantings of native species on the banks of the Murray River and, if so, which species, where and with what success?

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Prior to January 1994 work had been undertaken within the Bookmark Biosphere Reserve to control the spread of willows within areas of significant conservation value. However, as I became aware of the concerns of the Riverland community at that time I placed a moratorium on any further work within the Bookmark Biosphere Reserve. That moratorium remains in place. In October last year at the request of the community I established a Task Force to review the control of willows within the Bookmark Biosphere Reserve and recently received the final report from the Chairperson.

The Task Force's advice is that where willows are impeding flow in backwaters then control should be continued, however there should be no further treatment within the main stream. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is currently analysing the recommendations of the report, and will be reporting to me in the near future.

The issues associated with willows are not simple and views vary significantly as to appropriate management. Scientific evidence to assist in the debate is not comprehensive.

There have been no trial plantings of native species in the Biosphere Reserve where willows have been removed as observations to date indicate that appropriate native species are regenerating following the removal of these trees.

BIKESOUTH BIG CITY RIDE

69. **Mr ATKINSON:** On what authority will cyclists in the Government and city council subsidised BikeSouth Big City Bike Ride on Sunday 31 March traverse the bus lane at Barton Road, North Adelaide, as indicated on the course map in promotional literature for the ride?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: It was originally proposed that the BikeSouth Big City Bike Ride proceed along War Memorial Drive and then along the bicycle path on the northern side of Barton Road, North Adelaide. However, as a result of road works on War Memorial Drive, the route for the ride was altered and the path alongside Barton Road was not used. It was not proposed at any stage to traverse the bus lane on Barton Road.

KICKSTART FOR YOUTH

74. **Ms WHITE:**
1. What are the specific outcomes of the Kickstart for Youth programs which was piloted in July 1995?
 2. What are the details of actual and projected expenditure for the program for the year 1995-96?

3. Will funding for the 1996-97 program be allocated on the performance contract outcomes referred to on page 7 of the booklet 'Kickstarting Kickstart'?

4. What level of outcomes have been achieved by each region and which regions have not reached the required levels?

The Hon. R.B. SUCH:

1. As at 12 April 1996, the following outcomes have been achieved for Kickstart for Youth activities.

Participant numbers:

Females:	423
Males:	531
TOTAL*	954

Employment Outcomes:

Females:	211
Males:	166
TOTAL*	377

*Note: These are anticipated outcomes to date. Figures are based on project applications.

2.	Actual to Date (31-3-96)	Projected Expenditure to 30-6-96
	\$	\$
Salaries	494 193.00	673 639.00
Programs:	307 604.00	576 406.00*
Operating	64 999.00	114 305.00
Total:	\$866 796.00	\$1 364 350.00

*Includes Focus on the Future

Total budget allocated for 1995-96 = \$1 335 220.00

3. In 1996-97 Kickstart for Youth funds will be allocated to regions within a KICKSTART performance contract arrangement. The funding formula will take account of the number of 15-19 year olds unemployed in the region and include recognition of specific advantage (e.g. isolation).

The Performance Indicator outcomes included in the contract will identify specific employment and training outcomes to be achieved.

An employment outcomes target is yet to be finalised but will be between 40-50 per cent of total participants for each region.

A training outcome (i.e. continuing with further training) will be set a minimum of 25 per cent of total number of participants for each region.

Note: The employment outcome for Kickstart for Youth participants will be set lower than for Kickstart in recognition of the need for many of the 15-19 year old participants to undertake further training before they can be considered job ready. (Hence the minimum 25 per cent training outcome).

4.	Number of Participants Outcomes	Number of Employment
Northern Adelaide	130*	20
Eastern Adelaide	216	119
Western Adelaide	208	57
Southern Adelaide	73*	24
Riverland	52	31
Pt Augusta/Pt Pirie	63	12
Fleurieu/Hills/Barossa	13*	3
Murraylands	6*	5
South-East	71	52
Whyalla	34	7
Mid North	33	13
Eyre	55	34
TOTAL	954	377

In addition to the above a total of 112 participants aged 13-15 years have been involved in Focus on the Future activities to 1 April, 1996.

*The above regions have not yet reached their required targets but it is anticipated that all areas will either achieve or exceed their targets by the end of the financial year.

Some areas such as Eastern Adelaide, Western Adelaide, Riverland, South East and Eyre have achieved significantly higher participation than established for 1995-96.

The overall target of 1 000 places in 1995-96 will be exceeded.

PUBLIC SECTOR NET DEBT

77. **Mr QUIRKE:** In relation to Table 2.3, Public Sector Net Debt, in section 2.4.2 of the Financial Statement 1995-96:
- (a) what were the assets and on what date was each sale completed or expected to be completed, and what were the proceeds or expected proceeds of each sale in nominal terms;

(b) were Commonwealth compensation payments associated with the sale of the State Bank of South Australia also excluded from the table and, if so, at the time the table was prepared, what payments were excluded from the 1995-96 estimated outcome?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER:

(a) Included in the public sector net debt estimates shown in table 2.3 of the 1995-96 Financial Statement were net proceeds of the sale of Government business of \$956 million shown in Table 1.3 of that same statement. Business sales included: BankSA, SGIC, Forwood Products, Transport asset sales and the sale of a regional shopping centre.

The following business sales have occurred to date in 1995-96:

Busines/Asset	Sale Date	Proceeds \$ million
BankSA (a)	1 August 1995	730
SGIC (partial)	1 December 1995	28
SAHT—Regional shopping centre	1 November 1995	28

(a) Of this amount, \$10 million was received as a deposit in June 1995.

Offset against these proceeds are expenses incurred by both the Asset Management Task Force and the BankSA Task Force.

(b) Commonwealth compensation payments associated with the sale of BankSA were excluded along with asset sales in Table 2.3 in lines that show 'Net Debt real, excluding asset sales'. Excluded from real net debt excluding asset sales for the June 1996 estimated outcome were (in nominal terms):

- estimated proceeds from asset sales of \$956 million in 1995-96;
- \$80 million of estimated Commonwealth compensation payments expected to be received in 1995-96; and
- asset sales proceeds and Commonwealth compensation payments realised in 1994-95.

78. **Mr QUIRKE:** In relation to the Public Sector Net Debt figures in Table 2.4 of the paper Budget Outcome 1994-95, what are the comparable figures at 30 June 1990 to 1993, in nominal terms, real terms and as a percentage of GSP?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER:

	Net Debt (\$ million), as at 30 June					
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994 (1)	1995 (1)
ABS Price Deflators	91.9	94.3	95.7	97.1	97.9	100
Nominal GSP (2)	27 965	28 290	28 686	30 047	31 863	33 225
Net Debt, \$ million						
Nominal Terms	4 682	7 155	8 055	8 249	8 507	8 569
Real Terms	5 095	7 587	8 417	8 495	8 689	8 569
Percentage of GSP	16.7	25.3	28.1	27.5	26.7	25.8

(1) The Budget outcome 1994-95, included the University of Adelaide and the Flinders University of South Australia for the first time to comply with uniform standards set down by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. To achieve consistency in the series the above table has excluded the net asset position, \$67 million and \$69 million, for these universities for the years 1994 and 1995, respectively.

(2) Nominal GSP is taken from ABS December quarter 1995, Australian National Accounts, State Accounts.

SAGASCO

79. **Mr QUIRKE:** What is the reason for the exclusion of SAGASCO Holdings from the calculation of net debt, both in real and nominal terms, for the period 30 June 1990 to 30 June 1994, in Table 3.4 of Financial Paper No.1 of the 1994-95 Budget papers and what are the dollar values at 30 June for each year, in both nominal and real terms, if SAGASCO Holdings are included?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: If SAGASCO Holdings is included under the classification of a public trading enterprise, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the purpose of uniform standards, it will produce the seemingly perverse effect of increasing the State's net liability when SAGASCO undertakes a market capitalisation. This distortion of the State's net debt calculation was avoided by excluding SAGASCO Holdings.

	Net Debt (\$ million), as at 30 June				
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
ABS Price Deflators	93.9	96.3	97.7	99.2	100
Net Debt \$ million					
Published Nominal Terms	4 682	7 155	8 055	8 249	8 507 ¹
Add SAGASCO net liab. position	272	253	266	329	sold
Total nominal debt	4 954	7 408	8 321	8 578	8 507
Real Terms	5 276	7 693	8 517	8 647	8 507

¹ The figure for 1994 of \$8 548 million, published in financial statement 1994-95 was based on unaudited surveyed data. This amount has been revised to \$8 636 million as shown in Table A.6 in the financial statement 1995-96. The net liability for the Australian Barley Board of \$129 million has been deducted from this amount to be consistent with prior years.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

84. **Ms WHITE:** How long is CAMHS waiting list for counselling services for children and adolescents in the Salisbury Council area?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: CAMHS Northern Region provides services to four (4) local government areas. Of these the Salisbury LGA represents the largest population source for referrals to CAMHS Northern Region.

CAMHS Northern Region provides an immediate telephone response to requests for service. All families are offered an intensive referral interview which is conducted within 1-2 weeks of the request for service. Where a child or adolescent is at risk an assessment interview can be offered immediately. Following a referral interview the allocation of a CAMHS clinician to the family for long-term counselling is either: a) immediate if the circumstances are urgent,

(b) currently within 3 to 5 months if the circumstances are of high priority, (c) 3-12 months for non-urgent cases depending on other supports for the family and other agency involvement.

The estimated breakdown of figures for Salisbury and expressed as a percentage of the total numbers for CAMHS Northern Region are:

Priority Waiting list	18	=	39 per cent
Non-urgent Waiting List	134	=	44 per cent
Total	152	=	43 per cent

Clients placed on the waiting list receive monthly contact by letter from CAMHS confirming their presence on the waiting list, encouraging contact should their circumstances change and status need reviewing and/or ascertaining their need for continued services.

The waiting list is reviewed on a weekly basis as part of the intake and allocation processes and includes reprioritizing cases where the family circumstances have become urgent.

Additionally, CAMHS Northern Region continues to work

actively with other agencies in developing a range of strategies for managing service demand for example early intervention strategies, preventive work in schools, group interventions.

YOUTH, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

86. Ms WHITE:

1. To what extent is the Minister responsible for the welfare of Salisbury youth with intellectual disabilities?
2. To what Extent is the Minister responsible for providing families of Salisbury youth who have intellectual disabilities with adequate respite care?
3. What specific services does the Minister undertake to provide for intellectually disabled youth and their families in the Salisbury area and which services are the responsibility instead of the IDSC?

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:

1. The Minister for Family and Community Services does not have any specific responsibility for the welfare of youth with an intellectual disability. The extent of responsibility for this group is the same as for other youth, although it is recognised that an

intellectual disability places additional strain on families and may contribute to family breakdown.

Support for families of youth with intellectual disabilities is primarily the responsibility of IDSC. However, the Department for Family and Community Services does have responsibility where the primary reason a family may be unable to provide care for the young person are care and protection matters rather than the disability itself. Where a young person with an intellectual disability is placed with a foster family or in a residential facility because of care and protection issues, IDSC and the Department work together to ensure that the young person and family receive an appropriate range of services.

2. Provision of respite care for youth who have intellectual disabilities is the responsibility of IDSC. The major provider of this service is Interchange which is funded by IDSC and licensed by the Department for Family and Community Services.

3. The Department for Family and Community Services does not provide specific services to intellectually disabled youth and their families. Discussions have been held between my Department and the Disability Services Office with the view to establishing protocols for field staff to ensure youth with disabilities and their families are able to access needed services.