

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 23 October 1996

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

NEW ENTERPRISE INCENTIVE SCHEME

A petition signed by 93 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Federal Government not to cut the funding of the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme was presented by the Hon. R.B. Such.

Petition received.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. D.C. Brown)—

South Australian Constitutional Advisory Council—First Report—South Australia and Proposals for an Australian Republic—September, 1996

By the Deputy Premier (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Residential Tenancies Tribunal Act—Rules—Documents Authorised to be given to a person

By the Minister for Health, for the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development (Hon. J.W. Olsen)—

South Australian Museum Board—Report, 1995-96
State Opera of South Australia—Report, 1995-96

By the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations (Hon. E.S. Ashenden)—

West Beach Trust—Report, 1995-96.

CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Premier): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Twelve months ago the Government established, with the support of all political Parties represented in this Parliament, the South Australian Constitutional Advisory Council. The council's brief was to provide the people of South Australia, their Government and their Parliament with an objective report on the implications for South Australia should change be made to our constitutional arrangements at the Commonwealth level.

When announcing the formation of this council, I made clear that its task was not to recommend whether Australia should become a republic. That remains a matter for the citizens of this State and country to determine. The council's primary task, as set out in its first two terms of reference, has been to advise on the most effective constitutional arrangements which promote Federation, national unity, and regional diversity as we move into the new century and the implications for our State should the Commonwealth cease to be a constitutional monarchy. It is these matters that the council has dealt with in its first report.

The council has embarked on a most thorough analysis of these issues. Importantly, it has done so after an extensive period of community consultation, which included the convening of public meetings in regional, rural and urban areas of the State, promoting its work through the print and electronic media, and receiving written submissions.

The council has made some 41 recommendations in its first report. These recommendations provide a solid foundation upon which the State of South Australia and its people can now address future developments on constitutional arrangements at a Commonwealth level. These potential developments include public consultation through the Federal Government's proposed People's Convention, and proposals for a national referendum or debate in the lead up to the centenary of Federation in 2001.

The Government recognises that debate concerning our constitutional arrangements promotes widely disparate views in our community. It is the role of Government to provide leadership through a process of informed analysis and community participation, not through a dogmatic or doctrinaire response to issues over which the whole community should take ownership. Some of the major recommendations made in this first report include:

- changes to all State Constitutions should apply simultaneously if the Commonwealth was to cease to be a constitutional monarchy;
- the powers of the Head of State should essentially remain the same if Australia was to become a republic;
- the reserve powers should not be codified in the Constitution, although if the Head of State is to be elected the Constitution should specify the circumstances in which the Head of State could act contrary to ministerial advice;
- a State-based plebiscite should be held before a Federal referendum to obtain popular support for negotiations with the Commonwealth on incorporating State issues in referendum questions;
- the South Australian Head of State, even in a republican Constitution, should still be titled 'the Governor';
- a Federal referendum should be proceeded only after the consent of the Parliaments of all the States;
- the question to be proposed by an indicative national plebiscite should be posed in a fair manner, with objective and balanced material published and distributed both in favour of and against the question.

On the widely debated issue of the method of selection of the Head of State, the council, not surprisingly, has expressed a majority and a minority view. The council's recommendation, by majority, is that the Head of State continue to be appointed by the Prime Minister or Premier of the day. The minority view supports the proposition of an election by a two-thirds majority of the relevant Parliament.

South Australia has taken the lead in the commissioning and production of this report. This is appropriate given the significant role this State played 100 years ago in the constitutional conventions of the 1890s. This is the most comprehensive report of its kind in Australia. Its recommendations are awaited with interest by the Commonwealth, other States and community leaders. It will become a central resource in the further objective debate of these issues as we approach the turn of the century.

This first report will now be widely distributed to members of this House, other members of the Australian Federation and throughout the community. I take this opportunity to thank all 12 members of the council, who are, as this first report indicates, a broadly representative body in terms of age, gender, ethnicity and occupations. I particularly thank Associate Professor Peter Howell who, as Chair of the council, is providing excellent leadership in what is a demanding task. I should also acknowledge the contribution of Stephen Thompson who until recently has been engaged as the Executive Officer of the council. Finally, the council

has advised me that its report on its final two terms of reference concerning the distribution of powers between the tiers of Government and public consultation will be made available by 31 December 1996.

STATE RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Emergency Services): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Today I am pleased to announce to the House details of the successful tenderer to operate the State Rescue Helicopter Service for the next five years. Adelaide based Lloyd Offshore Helicopters Pty Ltd has been selected from an international contingent of tenders. While the company currently operates the State Rescue Helicopter Service, the new contract provides for a significantly enhanced service. Additional benefits that will be available as a result of the new contract include a pilot and crew to be supplied on a 24-hour stand-by basis by the selected contractor.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: I am surprised that the honourable member is interjecting, because this contract has fixed up the negligence of his Government. If he would care to listen, he will hear how. Other benefits include a medium helicopter to be configured to enable the carriage of up to four patients or two stretcher patients with a full medical team; an additional pilot to be brought to stand by when one helicopter is launched; all training for air crew to be at the cost of the contractor; all specialised equipment to be supplied by the contractor; reconfigured helicopters to meet the expanding and more demanding emergency medical role; improved and consistent response times; improved command, control and communications systems for the helicopter service; and a forward looking infra-red (FLIR) detection device that will provide a substantially greater search and rescue capability.

The State Rescue Helicopter Service was established in 1980 as a full-time emergency rescue service and currently costs just over \$2 million a year to operate. The service is jointly funded by Government and corporate sponsorship. In October 1995 at my instigation a review was undertaken of the Police Air Wing and the State Rescue Helicopter Service. The report was completed by Symonds Travers Morgan and Cornish Aviation, companies experienced in aviation consultancy work. The report recommended the continuation of the rescue service and that the tender for the service should seek a number of enhancements. These have now been provided for in the new contract.

The predominant users of the State Rescue Service are the South Australian Ambulance Service for medical evacuations and rapid response to rural trauma, and the South Australian Police Force for search and rescue operations, surveillance and special operations. A number of other agencies and organisations also use the service, including the Country Fire Service for fire spotting and coordination, SGIC for promotional activities, and the Surf Life Saving Association, in conjunction with the South Australian Police. On 17 June this year Cabinet approval was granted to seek a Request for Tender for the operation of the State Rescue Helicopter Service.

The documentation was issued for tenders on 24 June. The tender process has been overseen by a steering committee, comprising representatives from the user agencies: SA

Ambulance, SA Police, the South Australian Health Commission and the Country Fire Service, as well as key central agencies, including the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance, and the Attorney-General's Department. A probity auditor was also appointed to ensure that the process was fair to all tenderers and that the final decision was appropriate. The probity auditor has signed off to this effect.

A code of conduct for employees of the Government agencies, the evaluation team and tenderers to observe, as well as confidentiality agreements relating to the tendering process and commercial-in-confidence material, were drawn up and signed by all persons involved in the process. All work on the project was conducted in a secure environment. After an extensive evaluation, Lloyd Offshore Helicopters Pty Ltd was recommended as the preferred tenderer. As I have outlined, the contract offers a significant improvement on the services that were provided under the previous contract for essentially the same price, plus a further provision for the forward looking infra-red detection device.

Lloyd's was selected as the preferred tenderer to operate the service for the next five years as it offered best value for money and extensive experience in helicopter rescue operations across the band of services, for example, aero-medical retrievals, police operations, search and rescue, surveillance and fire fighting operations. It offered back up of helicopter resources across Australia, as it has 100 pilots and 40 helicopters. It offers a substantial presence in South Australia with 260 employees, and it already has a large maintenance facility in Adelaide. Extensive fit out of two new replacement helicopters will commence immediately, and it is expected that the new service with the replacement helicopters will commence early in 1997.

This tendering out brings to an end a previously unsatisfactory contract initiated by the Labor Government and one in which as much as 20 minutes will be saved in emergency operations by having a crew and pilot on stand by 24 hours a day at Adelaide Airport. The South Australian community is the major beneficiary of this new contract.

FIELD CROP IMPROVEMENT CENTRE

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Minister for Primary Industries): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: A short time ago, I had the great pleasure of acknowledging the contribution of a former Eyre Peninsula farmer to the South Australian grains industry. Today I commissioned the new field crop improvement centre at the Waite precinct, part of which is a new bird proof crop enclosure. The name of Allan Glover was commemorated by this important new research enclosure.

The former leader of the grains industry in South Australia was tragically killed in September last year. It is people such as Allan Glover who have helped the grains industry grow to today's levels. He possessed phenomenal drive, and his contribution to the Australian industry was far reaching. It is fitting that we name the birdproof crop enclosure after Allan Glover, as he pursued with vigour the approval for this essential element of the centre at a time when approval was significantly delayed in the planning process. Allan Glover had a long association with the Agricultural Bureau, the Grains Council at State and national levels, and on many other SAFF committees. He was on research advisory

committees and was also the inaugural Chairman of the Deep Sea Port Investigation Committee.

The enclosure is an important component of the new Field Crop Improvement Centre at the Waite campus, which I also officially commissioned today. The Field Crop Improvement Centre brings together on one site all the different disciplines that contribute to the successful development of new grains crop varieties. The centre represents an important partnership between SARDI and the University of Adelaide, with a healthy level of cooperation and sharing of expertise, equipment and resources. The combined Waite Research precinct now contains the largest single concentration of scientific support resources for crop improvement in South Australia. All programs at this centre are of great significance to the grains industry, which relies on and contributes significantly to each program.

The South Australian Government contributes over \$2.5 million each year to the centre, and nearly all the programs receive at least matching funding from industry, particularly from the Grains Research and Development Corporation and the South Australian Grains Industry Trust Fund. The bird crop enclosure, which has been dedicated to the late Allan Glover, is an essential part of the breeding program. The enclosure includes an irrigation system that allows cereal breeders to advance two generations per year, as well as to evaluate disease resistance. This very significantly reduces the time for new varieties to be developed and released. It is important to look at the key competitive factors that our grains industry enjoys, and how the Field Crop Improvement Centre fits into the picture.

It is imperative that we continue developing improved cereal and pulse varieties that meet increasingly stringent market specifications and, at the same time, ensure high and sustainable on-farm productivity. Whilst traditional bulk commodity markets for wheat remain in the Middle East, new markets in Asia are seeking particular grains with specific quality attributes, and farmers will increasingly seek varieties to meet the requirements for particular markets and end products. The South Australian grains industry makes a major contribution to the SA economy. We export about 80 per cent of our wheat and approximately 75 per cent of our barley crop. The grains industry contributes on average 18 per cent of the total value of exports from South Australia, and last year the industry generated over \$1.1 billion for the State. The new Field Crop Improvement Centre will help make sure that our grains industry continues to be an economic bonanza for South Australia.

QUESTION TIME

EDS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Premier. Why did EDS decide no longer to locate its Asia-Pacific Centre at Technology Park, Salisbury, which was announced as a central plank of the Premier's IT 2000 report and was restated by the Premier on 30 October last year when he signed the EDS contract?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: EDS has made its choice for a number of reasons. It put a case to the State Government, and I looked at that case. As a result of that, it was decided that the best location is the one announced last Friday, which is on North Terrace. Without wanting to spell out all the detail, because some of it is commercial—

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Commercial in confidence?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: No, there is nothing confidential about the fact that EDS has selected North Terrace for a number of reasons. First, because it wants to use the centre as a major marketing centre, and it wants its major marketing centre to be in the centre of Adelaide itself. EDS indicated that, if it had put an operation at Technology Park, it would be a split operation; that it would have some technical aspects at Technology Park and the rest of its operations in the City of Adelaide, because of the marketing requirements.

Secondly, there was a list of other IT companies that are now interested in going into a similar facility in the same precinct as EDS. They indicated that, if that precinct was at Technology Park, they would not go into it. If it was in the city, these companies—and there are about four or five potential companies on this list—would move into that same IT precinct. Again, the reason is that these companies want to use the precinct and the operation in Adelaide as part of their marketing and head office operations in this State. Therefore, if you were to bring together a concentration of companies on one site, by sheer necessity and based on the conditions put down by these other companies, it had to be in the centre of Adelaide.

Thirdly, they have ended up with very competitive real estate rental values in the City of Adelaide. That in itself is a major boost to them. Fourthly, they have just opened their very large Asia-Pacific Education Centre in the Adelaide TAFE College. Over 2 500 people from all over the Asia-Pacific region will go through that centre next year alone. Those people are additional educational people into South Australia but, importantly, they will provide a significant boost to the accommodation. Therefore, they wanted to ensure that their operation was very close to the Asia-Pacific Education Centre in Adelaide TAFE.

They particularly preferred the News Corporation site because of the very close proximity between the Asia-Pacific Education Centre, their proposed building in North Terrace and the accommodation facility that they have already leased on a permanent basis. I understand that they have leased on a long-term basis two floors of a motel further down North Terrace. There are four reasons to start with and there are other reasons as well. The other important feature was that it created in the centre of Adelaide a major new development and the opportunity to bring into the centre of Adelaide the information technology that this Government is bringing to South Australia. That precinct can link in with Technology Park and Science Park. We are creating a very substantial hub from Technology Park through to Science Park in the south, the direct centre of that hub being in the centre of Adelaide.

Finally, I would have thought that it was a very significant announcement for the City of Adelaide. Here is the first major new commercial development on a significant scale for the City of Adelaide. It will bring into Adelaide the very focus I have been wanting to achieve for the city centre. Through that, each day it will bring literally hundreds of additional people into the city who would not otherwise have come into the heart of Adelaide.

There is one other reason which I was going to mention to the Leader of the Opposition, but it would appear that he has already lost interest in the question. The other important matter was that the staff of EDS were asked and expressed a very strong preference for the City of Adelaide rather than Technology Park.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. Rann: His vision changes daily.

The Hon. G.A. Ingerson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Tourism and the Leader of the Opposition will cease interjecting.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUNDING

Mr BASS (Florey): Will the Premier advise the House of the State Government's policy concerning the public funding of State election campaigns, and will the State Government consider introducing legislation to give effect to such a proposal? It was reported in last Saturday's *Advertiser* that the Labor Party at its State conference last weekend proposed, as one of its key reforms, legislation for publicly funded—

The SPEAKER: Order! For the benefit of the member for Florey, I point out that the Premier cannot comment on newspaper articles. The first part of the honourable member's question is in order. I suggest that he needs to proceed very carefully with his explanation.

Mr BASS: I think I will leave the explanation as it is, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: That is fine with the Chair. The Premier.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I announce to the House and the State that this State Government has no intention whatsoever of introducing legislation to have publicly funded election campaigns here in South Australia, in sharp contrast to the Labor Party. Over the weekend the Labor Party clearly indicated—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN:—that in government it would want to use taxpayers' money to run its election campaign. How hypocritical of it! First it loses over \$3 billion of taxpayers' money on the State Bank and then, having decimated the State, it now wants to use taxpayers' money to fund its own election campaign. We have here—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Chair does not think interjections are a good idea at all.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: As the Leader of the Opposition has just interjected across the House, yes, he wants to rob the taxpayers of South Australia to fund his own election campaign.

The SPEAKER: Order! I suggest to the Premier that those comments are not in keeping with the appropriate tenor of speech in the House.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I make the point very strongly that this Liberal Government will not use taxpayers' money to fund election campaigns. We are in sharp contrast to the Labor Party, because it is prepared to use public taxpayers' funds for election campaigns ahead of education, health and other services. We will spend taxpayers' money in priority areas of community services such as education and health.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not want any further interjections on my left.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: We know why the Labor Party wants to get its hands on taxpayers' money for its election campaign. One of the reasons is that so many unions have now disaffiliated themselves with the Labor Party. In fact, we are able to say that now only 18 unions are affiliated with the Labor Party.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is starting off the day very badly, and the Minister of Tourism is no better.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: In addition, union membership in the private sector is now well below 30 per cent.

The Hon. G.A. Ingerson: Twenty per cent.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Twenty per cent, the Minister has said. Therefore, the affiliation fees going through to the Labor Party are obviously lower than they have been in the past. The Labor Party is very apt at using public money to fund its election campaigns. I highlight to the House information revealed last week by Peter Reith, the Federal Minister. He indicated that about \$5.6 million of taxpayers' money had gone to the Labor Party through Federal Government grants, and then \$2.2 million of that had come straight back to the Labor Party. What a back door method of funding the Labor Party—\$5.6 million of public funds going out to the unions, and \$2.2 million going straight back to the Labor Party.

Clearly, what has occurred is that the Labor Party is not in government in South Australia and has lost government federally, and its main source of money, through the union movement but from the taxpayers, has now gone. So, with falling union membership and falling union affiliation and without being able to use taxpayers' money through the back door in the trade union movement as it has done in the past, the Labor Party is now desperate; it is in a financial crisis. It is now simply trying to introduce legislation to get its hands on taxpayers' money. This Government will not give it the chance. I am sure that the people of South Australia will be reassured when I tell them that we will spend the money on education, health and other essential services, not on the election campaign of the Labor Party.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson has started the day off particularly badly.

EDS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is directed to the Premier. When did the State Government become involved in the negotiations with Hansen Yuncken to have an 11-storey building constructed on North Terrace to be leased to the Government and partially subleased to EDS?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart has the call.

Mr FOLEY: The Premier told the House last Tuesday that he had not been told by EDS where it intended to locate its headquarters. He said that negotiations were 'between EDS and the developer'.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: First, can I say that the Opposition can never accept good news for South Australia. Last Friday we had an announcement of a \$70 million building for the centre of Adelaide, and what do members opposite want to do now? Get up and knock it! A privately funded building, involving \$70 million worth of building work—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Hart to order.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN:—another couple of cranes in the sky over the centre of Adelaide—and what do they want to do? They want to knock it. We know only too well that they do not want to see anything whatsoever occur in the centre of Adelaide. The mentality of the Opposition is

unbelievable. Any good news immediately becomes bad news for them. The truth is that they take every single opportunity to knock whatever they can in South Australia. They have no judgment whatsoever.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Leader has gone far enough.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: They try to turn every issue into a cheap political one. No wonder they sit there in such numbers in this House. EDS has for a considerable time been talking to a range of commercial interests on the siting of their building, and this goes back to last year. When they first started having talks I was aware of I think at least four different sites they were examining. I think I indicated that—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I have been the Minister responsible for the EDS contract right from when the contract was signed.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Hart for the first time.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The member for Hart only has to look at the fact that I have been involved in this since the contract was signed with EDS last year because it is my ministerial responsibility.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: No. I said last week that the contract details had not yet been finalised.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: There was no final selection of site made when I answered that question last week. In fact, negotiations were still going on for the purchase of the site. So, what does the member for Hart have to say about that?

Mr Foley: I didn't hear it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: What the member for Hart does not realise is that the final signing of the documents did not take place until Friday last week.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader will not be warned again.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Quite clearly, until the signing of the documents last Friday, no-one could be certain as to where it was going. That was plainly obvious.

Mr Foley: Come on!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: That was plainly obvious.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: This will be a great boost to the City of Adelaide, and I am delighted, and I know members of Cabinet are delighted, that we will now have a major IT precinct right in the heart of Adelaide. It backs up the multimedia precinct we have in the East End of Adelaide with the Ngapartji Multimedia Centre. Through that we will be bringing new commerce and new companies right into the heart of Adelaide. It is good for the city.

STATE BANK

Mr CAUDELL (Mitchell): Can the Treasurer identify to the House the extent of the losses incurred by the former State Bank involving its operations in New Zealand? Members will recall that the entrepreneurial activities of the former State Bank were not limited to Australia and that it embarked on an ill-fated growth strategy overseas. In

particular, the South Australian State Bank bought the United Bank in New Zealand and, I understand, was involved in a variety of other operations.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I thank the member for Mitchell for his question. There is good news and there is bad news. The good news is that we are finally quitting our holdings in New Zealand as part of the bank wind down. The bad news is that it has cost this State \$207 million of taxpayers' funds. I know that the Leader of the Opposition has a particular interest in this question given his background and involvement. The State Bank of South Australia—

The Hon. W.A. Matthew interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Emergency Services is out of order.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: The State Bank of South Australia, consistent with its entrepreneurial charter and egged on by the then Premier and the now Leader of the Opposition, expanded its operations in New Zealand. I can just imagine that the Leader of the Opposition would have been in the forefront of trying to get the bank into New Zealand. The Auckland branch was set up and then it decided to take the market apart, so it set up State Bank of South Australia New Zealand Holdings Limited. This entity was the holding company of United Bank in Christchurch and an assortment of car leasing, retirement villages, financial services, housing, property development and sharebroking companies.

SBSA New Zealand Branch Holdings Limited was a further entity mainly involved in two major activities, namely, finance through a subsidiary called Southstate Corporate Finance Limited, and investment through a subsidiary called SBSA New Zealand Limited. By the end of 1991, 80 entities were operating in New Zealand under the control of SBSA New Zealand Holdings Limited and SBSA New Zealand Branch Holdings Limited.

The original capital put into this operation was \$30 million. As they kept expanding and the losses kept increasing, they kept putting money in, to the extent that a loss has been crystallised at a sum of \$207 million. They have managed to create a reputation in New Zealand, London, New York—indeed, worldwide. Of the 80 entities that existed at the time of the formation of the Government Asset Management Group, there are now only four entities to wind down. It is another sorry saga and I am pleased to say that it is reaching its finality, but it has been at enormous cost to this State.

EDS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is directed to the Premier.

Mr Caudell interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mitchell is out of order and is warned for the first time.

Mr FOLEY: Thank you for your protection, Sir. What will be the term of the Government's head lease on the \$70 million, 11-storey North Terrace building, and what will be the term of the EDS sublease? The Opposition has been advised that the Government's lease is for up to 15 years, while the EDS sublease is for seven years.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: When all the details of the lease are finalised, except the price, which is probably commercially confidential, I will make them available. I will make the details of the broad lease available because it is

appropriate for members to know about them, but they have yet to be finalised.

BAROSSA VALLEY

Mr VENNING (Custance): My very important question is directed to the Minister for Tourism. Is the Minister aware that Kinsmen Pty Ltd has announced its plans for a major development in the Barossa Valley, and what contribution is the Government prepared to make towards the scheme? Today's decision by Kinsmen has been long awaited by people in the Barossa and South Australia generally. It has been the subject of negotiations for many years, but the climate has not been right. Having involved considerable work by many people, this project is a huge investment in the State and shows confidence in the region. It also shows that the climate is right for such investment.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: The site of the proposal by Kinsmen is located on 110 hectares of land north of Rowland Flat adjacent to the North Para River near Tanunda. The concept, as described in the prospectus, includes a 140-room resort, 24 two-bedroom apartments and 116 one-bedroom apartments. A central facility will be used for reception, a dining room and administration. There will be conference facilities for up to 250 people, a children's activity centre, and a link with the 18-hole championship golf course, which is currently being redeveloped by the Tanunda Golf Club. Recreational facilities will include tennis courts, a sauna and a gymnasium.

This prospectus, which has been put out by Kinsmen, provides an opportunity for individual South Australians and Australians to be part of this investment. The prospectus includes an infrastructure commitment of \$2.575 million, if the whole project gets off the ground (and that is purely and simply for infrastructure). The project, which has been on the drawing board for eight years, will get off the ground when 70 per cent of all the units are purchased, and that is the major criterion. The prospectus states that Baulderstone, as the contributing builder, will commence its work if and when the prospectus response reaches 70 per cent. It is the first step in a process that will give the Barossa Valley an interesting development, and it offers a unique opportunity for the community. We look forward to seeing what happens as this prospectus goes through the various stages within the community.

EDS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is directed to the Premier. Given current levels of unoccupied office space in the Adelaide CBD—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The crossbenches are out of order.

Mr FOLEY: Thank you, Sir. I will start my question again. Given current levels of unoccupied office space in the Adelaide CBD, why has the Government negotiated an in-principle agreement for the construction of an 11-storey office complex on North Terrace? On radio on Monday, Hansen and Yuncken head, John Bowyer, said that the building will not be purpose built for EDS and that all EDS has told developers it requires is 'standard commercial A-grade office accommodation'. Information recently published shows that Adelaide has nearly 20 per cent of its total office space vacant, including consolidated floors of commercial A-

grade office accommodation currently being offered at very competitive rates.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: EDS looked at a number of options. It looked at existing buildings in the centre of Adelaide but they all required substantial refurbishment to suit the company's needs. Indeed, when EDS looked at refurbishing existing buildings, the costs escalated considerably and they were higher than the cost per square metre put forward in the proposal by Hansen and Yuncken. The press release referred to by the member for Hart stated that the lease offered to EDS is very competitive, and the company found it could get a better lease on a new building than it could get on an existing building, when the fairly substantial alteration costs were taken into account.

EDS looked at one building in the city and, for a while, it was rather attracted to that building but, when it got the details of the alteration costs, it no longer became a commercial rate. The new building would be built to the layout that EDS required, and I acknowledge that it is not a special building in terms of computer technology, except that it will be a wired building, as any modern building should be, and that in itself is better than is available in any of the existing buildings.

Ms Hurley: Even Parliament House is wired now; that is how normal it is.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I am talking about wired for a modern computer facility. I do not think Parliament House comes quite within that category. When they looked around, they found that very few of the other buildings in Adelaide came within that category, either. That is one of the big advantages with this, and that is one of the reasons why, together with the commercial rates they were offered, they went to the new building.

GREAT AUSTRALIAN TREASURE HUNT

Mrs HALL (Coles): Will the Minister for Mines and Energy outline to the House the latest initiative being undertaken by the Department of Mines and Energy to educate students about this State's mineral and energy resources and the importance they have for the State's economy?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I thank the member for Coles for her interest and for her question. One of the great dilemmas we all face is the extent to which all people have an appreciation of the things around them, what makes them and from where they come. There is a view that we can have a high standard of living without digging anything out of the ground. Whilst I thought that was shared only by the Democrats, I understand the ALP has now also become a proponent of that position. We believe it is appropriate to make people aware of the great wealth of this country and the extent to which it can be used to benefit all people. One of the component parts of what we believe is the need for a better education process or a greater understanding amongst a whole range of people, including our school children, is the Great Australian Treasure Hunt.

On Sunday I will launch the Great Australian Treasure Hunt which will be at the Investigator Science and Technology Centre. It is an interactive display that has been put together in conjunction with a number of sponsors, including the Department of Mines and Energy. It has been developed in Western Australia by an organisation called Scitech Discovery. We have hired that module to stand in the Investigator Science and Technology Centre. It will be there

for some three months until 26 January 1997. The idea is to put on a hard hat and have some fun. The Great Australian Treasure Hunt simulates mining activity and some of the outcomes from mining. We believe that it will add to the knowledge of those youngsters who become involved in this activity, and even some of our more senior citizens who want to make some great discoveries.

Some of the interactive displays include 'Take control of the ultimate toy on the big dig,' 'Go on a train ride' and 'Move the earth's continents through 250 million years.' Another interactive display enables participants to discover how much they would be worth in gold; they can get themselves scaled in gold. Other displays include 'Hanging onto your hard hat for explosive underground adventures,' 'Search for oil hidden deep under the ocean bed,' 'Survive a terrifying earthquake,' 'Help bring back a forest to life,' and 'Pilot a light survey plane on an exploration flight across the outback.' It will provide a fun and educational time. I know that it will be a great success, and I urge every member of Parliament who has children to go along and experience the occasion.

INFORMATION INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is directed to the Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart has the floor. I do not want interruptions. There are too many interjections.

Mr FOLEY: Can the Premier assure the House that the Department of Information Industries will not be required either to pay a higher rental per square metre of floor space or take on additional floor space when it is relocated to the new EDS building on North Terrace? Hansen Yuncken chief John Bower confirmed on radio on Monday that the Department of Information Industries would occupy a substantial part of the building. The Department of Information Industries currently pays \$1.2 million in accommodation costs.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: First, I can indicate that the rates being offered in the Hansen Yuncken building are commercial. In fact, the Treasurer's comment was that they are extremely commercial rates indeed. Secondly, I can indicate that, because four or five companies are interested in going in with EDS, we are not sure whether any space outside EDS and the Playford Computing Centre will be available for any other occupants apart from these private companies. Therefore—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! If the member for Hart keeps interjecting, he will be dealt with in a manner that he will not find pleasant.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: If these four or five companies take up the space, it is more than likely that there will be no spare space in this building whatsoever for the Department of Information Industries. In fact, the department is still negotiating for office accommodation in North Terrace in an entirely different building. As I indicated to the House last week, there is absolutely no certainty that DII would go into this building, and that will be finally determined depending on how many other companies move into this new building, which is currently being built.

What fascinates me is the extent to which the member for Hart could easily have come to me, sat down and gone

through these issues. Why does he waste the time of the Parliament on such trivial issues, many of which have not been resolved, as I indicated to the House last week? I find it astounding that he gets himself in such a lather over such a commercial issue that has not yet been resolved.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Custance, amongst others, is out of order.

BUSHFIRES

Mr LEWIS (Ridley): With the bushfire season only a matter of weeks away, will the Minister for Emergency Services advise the House on whether property owners in high risk areas have learned from previous bushfire experience in those areas and, if not, what precautions should property owners be taking to ensure that their families and homes are as safe as possible from the risk of being razed by bushfires? Over recent days, many people have told me of the tragedies they recall of Ash Wednesday, as they have watched the shocking horror resulting from the ravages of bushfires raging in Southern California. They have expressed concern at what they have seen, particularly in parts of the Hills and higher rainfall districts across the State.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Given the nature of his own electorate, the member for Ridley is well aware how important it is that people prepare adequately for the coming bushfire season. However, sadly, the answer to the first part of the honourable member's question is 'No'. The Country Fire Service informed me that many property owners, including those who were in the areas involved in the Ash Wednesday bushfire in 1983, have proved themselves to be either ignorant of or complacent about the danger of bushfires in South Australia. Indeed, the Country Fire Service estimates that about 70 per cent of residents in the Adelaide Hills area alone have not yet taken on adequate safeguards to prepare themselves for the coming bushfire season. That type of complacency or ignorance is a potential disaster waiting to happen.

Property owners in high risk bushfire areas need to prepare immediately to ensure that they are ready for the start of the bushfire season. Obviously, part of the preparation for the bushfire season is for individual property owners to have their own bushfire prevention plan in place. That should include making their properties and homes a safe refuge from the potential for fire by ensuring that a thorough clean up of fire hazards from around their property is completed. Most South Australians know only too well the potential ferocity of fire through a bushfire prone region. They know the dangers that can occur and the tragedy that can strike.

The crucial measures that the Country Fire Service and the Government want to impress on South Australians living in bushfire prone regions is that planning, plus appropriate action, equals survival, and too many people have not heeded that message. Planning and appropriate action must start immediately where it has not already, and it has not started in the Adelaide Hills region alone in at least 70 per cent of properties to ensure that those properties are as safe as possible from fire. Today the Country Fire Service launches its 1996-97 bushfire prevention campaign, which includes a bushfire survival kit that will assist property owners to prepare for the bushfire season.

The kit includes a range of advice about how to protect house and property against bushfire; the need for a concise survival plan for one's family; the importance of back up

firefighting equipment and adequate water supplies; the dangers of using lawn mowers and slashers in some areas; safety measures with burn offs; and how to protect one's livestock. These kits are available from local council offices, Country Fire Service regional offices and the State headquarters of the Country Fire Service, and they will shortly be available from offices of members of Parliament in bushfire prone areas. All local councils and CFS districts have appointed fire prevention officers to assist property owners with on-the-spot advice, where needed, to help them prepare for summer.

All property owners in bushfire risk areas must realise that their survival and that of their family, property and assets depends on fire prevention activities undertaken on their properties within the next few weeks. As temperatures start to rise at this time of the year, I implore all property owners in South Australia to spend time ensuring that they do not become victims of the ruthlessness of bushfires during the coming season.

EDS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is directed to the Premier—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr QUIRKE: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. I think we have just about had enough of the Minister for Emergency Services. He can be allowed into Parliament now: he has knocked on the door often enough.

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford's point of order, as I understand it, is that the Minister for Emergency Services is unwisely tapping on his desk. I would suggest that that is not a wise course of action.

Mr FOLEY: Members are certainly giving me a torrid time. My question is directed to the Premier—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I suggest to the member for Hart that he has been known to contravene Standing Orders on a number of occasions.

Mr FOLEY: Thank you, Sir, for your wise counsel.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FOLEY: Who will own the \$70 million building to be built on the old News site, and how much will they receive in rent each year from the Government? In answer to an earlier question, the Premier said that the purchase of the land was still being negotiated last Friday. However, a check with Corporate Affairs Office records show that two titles included in the old News site were purchased in May this year by a shelf company called Young Street Pty Ltd at a cost of \$7 million.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: That is exactly the point. Last Friday the Hansen Yuncken group took over the rights to the property from the group that had the option previously, and that is why the honourable member is wrong. He has obviously rushed off and looked at the title. I believe that the company to which the honourable member refers had taken out an option and, in fact, that has now been transferred to another vehicle.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: There was an option.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The property was purchased but there was a further option over the property on the west side of Young Street, and that is the group that finalised the purchase on Friday. The member for Hart has been trying to put together a story. Obviously someone has led him down the wrong path and he has ended up with egg on his face. All afternoon the honourable member has been leading to the fact that this company, whatever it is called—Young Street, or something—was the owner and developer of the property and that the purchase was finalised months ago. I assure the honourable member that the documents were signed in Perth only last Friday and arose from an option that was held over the site more recently.

Mr Foley: How much rent are you taking?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I do not know. I cannot give the honourable member that specific information at this stage. As I said earlier, we will give him the broad information about the lease when it is finalised.

HEALTH, PRIVATISATION

Ms GREIG (Reynell): Will the Minister for Health advise the House of the level of support for private involvement in health care in South Australia?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: I thank the member for Reynell for her question about a particularly important matter. The Government has been very active in its exploration of opportunities to expand health services, whilst still coping with the legacy of the State Bank debt. Unlike the previous Labor Government, we have been more than willing to explore partnerships with private providers. An example of that is the private management of Modbury Hospital, which is saving the taxpayer \$7 million; the private construction of two hospitals, which had been promised year in and year out by Labor Governments trying to win support but which had no intention of putting bricks on top of each other in Port Augusta and Mount Gambier; and the contracting out of a variety of services in the health area, which is saving additional millions of dollars.

I understand that it is difficult for the Opposition to maintain its ideological attack on private involvement. It has been fascinating to see the way—given the success of the exploration of that area—that the Labor Party appears to be now having two bob each way, and perhaps that is appropriate, given that the Melbourne Cup will be run shortly. On the one hand, the Labor platform reiterates Labor's stance on opposition for the sake of opposing but, on the other hand, the platform strangely enough repeatedly endorses private and non-government involvement in health care.

Following its convention last weekend, Labor's platform states that it is committed to reversing privatisation and that public hospitals will remain in public ownership and with public management. That is on the one hand. On the other hand, clause 2.40 of the Labor Party platform states:

Good health care can be provided in South Australia by a blend of public and private services. Labor is committed to maintaining and improving that partnership for the benefit of the community.

How can the Labor Party go around reversing all this?

The Hon. S.J. Baker: For 3¢ each way.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: That indicates the difference between the Treasurer and me: I said that the Labor Party is having two bob each way and he says that it is having 3¢ each way. Clause 2.21 states:

The Labor Party platform acknowledges that the non-government sector of our health system complements the work of Government.

Clause 2.23 asserts that:

Changes will be developed from mature partnerships of State and Federal Government services with (amongst others) private organisations.

The Labor Party platform also states that it wants to encourage private and public hospitals to work together for the benefit of the community through the more economic use of health resources. That is exactly what we have been doing since we took office. In light of the Labor Party's commitment to reverse this so-called privatisation and to ensure that public hospitals will remain in public ownership, it is my contention that Modbury Hospital is the acid test for Labor in health care.

The people of South Australia are entitled to know whether the Labor Party would cancel the contract for private management of the Modbury Public Hospital. People are entitled to know that. If so, the people are also entitled to know how the Labor Party would cope with the loss of the \$7 million that contract is returning to the taxpayer. There are only two ways to approach it: if you are making \$7 million on a contract and you then cancel the contract, either you decrease health services or you increase taxes. They are the only solutions. Whilst it is two bob each way, the platform clearly demonstrates that Labor Party members have not come to grips with the complexity of managing health care in the 1990s and nearly into the twenty-first century. Quite frankly, having read the platform it looks to me as if they are enjoying Opposition too much to develop comprehensive and cohesive strategies.

GOVERNMENT OFFICE SPACE

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is directed to the Minister for State Government Services.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FOLEY: It is a very good news question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mitchell.

Mr FOLEY: What is the level of unoccupied office space in the Adelaide CBD currently owned or being leased by the State Government, and what is this figure as a proportion of total Government office space?

The Hon. Dean Brown: Come in sucker!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Emergency Services.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: In view of the interjections across the Chamber before, I am pleased to see that the honourable member realises that my portfolio also includes city accommodation provision. It has taken a while for that to sink in. I am able to advise the honourable member that across the CBD there is, obviously, some private sector space involved, and it is no secret that there is an 18 per cent vacancy across the CBD. The honourable member wants to know how much of that is Government leased buildings. The South Australian Government Commercial Properties portfolio, which contains a number of owned buildings and private sector leases, has an uncommitted vacancy rate of 2.85 per cent. To help him along, I am prepared to detail for the honourable member where those spaces are.

The major uncommitted vacancies amongst those include: the Motor Registration building at 60 Wakefield street, which has a total of 734 square metres (and we are examining options for that at the moment); the forensic science building

in Divett Place, which has 1 719 square metres (both of those are owned by Government); and Wakefield House at 30 Wakefield House, which has 1 777 square metres (which has been leased from the SFMC). It is important also to advise the House of the reason for some of those vacancies, particularly that of Wakefield House. It is my agency that utilises that.

As a result of this Government's effort to outsource a number of Government services in the area of building maintenance and minor works, building design and supervision, that work is now done by the private sector. It stands to reason, therefore, that there will be that surplus office space. That is being rectified quite satisfactorily. I know that the honourable member was looking for a negative answer to try to belt the \$70 million EDS development on North Terrace. My reply certainly does not give him that ammunition. How interesting it is to look across the questions that have been answered today and think about the \$270 million that the Treasurer outlined as being lost by the Labor Government in New Zealand alone, through the State Bank. How many buildings throughout South Australia—hospitals and schools—could that money have put up?

ADULT LITERACY

Mr WADE (Elder): Will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education detail to the House what steps are being taken in South Australia to address literacy problems in the adult community? In light of recent community interest in literacy levels, I understand that the Minister is today announcing special grants for community groups providing literacy and adult community education programs.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: There has been talk in recent times about literacy issues relating to school children, but there is a very serious problem in relation to adult members of the community. A minimum of 10 per cent of adults have significant difficulties with literacy, and the estimates are that it ranges up to 30 per cent. So, we have a very serious problem in the community which we, as a State Government, seek to address by providing grants to community groups. The Commonwealth Government is also very supportive of this program. Today I am announcing grants to 49 community houses to facilitate extra training for literacy as well as other community education programs.

To give an indication of the sorts of benefits accruing when people can and do learn to read and write, the following are actual experiences from people in South Australia. A man in his thirties with cerebral palsy, with limited literacy skills, over the past year has learned how to use a modified keyboard to write his life story, which will soon be published. A woman in her sixties could not withdraw money from the bank. That might be seen by some as a positive, but she could not use an ATM or fill out the forms. She can now access banking facilities and, for the first time in her life, is able to send out Christmas cards—things that we take for granted. A young mother discovered that she could not help her children with their homework, and as a result of literacy assistance is now able to do so. She has written her first letter to a company, a consumer organisation, detailing a particular complaint.

A woman in her fifties recently indicated to me that she is now able to read the *Advertiser* and more fully participate in our society. The message that was made clear earlier this week is that, if you cannot read or write, you cannot partici-

pate fully in a democratic system. Those are just some everyday examples of the empowerment that comes when people learn to read and write. In terms of general community training through adult community grants, cheques will be delivered to the 49 organisations by local members, and I would ask members to distribute them as soon as they receive them.

Not wishing to delay the House unduly, I cite some of the areas that will be receiving grants: Adelaide Central Mission, Clare Community House, the Filipino Women's Group of Port Adelaide, the Kilburn-Blair Athol Community Action Group, Paddocks Neighbourhood House, Port Pirie Central Mission, Skillshare Port Augusta on behalf of the Marree Community Centre, and the Southern Domestic Violence Action Group. That is just a sample of how, with a modest amount of money, we can transform the lives of people in our community, including providing literacy training for those in need.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Ms WHITE (Taylor): My question is directed to the Premier. Are the expressed concerns of the Minister for Youth Affairs about the quality of training and wages paid to young apprentices and trainees at odds with the South Australian Government's embrace of the Job Bank program which, it has been claimed, will provide youth wages of \$3 an hour, no structured accredited training and no protection from exploitation by unscrupulous employers? On 1 October, in reply to a question about the Howard Government's proposed changes to the apprenticeship and training system and the abolition of the declared vocations, the Minister for Youth Affairs told the House:

... I emphasise that South Australia will be part of that system only with appropriate safeguards to ensure quality training and that the young people involved in that system are protected in terms of wages and... conditions.

Today on radio the Minister described the established traineeship system as the Rolls Royce model and the proposed Job Bank scheme as the Morris Minor model.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: The member for Taylor is confusing two levels of training and employment. The Job Bank scheme has nothing directly to do with apprentices or apprenticeships. It is a first step program to get young people who are currently idle, young teenagers out of school with little experience, with little in the way of skill, onto the rung of the world of work. We are not in the business of having them exploited. I would argue that the fact that they are not able to participate in real work at the moment is a form of exploitation that is unacceptable to this Government and the Federal Government.

I note that the Opposition (along with the Democrats) is critical, but members opposite have not suggested any alternative to deal with this problem. We are talking not about apprentices and apprenticeship training: we are talking about giving young people the opportunity to at least be part of the world of work. That is not happening. Many young people are at home watching videos, being idle and missing out on having a future. We are trying to give them a future. But this approach is not to be confused with apprenticeship training, because it is a totally different approach.

CALICIVIRUS

Mr BUCKBY (Light): Will the Minister for Primary Industries inform the House of the schedule for the official release of the rabbit calicivirus in South Australia?

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I thank the member for Light for the wording of his question. As members know, the calicivirus has spread to most parts of the State since escaping from Wardang Island almost 12 months ago. Despite the unplanned nature of the release, it has been very effective in reducing rabbit numbers.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: No cats. There has been a marked and rapid impact on crops, pastures and native reserves. There are many reports that native vegetation is recovering at levels which have not been seen in various areas for many years. Following extensive testing and investigation by the Federal Government, an official national release was approved. Releases of RCD have taken place in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. South Australia and Victoria conducted releases this week.

Certainly, it is a national milestone for rural Australia. Rabbits are the worst menace to our land, and this virus presents the best possibility in 50 years to combat the pests. They not only destroy crops but cause enormous damage to native vegetation and rob food from native fauna. As I said, following the unofficial release in October last year, parts of the State already look better. Yesterday, there was an official release at Turretfield as well as in the South-East and in the Mid North. Further releases will take place progressively across the State over the next two to three weeks. Other site releases include the Fleurieu Peninsula, the Adelaide Hills, Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and the northern range lands.

However, it must be understood that RCD is not the silver bullet to solve all rabbit problems. It offers an opportunity to use conventional methods to clean-up the lower numbers created by the virus. Those methods include poisoning, warren destruction, fumigation and the continued use of myxomatosis.

The costs of rabbit control and the loss to agriculture production caused by rabbits in Australia have been estimated at around \$600 million per year. The animal and plant control boards throughout the State are increasing their efforts in encouraging landholders to ensure they consolidate the gains from RCD by using these follow-up methods. The control commission has directed program priorities to provide funds for specific strategically planned projects on Crown lands, particularly where they can be used as demonstration projects. Several research staff have been redirected to RCD projects. Landholders have a great deal to gain from the increased production, and it is hoped that, if everyone in Australia puts in a lot of effort, the numbers will be decreased dramatically in the short and long term.

WORKCOVER

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): Will the Minister for Industrial Affairs amend the WorkCover Act to ensure that section 35(6)(a) does not penalise injured workers twice? Under section 35(6)(a) any WorkCover recipient who accepts a redemption payment under the current Act and who suffers a second injury that is unrelated to the first will in the future be penalised. Redemption agreements now being offered allow the full amount of weekly earnings to be deducted from

any future unrelated injuries, effectively penalising injured workers and their families twice.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I am surprised that the honourable member should ask that question when it was her Party that introduced the law. It seems fascinating that Labor law is okay when the Labor Government has implemented it but that it is no good when the Liberal Government has implemented it. That section has not been changed since 1986. The honourable member opposite says that, if you make a claim on WorkCover, negotiate an outcome, say, for \$20 00 and then return to work and get another claim, that claim for \$20 000 should not be taken into consideration. In other words, the honourable member opposite says that we should be allowed to double dip.

That is the sort of rorting in the WorkCover scheme that the Labor Government was very happy to have. It is a pity that the honourable member did not look at who implemented this section and why it was introduced—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Torrens.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:—because it was introduced to stop exactly this occurring. As a Government we have said to WorkCover that it needs to implement the law as it is and that, if there is any rorting, it should be tightened to ensure that does not continue.

PARENTING SA

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): Will the Minister for Family and Community Services, as part of the \$500 000 Parenting SA campaign, issue an up-to-date leaflet on child discipline informing parents of their common law right to smack their children for disobedience as part of reasonable chastisement, and in the leaflet will he also explain when physical chastisement becomes child abuse?

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Again, this matter was raised by the member for Spence in the House yesterday, and I thought that I had answered the question. The member for Spence's problem is that he does not listen or he does not look, because, if he looked carefully at the information that is provided, he would see that it is only a guide to parents. There is no intention for any interference in the rights of parents. As I said yesterday, the information in those 48 sheets to guide parents and to give parents information if they wish to follow it has been very welcome. I have already taken up the point that the honourable member raised yesterday with the people responsible in this area. I understand that that consideration has been taken on board by the officers and, indeed, by those who prepared the papers. I believe that is appropriate, as long as the honourable member realises—

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: For Pete's sake, I would not have a clue when it will come out; I will tell you when. You need to wait and be patient. I will make the honourable member aware when that new sheet is prepared.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT

Mr CONDOUS (Colton): Will the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations reassure the House that the planned reforms to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement will not disadvantage tenants in public housing? Will the Minister also advise

what strategies are being undertaken to maintain growth and development in the community housing sector?

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: I thank the honourable member for the question, because it will enable me to clear up a lot of misconceptions that appear to be held amongst community housing groups. It is important to understand that COAG is presently considering a national reform of public housing and the way in which subsidies and so on are to be paid. It is important again to point out to the House that this initiative was commenced by the previous Labor Federal Government. It has been agreed to by the present Liberal Government and, therefore, it is one of those rare areas where there appears to be some bipartisan support for a change.

The whole idea behind the changes is to bring about equity among tenants who live in community housing, public housing and private housing. It is also designed to give greater choice. I am delighted to say that the Commonwealth has assured us that funding will not be reduced, so it is certainly not a cost-cutting exercise. The Commonwealth has also given an assurance that existing tenants in public housing will not be disadvantaged. Further, the Commonwealth has given an undertaking that it will continue to support all forms of social housing, including community housing, crisis accommodation, Aboriginal housing and housing for people with special needs.

South Australia has one of the strongest and most active community housing sectors in Australia. The South Australian Government proudly and strongly supports community housing. The strategies we have developed are to enable a continued expansion of community housing; and SACHA's other housing products, such as the co-ventures program, the group self-build scheme and the establishment of HomeStart equity cooperatives will be developed further, maintained and continued. Additionally, this year I have introduced the transfer of stock from the South Australian Housing Trust to be used by community housing groups. This is a completely new direction and will double the number of houses that become available this year for community housing groups.

Some 250 Housing Trust properties will be converted to community ownership over the next 12 months, and \$2.6 million is being made available to upgrade 250 dwellings this year, at an average of \$10 000 per house. I believe that that not only clearly outlines the Government's concern for community housing but also shows that we are putting our money where our mouth is in providing much more than has ever been provided in the past. I only hope that members opposite ensure that that is made known to their community housing groups.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

The SPEAKER: The proposal before the Chair is that the House note grievances. The member for Kaurna.

Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna): I rise today to pay tribute to the Noarlunga SES unit. This unit has 30 volunteers training regularly and can be fully operational at any time in response to all forms of rescue, search and rescue, flood and storm damage and any natural or man-made disaster. To carry out these responsibilities efficiently requires extensive training, and the Noarlunga SES unit alone dedicates about 10 000 person hours per year to developing, refining and

maintaining rescue skills, which facilities are the primary role of the SES—to search and rescue. The SES is dedicated to state of the art rescue techniques and to maintaining an exceptionally high standard of skill among its members. Given the dedication to, and its success within, the field of rescue, it is understandable that the SES views with some concern the possibility of its rescue role diminishing at the hands of the Country Fire Service. An article appearing in the *Advertiser* of Wednesday 16 October 1996 suggested that a change of direction for the CFS could include a search and rescue role for the service.

SES rescuers are highly skilled in all facets of rescue, including cliff, confined spaces and mine rescue. The extent of the skills required to carry out this work successfully is enormous. As the SES has stated to me, it is currently the only organisation of its kind to be fully equipped for all those types of rescue. The equipment alone at the Noarlunga unit is valued at about \$100 000, not including the unit vehicles, which would be worth double that figure. Other services are quite simply ill equipped for rescue, and to duplicate these resources would be financially irresponsible.

The service provided to the community by the SES is invaluable, and this can be illustrated by detailing the work of the Noarlunga SES unit. On average, this unit attends 300 tasks per year. They include searching for missing people and missing objects, and all forms of rescue, including cliff rescue, vehicle entry accidents, storm damage and flood mitigation. The quick response time to the recent floods in the Onkaparinga River region resulted in absolutely no damage to houses in the area—homes which in times of flood have previously suffered damage from flood waters. Almost 100 personnel spent in excess of 15 hours and used over 3 000 sandbags to control and monitor the flood waters. This year alone the Noarlunga unit has assisted the Police Department with three body recoveries, a task made possible only because of the unit's rescue capabilities. In recent years the SES has played an integral role in searching. Along with hundreds of other volunteers, about 30 of Noarlunga SES's members were involved in the three-week search for Rhianna Barreau in the southern area.

Recently the Port Stanvac Oil Refinery requested the assistance of the Noarlunga SES unit to provide an emergency response role during the refinery shut-down period. This resulted in a number of members undergoing extensive training in confined spaces for confined space rescue, including the use of breathing apparatus. Since this shut-down period, the Port Stanvac Oil Refinery has included in its emergency procedures that the Noarlunga SES will be tasked with the first response of any rescue incident. Noarlunga SES also provides great support for local community events. For example, the unit has been involved for many years with the Australia Day celebrations, promoting crowd and traffic control.

The SES is also active in promoting community education and awareness about the service. The Police Department has called upon the Noarlunga SES to assist with its youth projects. Rescuers take groups of young people abseiling and rock climbing, and this has proved very successful from the point of view of the police and the young people involved. Given the current capabilities and training of the Noarlunga SES, its concerns about the recent article are justified. The Noarlunga SES volunteers devote many unpaid hours to providing a professional rescue service to the community.

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

Mr QUIRKE (Playford): Today's *Advertiser* contains a story entitled 'Rail yard clean up approved'. I will read into *Hansard* a letter which has come into my possession and which I hope will correct at least one part of that story. The letter, addressed to the Editor of the *Advertiser*, states:

Dear Sir: I refer to the article entitled 'Rail yard clean up approved' by local government reporter Rachel Rodda, which appeared in the *Advertiser*, [of] Wednesday 23 October. I quote from the article: 'Mr Watkins said it was expected the material would be dumped into a deep mine on the site and capped as it was "too dangerous" to take away.' As I said to the reporter, there would be no comment from myself until the outcome of the meeting between the Federal Transport Minister, Mr John Sharp, and State Transport Minister, Ms Laidlaw, was known. There are two separate issues here: (1) the clean-up of the Islington rail yard; and (2) the clean-up of the actual site. The proposition discussed with the Minister was that a hole would be dug on the toxic waste site and the toxic waste from the rail yards would be put into the hole and then capped. However, the material at the toxic waste dump must be disposed of properly in accordance with all environmental regulations and safeguards.

Yours sincerely, J.S. Watkins, Asbestos and Toxic Waste Liaison Officer, United Trades and Labor Council.

My reason for reading this letter into the record today is to indicate that this is a very serious issue that has involved numerous players and negotiations now for some years regarding that site.

In essence, the problems are the following. There is a toxic waste dump there containing materials of such danger that they will need to be properly disposed of—not just buried on site, but properly disposed of. They are highly dangerous, and only persons who are skilled in the removal of these chemicals and materials should be considered for the job. That is an urgent problem that is at present receiving Government attention at both State and Federal levels.

The other issue is the question of the clean-up of the Islington railway yards, which is a different matter altogether. Although it still involves toxic materials, their toxicity is not as great as that present in the materials at the waste dump. So, the proposition, which I understand has some support, is that the materials from the Islington railway yards could be placed at the toxic waste dump site, buried deep in the ground and capped in such a way that it would not be dangerous either to the future use of that site or to the community. However, the problem with this morning's article is that it seemed to indicate that the whole lot, including all the present toxic waste at the dump, could be disposed of in such a manner. That is certainly not the case; it is not what the UTLC supports; and it is not what community groups in that area support. It is therefore important to get the correct position on the public record.

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I rise this afternoon to place on public record some deep concerns that I have with respect to the Opposition and its attitude to youth unemployment. The hypocritical approach that we have witnessed recently is something of which people need to be aware. On the one hand, the Opposition is always calling for new initiatives and job creation programs for all South Australians and, in particular, for our young people. On the other hand, when—mainly in connection with the Youth Unemployment Task Force (but also including other initiatives)—the Premier and the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education and Minister for Youth Affairs come out with what has been widely accepted by most community groups in South Australia as a great proposal for getting young people into work, we see the Labor Party trying to pull that program apart.

Looking from this side at members opposite, I find it interesting that not one member of the parliamentary Labor Party currently in Opposition has ever had to employ anybody: members opposite have only ever been employees. Is it any wonder, therefore, that they are not prepared to accept or understand the great impediments that are currently operating in Australia which prevent young people from getting jobs?

I have been listening to a substantial amount of radio—the ABC in particular—in the past few days during my travels in the car. It is interesting to note, whether you get early morning callers on the Julia Lester program or in the afternoon Soapbox program with Philip Satchell, that almost all those callers strongly support this initiative of the Government. It is unfortunate that due to the efforts of the Opposition the wrong sort of information gets out. To show how misinformed some members of the community are, I cite the instance of a young person speaking on radio who said that she believed it was a right that young people should have opportunities involving payroll tax and WorkCover. She said that she thought that was something that the Government was taking away from them. It is sad when I see that sort of uninformed attitude, and yet members opposite say that they are lobbying for jobs.

The initiative of the Government is to ensure that there is an exemption from payroll tax and that there will be an exemption from WorkCover and those other impediments that clearly stop employers from employing young people. I was a young person myself at one stage, and during my studies my salary was quite low, but at least I had the opportunity of working with experienced people, of getting up early in the mornings to go to work, as well as having the satisfaction of being in the work force, and at the end of the day that study and that opportunity led me to bigger and better things. Clearly, that is the intention of our State Government.

It is a pity that the Opposition did not approach the issue more on a bipartisan basis and indicate to the Federal Labor Opposition that, whether or not it cares to admit it, the fact of the matter is that unfair dismissal laws and the fact that there is an absolute halt to getting the industrial relations legislation through federally is really holding back opportunities for young people. People speaking on radio in the past few days who have been employing apprentices for 40 years, people who have been in small businesses and people who want jobs all agree that the current industrial relations situation federally does not create the right sort of climate for employers to have that confidence that we so badly need them to have to take on young people. It is not about scab labour, as the Leader of the Opposition likes to run across the media. It has nothing whatsoever to do with scab labour: it is about giving young people an opportunity to get into employment and still be able to be involved in training.

What we have done as a State Government with the 1 500 young people involved in similar sorts of proposals over the past 12 months is fantastic. In my own office, one young person who was unemployed for three years now has a full-time job as a result of a training program involving TAFE studies and working with me. The current trainee in my office is a highly talented young individual, and I know that it will not be too long before we will be looking for a new trainee, because someone in the workplace will grab her.

So, in summary, we have a State Government that is getting the State back in order, a Government that is doing the right things with restructuring and reform and coming up with

initiatives supported by at least 85 per cent of the community in South Australia, and yet once again it has been highly demonstrated that for cheap political point scoring members opposite are prepared to jeopardise those young people's future employment, and I will not allow that to happen in my electorate.

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

Mr BASS (Florey): I would like to comment on the article by Alex Kennedy in the *City Messenger* last week and also in the *Sunday Mail* of 20 October in which she listed some former Liberal members of Parliament and one former President of the Liberal Party who have been appointed to boards and committees in South Australia. Alex Kennedy's article, as usual, was biased, one-sided and a diatribe. The Government has absolutely nothing to be ashamed of in relation to the appointments it has made to boards and committees. Unlike the Labor Party, which has made an art form of rejecting anyone who happens to have differing ideological views to its own, the Liberal Government has made appointments on merit.

One has only to recall how the Hawke, Keating and Bannon Governments politicised the public sector to realise how opportunistic they were with their political appointments. The Federal Labor Government's appointments from the union movement to the Federal Industrial Relations Committee has gone down in industrial relations folklore. A meeting of the Deputy President of the Federal IRC almost equated to a meeting of the former ACTU Executive.

The article in question mentioned several people: ex-members of Parliament, Liberal members of Parliament—Martin Cameron, David Tonkin, Michael Wilson and Jennifer Cashmore. What Alex Kennedy forgot to say, or deliberately omitted, was the fact that the Liberal Government has made appointments involving, for example, the ex-Labor Minister who lost his seat in the last election, Greg Crafter, who has been appointed to the Passenger Transport Board and to the Charitable and Social Welfare Fund Board. Former Labor MP Mike Duigan was appointed as a WorkCover review officer, and former Labor MP Terry Groom was appointed to the board of management of the Repatriation Hospital. The article also mentions Vicky Chapman, a past President of the Liberal Party.

The Hon. W.A. Matthew: A very good one, too.

Mr BASS: Yes, she was an excellent President of the Liberal Party. As usual, Alex Kennedy forgot to say that a former Labor Party President, Greg Stevens, was promoted to be a Deputy President of the State Industrial Relations Commission. In addition, another former Labor Party President, Brian Martin, was appointed to the WorkCover board. Where is the bias? I have no doubt that people such as David Tonkin, Michael Wilson, Jennifer Cashmore and Vicky Chapman have outstanding credentials to be on these boards and committees. I also have no doubt that Greg Crafter, Mike Duigan and Terry Groom are well qualified to be members of the boards to which they have been appointed, and I know that Greg Stevens and Brian Martin have experience in industrial relations and WorkCover, and their appointments are appropriate.

The *Sunday Mail* article, which was written by political writer Mike Duffy, chose to be very biased. It included photos of Carolyn Hewson, who is a board member and is well-known in the banking trade and has great expertise, and

Rob Gerard, who is a well-known Adelaide businessman. The article also nominated James Porter, but, in line with the *Sunday Mail's* usual standard, the only problem was that it displayed a photograph of the Governor, Sir Eric Neal. It should apologise for that.

In the industrial affairs portfolio, many trade union officials have been appointed to various bodies, and, in the correctional services and emergency services portfolios, trade union officials have been appointed, for example, to the South Australian Ambulance Board and the Public Employees Housing Advisory Committee. Jack Wright and Des Corcoran, two well-known Labor stalwarts, were appointed to boards, and I do not need to say anything about Des Corcoran's track record on the TAB board, because he really is one out of the box.

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): I want to address an issue that relates to a Federal communications matter. My concerns revolve around the lack of regulations governing the advertising of adult telephone line services through the electronic and print media. Neither I nor I suspect other members of this House have much experience at dialling or listening to 0055 numbers or adult contact telephone lines that deliver topics of a sexual nature. In fact, I have never dialled one. However, detailed on the telephone account of a constituent of mine was a set of 0055 and international calls which, according to him, blew his budget. He said that he did not make the calls and was surprised and emotionally upset to see the calls to Israel, Guyana and Canada on his bill.

Adding further to my constituent's emotional trauma was the fact that approximately 80 per cent of his account related to sex party information, dating agencies and lesbian and male masturbation information service lines. Both Telstra and Optus recognise that there is a problem with criminal elements tapping into other people's phone lines and running up huge bills. This is very distressing for families. It creates unnecessary suspicion upon family members because it appears that illicit sex calls have been made. In some cases I am sure that it can wreck marital relationships as well as bank accounts.

On this occasion, my constituent came to me and we were fortunate enough to be assisted by compassionate staff in Telstra. The staff took account of my constituent's medical history and emotional state and wiped the slate clean. Telstra and Optus will not continue to wipe out accounts of this nature. Thankfully, a block on all 0055 and international lines has been placed on my constituent's telephone line. This is a Federal matter but these issues bite deeply at the local level. I hope that members on both sides of the House would agree with me in seeking from the Federal Minister for Communications assurances as to what is being done to stop the tapping of other people's telephone lines by mischievous elements.

Unsuspecting members of the public or adolescents who dial these numbers for a prank or seek the attention of these telephone services should be informed that they are dialling into the Internet, that they are dialling an international line. I know that some people cannot control their inquisitiveness, and I refer to the use of the sex information telephone services. However, if they know from the outset that they are dialling an international line, with all the costs that involves, I am sure that they may refrain from dialling these services.

Some naive people must think that they are having a cosy chat with a local person. In reality, they may be speaking to a person in Mexico, the US, Sweden, Africa, Asia or some

other international location. The cost of \$45 to \$50 plus per call would put many unsuspecting members of the public on the financial slippery slope. Advertising regulations need to be tightened. Currently, the price of the call is shown, but not that the call goes on to the Internet. Tobacco companies and other service providers have to abide by regulations where an adverse risk to the consumer is proven to exist. As I said, I have no experience with this type of call, but I am well acquainted with the increased blood pressure and the shock that is felt at the cost of an international call that is identified incorrectly on an account.

Simply advertising the cost of the call is insufficient. The general public should be informed that local calls are not used when the Internet is tapped into. Telstra staff have informed my office that this is a real and serious problem, that they are faced with embarrassed and frustrated customers when they receive their accounts and see Internet calls recorded, particularly of the 0055 type and the other type to which I referred. Something must be done to address this problem, because it caused distress to my constituent, and I am sure that it is distressing for others.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): Members would be well aware that under our Government the level of unemployment has come down considerably—

Mr Foley: It has gone up!

Mr MEIER:—from about 11 per cent to about 9 per cent. Boy, the member for Hart has had a bad day today! We recognise that unemployment is far too high, and it is particularly distressing to see the number of young people unemployed. It has been highlighted over the past few days that some 8 000 young people, particularly teenagers, are unemployed. I should like to give credit to the Government's initiative of Job Bank, which is a new, radical proposal which seeks to help thousands of teenagers obtain work.

Most members would appreciate the problems of being unemployed, of being bored, of not knowing what to do, of getting into trouble because of the boredom, of not having sufficient money, and of seeing your colleagues who have jobs while you are not able to be in the work force. Job Bank seeks to address that key ingredient of ensuring that young people have the chance to get a job.

I was interested to hear the Minister on 5AN this morning, on the Keith Conlon show, explaining some of the attributes of the Job Bank scheme. I was disappointed that a spokesperson from the Youth Affairs Council came on and seemed to knock the scheme in several ways. First, they questioned whether the amount of money being paid was sufficient and whether there was justification in not paying the normal award rate for a person at a certain age level. It needs to be emphasised that the type of people we are talking about who try to get on Job Bank are the ones who have been unsuccessful in getting a job. I assume that most, if not all, of them have tried and tried but they have not entered the work force. Perhaps they have not been academically gifted—in fact, in most cases they would not have been academically gifted—or for whatever reason they have not done well at school and, therefore, they have not had the chance to get work experience. Job Bank will offer that opportunity, assuming the various preconditions can be arranged.

I dare say that many members have had the chance to speak to young people. A couple of lads with whom I have had some association on several occasions have been unemployed. However, they have managed to get a job, even if they have been earning as little as \$10 a day. One lad has

worked for the better part of 12 hours a day, earning only about \$10 for some of those days, and occasionally he would get as much as \$50, but he did not mind. He was delighted that he was able to be in the work force and to have a chance to get out there. As a result of that, he has been able to get a permanent job and is happy. However, he had to struggle in earlier times, about 12 months ago.

By way of further example, I know of a young lad who was not earning much in his casual work, but it led to better things. Job Bank will do exactly that. I hope that people will not knock it simply because the pay rate is not as high as that of other people who perhaps have done well at school and who have shown some initiative. The whole idea is to give people the chance to get work experience. A constituent of mine yesterday said, 'If this scheme was operating now in the Copper Triangle area, on farms alone we could put 20 to 30 people to work tomorrow. No problem; they would be employed.' However, because of current conditions, farmers are not prepared to employ young people as too many risks are involved. I urge everyone to get behind the Job Bank scheme. It has great potential, and it will help get thousands of our young unemployed off the dole queues. It will be a great boost for them in the first instance and, dare I say, a boost for South Australia.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM, RECREATION AND SPORT COMMISSION BILL

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Minister for Tourism) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to establish the South Australian Tourism, Recreation and Sport Commission; to develop and promote tourism, recreation and sport in the State; to promote the staging of major events in the State; to repeal the South Australian Tourism Commission Act 1993; and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: 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.

The purpose of this Legislation is to provide the legal framework for the restructure and rationalisation of the South Australian Tourism Commission, the Office for Recreation and Sport, Australian Major Events, the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and the Adelaide Convention Centre, into one organisation which will have specific responsibilities for:-

- (i) The promotion and marketing of South Australia as a tourist and convention destination;
- (ii) The promotion, management and staging of major sporting, arts, cultural, recreational and other festivals within the State;
- (iii) The promotion and development of recreation and sport.

The new Commission will have the charter to take the State's evolving tourism, leisure, recreation and sporting sectors forward into the Year 2000 and beyond with confidence, direction and enthusiasm.

At the outset the Government states that the intention of this restructure is to improve the outcomes for all operating divisions within this new Commission by introducing contemporary private sector management philosophies and practices.

The present structure with five separate entities operating independently is inefficient, lacks co-ordination and drive and doesn't readily embrace forward thinking ideas and policies. These entities are currently linked informally at Ministerial, rather than board and management level.

The present South Australian Tourism Commission is managed by a Board of ten members, Australian Major Events ten members,

Adelaide Convention Centre seven members, Adelaide Entertainment Centre four members while the Office for Recreation and Sport currently has eleven separate advisory bodies and committees. In addition, there are four separate marketing organisations and five separate financial administration functions associated with this structure.

This Bill will lead to the restructure of existing Boards (SA Tourism Commission; Adelaide Entertainment Centre; Australian Major Events; Adelaide Convention Centre), it will establish a new Authority consisting of a Board (of up to 10 persons), with a Chief Executive Officer, who will be responsible for the operations of the five entities.

The existing structures have been reviewed by Government and it is proposed to create a single structure to achieve the following:

1. Reduction in duplication of decision making in areas including marketing, administration, corporate services and capital works.
2. To more efficiently use existing human financial and other resources.
3. To reduce the number of boards and board members, and in so doing reduce the costs associated with their administration.
4. To improve the opportunity to capitalise on tourism and sport related outcomes created by the 2000 Olympics and Paralympics being held in Australia.
5. To enable existing budgets to be spent on the marketing and development of tourism, cultural and art events, events tourism sport and recreation in South Australia rather than in duplicated management practices. This restructure will lead to many benefits, in particular:

- A new Board and executive will be better positioned to instil a more corporate attitude and culture that operates to serve and benefit the whole group, rather than individual business plans.
- The Board will be able to establish a series of specialist advisory committees, as and when required, to deal with particular matters relating to tourism, event management and recreation and sport.
- A new streamlined organisation will result in the refocussing of directions and clear goals to help generate economic activity as we move towards the next century.
- The new structure will provide for a more co-ordinated approach to the marketing of the State from a tourism, recreation and sport perspective. A prime example of these sectors coming together is the Warrina Resort, where the golf course and marina are positive sport and recreation selling points for this tourism destination and the Heysen trail, the second longest walking trail in the world, passing through some of our key regions.
- It will ensure maximum benefits to the South Australian community, in both regional and metropolitan areas, providing tourism, sport and recreation facilities and in promoting the State.
- Some staff restructuring and cost savings in group expenditure will occur. It is intended that any cost savings that do occur will be put back into additional marketing or additional programmes for recreation and sport. Advice from Consultants indicates that this proposed amalgamation will produce an annual saving of \$900 000. It has been agreed by the Government that these funds will be retained and be redirected into additional marketing of the State's tourism, sport and recreation activities.
- Major capital projects, especially relating to tourism infrastructure, sport and recreation programs, can be better managed and co-ordinated. The Government is particularly concerned to ensure that maximum progress is made to upgrade existing infrastructure and develop new facilities consistent with community expectations.
- The Recreation and Sport Division (under the new Commission) will have access to sponsorship and marketing funds from the private sector to supplement Government funding. This new arrangement will directly benefit minor sports and sports that have not been able to attract sponsorship in the past.

In addition it will provide the opportunity for the Division to recruit specialist professional coaches at salary levels more consistent with current international expectations, while at the same time, maintaining the existing Sports Institute and other associated roles.

The creation of this new Commission is more than just linking together business divisions in the Tourism, Recreation and Sport portfolios.

It also provides a timely and appropriate opportunity to formalise the links that exist in relation to the packaging and promotion of artistic events under the province of the Minister for Arts.

South Australia has long been recognised for presenting some of the best festivals in the world, for example the internationally renowned Adelaide Festival of Arts.

However, the Arts sector in South Australia does not start and finish with the biennial Festival of Arts. Many other programmes and productions and festivals of local and international standard are presented every week for the benefit of South Australians. Recent examples include, the Barossa Music Festival and the Tom Roberts Retrospective. Annually the State has the Schutzenfest, Glendi Greek Festival, Kernewek Lowender Cornish Festival and the Come Out Youth Arts Event among many others that now have well established reputations. These events are major income generators for the State while providing local, interstate and overseas guests with the opportunity to experience the very best parts of our culture.

Forthcoming events that will contribute substantial financial benefits to the State include, Wagner's Ring Cycle Opera, Womadelaide, World Cup Cycling, Australian Mens Hardcourt Tennis, Australian Rose Festival, Adelaide International Provincial Rugby Sevens, Golden Oldies Netball and InterDominion Trotting Championships. All these events will benefit from the restructured Commission.

The proposed Commission will be responsible for linking the marketing and promotion of Arts with Tourism, Recreation and Sport and will provide Government with the opportunity to carry out a strategy that will continue to present the very best the State has to offer and will ensure that we can generate the greatest economic benefit for the State.

Clearly, there is a logical connection between Tourism, the Office of Recreation and Sport, Major Events and two of the major South Australian tourism and events facilities, the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and the Adelaide Convention Centre. These two facilities are focal points in our continuing efforts to market the State as an events and convention destination. The new Commission will have responsibility of ensuring that both centres are utilised to their maximum benefit.

I wish to draw attention to the House the fact that this concept of a coordinated strategy for the public administration of tourism, recreation and sports and promotion of major arts and cultural events is not new. Similar successful models have already been established in Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand, and I understand other States in Australia are currently reviewing their structures.

The Government wants to re-emphasise the upgrading of current recreation and sport facilities and infrastructure. Work has already started on two new stadium developments at Mile End, catering to athletics and netball, which I point out is the greatest participation sport in South Australia. Preliminary work has also started on the upgrading of Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium. These new facilities, when completed, will enhance the Government's ability to attract major international sporting events to the State.

The Government is reviewing current sporting facilities with the aim of producing a coordinated plan for the development of new and existing facilities. One of the responsibilities of the new Commission will be to address this plan and to ensure it is implemented as a matter of priority over the next ten years.

This restructure recognises the opportunities to develop the 'business of sport' and to have sport recognised in its own right as a rapidly emerging industry. While the leisure benefits of sport are obvious, there is also potential for sport to make a significant contribution to the State's economy. For example, South Australia is already pursuing the many lucrative opportunities provided by the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

It is not commonly known that AFL football is one of the State's biggest tourist events and I am confident that the RAMS will become another tourism catalyst in their own right.

These opportunities, however, will only be realised if our sports administration takes a more focussed, professional and business-like approach to pursuing the opportunities that will be forthcoming.

The new Commission will not just act as an administrator, but will drive these commercial opportunities and set new standards in event management.

In addition the new Commission will, through the existing Regional Tourism Boards, take sports, recreation and arts programs and activities to the State as a whole.

There still remains a degree of unfulfilled potential in South Australia's tourism regions, such as the area from the Mid-North, through the Flinders Ranges, which has an abundance of unspoilt and untapped sporting, leisure and tourism potential; Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas, which boast spectacular coastline and some of the

world's best whale-watching locations; and the South-East, home of the world-famous Coorong and the Coonawarra.

The Commission will improve the promotion of these areas, in addition to South Australia's more commonly identified tourism and leisure destinations, such as—Kangaroo Island, Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Adelaide Hills and the River Murray.

The Commission will ensure that there is a single, clear message sent out to both Australia and our international markets emphasising South Australia as a sensational place to visit to experience our tourist features and the opportunity to participate and enjoy the States recreation and sporting facilities.

We aim to increase the value of tourism in South Australia to \$2.4 billion annually by the Year 2000, creating an additional 10 000 jobs in the process. In addition, the new Commission will aim to achieve positive growth rates in the sport and recreation sectors.

This restructure is about taking the State's existing talents and resources and refocussing these with the aim of maximising the social and economic growth for South Australia and ensuring that our tourism recreation and sporting activities are based on sound business practices and outcomes.

I look forward to this restructure with a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm.

Combining the management of existing authorities with new direction will maximise opportunities for all South Australians and will have substantial benefits for the tourism, sport, recreation and entertainment art event sectors of our economy and our culture.

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Clause 1: Short title

Clause 2: Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Clause 3: Object

The object of this proposed Act is to establish a statutory corporation to assist in securing economic and social benefits for the people of South Australia through—

- promoting and developing South Australia as a tourist and convention destination; and
- promoting the staging of major sporting, arts, cultural, recreational or other events within the State; and
- promoting recreation and sport generally.

Clause 4: Interpretation

This clause contains definitions of words and phrases used in the proposed Act and other provisions to be used when interpreting the proposed provisions.

PART 2—SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RECREATION AND SPORT COMMISSION

DIVISION 1—ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

Clause 5: Establishment of Commission

The South Australian Tourism, Recreation and Sport Commission (the Commission) is established as a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal that is capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name with the functions and powers assigned or conferred by or under this proposed Act. The Commission is an instrumentality of the Crown and holds its property on behalf of the Crown.

DIVISION 2—BOARD

Clause 6: Establishment of board

A board is established as the governing body of the Commission.

Clause 7: Ministerial control

The board is subject to control and direction by the Minister. The board must, in relation to each financial year, enter into a performance agreement with the Minister setting performance targets for the Commission that the board is to pursue in that financial year.

DIVISION 3—CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Clause 8: Chief Executive

The office of Chief Executive of the Commission is established and the Chief Executive is, subject to the control and direction of the board, responsible for managing the staff and resources of the Commission and giving effect to the policies and decisions of the board.

DIVISION 4—BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURES

Clause 9: Composition of board

The board consists of not less than 7 or more than 10 members appointed by the Governor. Each member of the board must have—

- qualifications and experience in financial management; or
- qualifications and experience in marketing; or
- experience as a legal practitioner; or
- experience in carrying on a business; or

- experience in the tourism, recreation or sporting industries or in the staging of events.

Clause 10: Terms and conditions of membership of members

A member of the board will be appointed for a term, not exceeding 3 years, specified in the instrument of appointment and, at the expiration of a term of appointment, will be eligible for reappointment.

Clause 11: Vacancies or defects in appointment of members

An act or proceeding of the board is not invalid by reason only of a vacancy in its membership and, despite the subsequent discovery of a defect in the appointment of a member, an act or proceeding of the board will be as valid and effectual as if the member had been duly appointed.

Clause 12: Remuneration

A member of the board is entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses as may be determined by the Governor.

Clause 13: Proceedings

Subject to the usual limitations for board procedure, the board may determine its own procedures.

Clause 14: Common seal and execution of documents

The Commission has a common seal that may only be affixed to a document in pursuance of a decision by the board and such affixing must be attested to by 2 board members. The board may authorise certain persons to execute documents on its behalf.

Clause 15: Delegation

The board may, by instrument in writing, delegate any of its functions or powers. A delegate must not act pursuant to the delegation in any matter in which the delegate has a direct or indirect pecuniary or personal interest. (Penalty: \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years.)

Clause 16: Disclosure of interest

A member of the board who has a direct or indirect pecuniary or personal interest in a matter under consideration by the board must disclose the nature of the interest to the board and must not take part in any deliberations or decision of the board in relation to that matter. (Penalty: \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years.) However, a member of the board will not be taken to have a direct or indirect interest in a matter by reason only of the fact that the member has an interest in the matter that is shared in common with the public, the tourism, recreation or sporting industries generally or a substantial section of the public or of such an industry.

Clause 17: Members' duties of honesty, care and diligence

A member of the board must at all times act honestly in the performance of official functions. (Penalty: \$20 000 or imprisonment for 4 years.)

A member of the board must at all times exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in the performance of official functions.

If a member of the board is culpably negligent in the performance of official functions, the member is guilty of an offence. (Penalty: \$20 000.) A member is not culpably negligent unless the court is satisfied the member's conduct fell sufficiently short of the standard required of the member to warrant the imposition of a criminal sanction.

A member or former member of the board must not make improper use of information acquired through his or her official position to gain directly or indirectly a personal advantage for himself, herself or another, or to cause detriment to the Commission or the State. (Penalty: \$20 000 or imprisonment for 4 years.)

A member of the board must not make improper use of his or her official position to gain directly or indirectly a personal advantage for himself, herself or another or to cause detriment to the Commission or the State. (Penalty: \$20 000 or imprisonment for 4 years.)

Clause 18: Immunity of members

A member of the board incurs no civil liability for an honest act or omission in the performance or purported performance of functions or duties under this proposed Act. (This immunity does not extend to culpable negligence.) A civil liability that would, but for this proposed section, attach to a member of the board attaches instead to the Crown.

PART 3—OPERATIONS OF COMMISSION

DIVISION 1—FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

Clause 19: Functions of Commission

The Commission's primary functions are—

1. to promote the State (internationally and domestically) as a tourist destination; and
2. to promote the State (internationally and domestically) as a venue for the holding of conventions and conferences; and
3. to undertake on behalf of the State—

- the promotion of new or existing sporting, arts, cultural, recreational or other events to be held within the State; and
- the co-ordination of bids by other persons for such an event; and
- the financing, underwriting or sponsorship of such an event; and
- the development of criteria for the assessment of the economic and social benefits accruing to the State from the holding of such events; and

4. to promote and develop recreation and sport within the State.

The Commission has the following further functions:

- to prepare plans (consistent with relevant economic development plans) for promotion of tourism, recreation and sport within the State and formulate policies and strategies for implementation of the plans; and
- to carry out any other functions assigned to it by the Minister.

The Commission must carry out its functions—

- in consultation with the Minister; and
- in co-operation with other Government agencies, industry, local government and relevant regional and community bodies or groups; and
- in a co-ordinated, efficient and effective manner and, in respect of any functions that are commercial operations, in accordance with prudent commercial principles.

Clause 20: Powers of Commission

The Commission has the powers necessary or incidental to the performance of its functions.

DIVISION 2—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 21: Borrowing by Commission

The Commission may borrow money from the Treasurer or, with the consent of the Treasurer, from any other person for the purpose of performing its functions under this Act. A liability incurred with the consent of the Treasurer is guaranteed by the Treasurer.

Clause 22: Investment by Commission

The Commission may establish and operate bank accounts and may, with the approval of the Treasurer, invest any of its money that is not immediately required for the purposes of this proposed Act in such manner as may be approved by the Treasurer.

Clause 23: Budgets

The Commission must, as required by the Minister, submit to the Minister budgets setting out estimates of the Commission's future income and expenditure. The Commission may not expend money unless provision for the expenditure is made in a budget approved under this proposed section or unless the expenditure is approved by the Minister.

Clause 24: Accounts and audit

The Commission must cause proper accounting records to be kept in relation to its financial affairs, and must have annual statements of account prepared in respect of each financial year. The Auditor-General may at any time audit the accounts of the Commission and must audit the annual statements of account.

PART 4—MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 25: Commission may conduct operations under other name

The Commission may conduct its operations or any part of its operations not under the name *South Australian Tourism, Recreation and Sport Commission* but under any of the following names:

- Tourism South Australia;
- Recreation and Sport South Australia;
- South Australian Sports Institute;
- Australian Major Events;
- any name prescribed by regulation (not being a name already registered or protected under some other Act).

Clause 26: Declaration of logos and official titles

The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Commission declare—

- a logo to be a logo in respect of a particular event or activity promoted by the Commission;
- a name or a title of an event or activity promoted by the Commission to be an official title (again, this cannot be an existing registered or protected name or title).

The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Commission vary or revoke a notice under this proposed section.

Clause 27: Protection of proprietary interests of Commission

The Commission has a proprietary interest in—

- the name *South Australian Tourism, Recreation and Sport Commission*; and

- any other name adopted by the Commission pursuant to a determination under proposed section 25; and
- all official insignia.

A person must not, without the consent of the Commission, in the course of a trade or business—

- use a name in which the Commission has a proprietary interest under this proposed section for the purpose of promoting the sale of services or the provision of any benefits; or
- sell goods marked with official insignia; or
- use official insignia for the purpose of promoting the sale of goods or services.

(Penalty: \$20 000.)

A person must not, without the consent of the Commission, assume a name or description that consist of, or includes, official insignia. (Penalty: \$20 000.)

A consent may be given with or without conditions, generally by notice in the *Gazette* or by notice in writing addressed to an applicant for the consent and may be revoked by the Commission for breach of a condition by notice in writing given personally or by post to a person who has the benefit of the consent.

The Supreme Court may, on the application of the Commission, grant an injunction to restrain a breach of this proposed section.

Clause 28: Seizure and forfeiture of goods

If goods apparently intended for a commercial purpose are marked with official insignia and a member of the police force suspects on reasonable grounds that the use of the insignia has not been authorised by the Commission, the member may seize those goods.

If goods have been seized and—

- proceedings are not instituted for an offence against proposed section 27(2) in relation to the goods within 3 months of their seizure; or
- after proceedings have been instituted and completed, the defendant is not convicted,

the person from whom they were seized is entitled to recover the goods or (if they have been destroyed) market value compensation and compensation for any loss suffered by reason of the seizure of the goods.

The court by which a person is convicted of an offence against this proposed Act may order that goods to which the offence relates be forfeited to the Crown.

Clause 29: Annual report

The Commission must, on or before 30 September in every year, forward to the Minister a report on the Commission's operations for the preceding financial year which the Minister must table in Parliament.

Clause 30: Regulations

The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this proposed Act.

SCHEDULE—REPEAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

The *South Australian Tourism Commission Act 1993* is repealed. The Schedule also contains provisions of a transitional nature. The Office for Recreation and Sport is dissolved, as are two unincorporated boards that currently oversee the management of the Convention Centre and the Government endeavour known as Australian Major Events. Public servants in the Tourist Commission and the Office for Recreation and Sport will be transferred on Ministerial certificate to the new Commission, without loss of rights.

Ms WHITE secured the adjournment of the debate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN (Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Local Government Act 1934. Read a first time.

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: 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 amends sections of the *Local Government Act 1934* as part of a comprehensive review of the whole of the Local Govern-

ment Act. It is also intended that a draft Bill to replace the present Act will be released for public consultation later this year.

The proposals contained in this Miscellaneous Provisions Bill are required to be in place before the overall revision timetable because it supports the Government's structural reform program, and therefore needs to be in place for the May 1997 Local Government elections. The Bill also provides a number of technical amendments which update the existing Act.

The program of structural reform of Local Government areas by the Local Government Boundary Reform Board is in progress. The program encourages voluntary amalgamations of Councils with an aim to halve the number of Councils by the end of the year. Under the current legislation, the Board has the capacity to initiate its own reform proposals and, where these are not accepted by the Councils concerned, polls of electors must be held. However, the current legislation is not clear about the voting eligibility of persons nominated by a body corporate, or nominated by a group of persons who are ratepayers. There is certainly no intention to exclude any class of electors from voting in these polls, and the Bill will clarify voting eligibility to avoid confusion.

Under the Bill, members will be elected for three year terms, an extension to the current two year period. This is in keeping with Local Government in all other Australian States which elects councillors for three or four year terms. Longer terms will assist the corporate planning and management processes of Councils by allowing them to confidently plan ahead for a minimum three year period.

Continuity and commitment to the structural reform process will be fostered by increased terms of office for members elected in May 1997, or at the first general election of a newly formed Council if the election timetable is affected by proclamation in particular cases. Three year terms are also consistent with the requirement that structural reform proposals must include a three year financial and management plan.

Since 1986, District Councils have had the option of conducting elections by postal ballot in remote areas following a proclamation by the Governor. The Bill proposes to make this an option for all Councils to help increase voter participation in Local Government elections and give Councils greater flexibility.

The Bill allows Councils to make special arrangements for the personal delivery of advance and postal voting papers, and the collection of these papers by electoral officers. These proposals give Councils an option to provide assisted advance or postal voting services at various places that are convenient for electors. These could include shopping centres, Council chambers, nursing homes, hospitals, and Aboriginal communities within Council boundaries.

Modifications have been made to the provisions dealing with illegal practices in the conduct of elections to support the increased use of postal voting.

In recent times, there has been much public debate and scrutiny by the media about the perceived secrecy of Council decision making. This Bill strongly reinforces the principle of open government by ensuring members of the public cannot be excluded from Council meetings unless absolutely necessary, and that related documents are not unduly restricted. It also encourages a fully informed debate by Councils about whether and when to consider matters in confidence.

The right of the public to attend meetings can only be overturned if disclosure of the information would cause significant damage, confer an unfair commercial advantage, is relevant to a Development Plan amendment, or the Council has a duty or obligation to deal with certain information on a confidential basis.

The Bill proposes that Councils cannot make an order to keep certain types of information confidential which is of interest to the public. This information includes:

- Employees' remuneration and conditions of service
- The identity of successful tenderers and the reasons for their selection
- The identity of land bought or sold and the reasons for the transaction.

The Bill provides the Minister with the power to investigate and report on Councils that fail to comply with these sections of the Act after an appropriate path of inquiry. This capacity is essential to assure members of the public that due weight is being given to this important area of reform.

It is also proposed that the same freedom of information rights apply to documents which are the subject of an order for confidentiality as those which exist in relation to other Council documentation.

Finally, there are a number of technical amendments to the primary legislation. These include an amendment to the Local Government Superannuation Board's regulation making powers. The amendments allow a regulation to come into operation, in certain circumstances, less than four months after it is made, and where the Minister certifies it is necessary.

The proposed changes to sections of the Local Government Act are essential to the State Government's Structural Reform program and the future accountability of Local Government.

The increased flexibility for postal voting regulations and the extended term for councillors are significant advantages for Local Government, and the increased access to Council information will be a major benefit to the community.

Explanation of Clauses

The provisions of the Bill are as follows:

Clause 1: Short title

This clause provides for the short title of the measure.

Clause 2: Commencement

The measure will be brought into operation by proclamation.

Clause 3: Amendment of s. 21—Formulation of proposals by the Board

The first amendment to section 21 addresses an incorrect cross-reference. The second amendment to section 21 addresses a technical issue concerning nominated agents, being that the Act needs to reflect that while a nominated agent is an 'elector' for the purposes of the Act, it is the body corporate or group that the nominated agent represents that is the ratepayer in respect of the relevant property.

Clause 4: Amendment of s. 58—Meetings of council

It is proposed to insert in section 58 an express requirement that the chief executive officer ensures that items on an agenda given to members of a council are described with reasonable particularity, and that each member receives a copy of any documents or reports that are to be considered at the meeting. The chief executive officer will be able, in consultation with the principal member of the council, to indicate on a document or report (or on a separate notice) any information or matter arising from the document or report that may, if the council so determines, be considered in confidence under the Act (provided that the chief executive officer also specifies the basis on which an order to exclude members of the public from the meeting could be made).

Clause 5: Amendment of s. 60—Procedure at meetings

This is a technical amendment to ensure consistency between sections 60 and 43 of the Act (on the basis that a chairman is chosen at a meeting of the council, and that paragraph (b) of section 60(2a) is redundant).

Clause 6: Amendment of s. 61—Meetings of council committees

This clause makes amendments to section 61 of the Act (relating to meetings of council committees) to ensure consistency with the amendments being made to section 58 of the Act.

Clause 7: Amendment of s. 62—Meetings in public except in certain special circumstances

This clause revises subsection (2) of section 62 of the Act concerning the grounds on which a council or council committee may order that the public be excluded from attendance at a meeting. There will now be four distinct circumstances where an order may be made by a council, namely (1) in order to consider in confidence information or a matter referred to in new subsection (2a) where the council or committee is satisfied that it is reasonably foreseeable that public disclosure could cause significant damage or distress to a person, cause significant damage to the interests of the council or a person, or confer an unfair commercial or financial advantage on a person and accordingly the principle that meetings should be open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential; (2) in order to consider information provided by a public official or authority with a request that it be treated by the council as confidential; (3) in order to consider a proposed amendment to a Development Plan before a Plan Amendment Report is released under the *Development Act 1993*, and (4) in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal, or other legal obligation or duty, or in order to prevent unreasonable exposure to any legal process or liability. New subsection (2a) then sets out various matters that may be considered in connection with the operation of new subsection (2)(a).

Clause 8: Amendment of s. 64—Minutes

A council will not be able to use its powers under section 64(6) to prevent the disclosure of various (specified) matters once a decision has been made by the council. New subsection (7a) will require a council to specify the duration of any order under subsection (6), the

circumstances in which the order will cease to apply, or a period after which the order must be reviewed.

Clause 9: Insertion of ss. 65AAA and 65AAB

It is intended to require that councils prepare a code of practice relating to the principles, policies, procedures and practices that the council will apply for the purposes of the operation of sections 62 and 64(6), (7) and (7a) (as amended by this measure). The code will need to be consistent with prescribed requirements and include any mandatory provision prescribed by the regulations.

New section 65AAB will give the Minister express power to initiate an investigation under Division XIII of Part II of the Act if the Minister has reason to believe that the council has unreasonably excluded members of the public from its meetings under section 62(2) or unreasonably prevented access to documents under section 64(6). The Minister will be required to give a council a reasonable opportunity to give and make explanations and submissions to the Minister before the Minister takes action under this section.

Clause 10: Repeal of s. 65d

A document that is subject to an order made under section 64(6) of the Act will not necessarily be exempt document for the purposes of Part VA of the Act (relating to 'Freedom of Information').

Clause 11: Amendment of s. 65t—Right of access to councils' document

The right to have access to a council's documents in accordance with Part VA of the Act will prevail over the operation of an order under section 64(6).

Clause 12: Amendment of s. 65zb—Refusal of access

This is a consequential amendment.

Clause 13: Amendment of s. 65zq—Internal review

This amendment clarifies the operation section 65zq.

Clause 14: Amendment of s. 73—Local Government Superannuation Scheme

These amendments set out a scheme for the commencement of regulations made by the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, to replace the operation of section 10AA of the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1978*. In particular, the amendments will provide specific grounds on which a regulation may come into operation earlier than four months after it is made, and ensure consistency with requirements under the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* of the Commonwealth.

Clause 15: Amendment of s. 85—Preliminary

These amendments will provide that the close of voting for an election or poll carried out entirely by the use of advance voting papers (ie., under section 106a of the Act) will be at 6 p.m. on the day immediately preceding polling day.

Clause 16: Amendment of s. 89—Polling places and booths, and places for counting votes

These amendments are principally concerned to make it clear that a council may make special arrangements for the delivery of advance voting papers to electors who attend, or reside at, various places.

Clause 17: Amendment of s. 94—Date of elections

This clause will result in council elections being held at three-yearly intervals, commencing on the first Saturday in May, 1997.

Clause 18: Amendment of s. 106—Issue of advance voting papers

This clause makes a technical amendment, will require an envelope bearing declaration votes to comply with prescribed requirements, and will provide that relevant declarations must appear on a tear-off extension to the envelope flap.

Clause 19: Amendment of s. 106a—Voting entirely by use of advance voting papers

This clause recasts section 106a of the Act so as to allow a council to determine that an election or poll will be conducted entirely by the use of advance voting papers (subject to the operation of the section).

Clause 20: Amendment of s. 107—Procedures to be followed for advance voting

Clause 21: Amendment of s. 111—Voting procedure at polling booths

These amendments are consequential on earlier amendments, or provide consistency with earlier amendments.

Clause 22: Amendment of s. 120—Scrutiny of declaration voting papers

This clause makes provision for the removal of the tear-off extensions for declaration votes, and the shuffling of envelopes, before the ballot papers are removed from the envelopes.

Clause 23: Amendment of s. 132—Persons acting on behalf of candidates not to act as witnesses, etc.

This clause clarifies the operation of section 132(1) of the Act in relation to the position of a witness.

Clause 24: Amendment of s. 132a—Persons acting on behalf of candidates not to collect postal voting papers

These amendments strengthen the operation of section 132a of the Act to make express reference to a person who attempts to gain possession of advance voting papers in the specified circumstances. The penalty provision is to be made consistent with other sections of the Act.

Clause 25: Amendment of s. 151—Offences

This amendment will remove the requirement that the members of the public must be excluded from a meeting of a council or council committee before any information included in a return under Part VIII of the Act can be disclosed at the meeting. It is intended that the general provisions and principles of section 62 will now apply in the relevant case.

Ms WHITE secured the adjournment of the debate.

SUPERANNUATION FUNDS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (LIABILITY TO TAXES, ETC.) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 3 October. Page 106.)

Mr FOLEY (Hart): This Bill will not take long to process. I have been asked by the shadow Treasurer, in my capacity as shadow Finance Minister, to carry this Bill through. It is clearly a straightforward Bill in the sense that it is simply one of the flow-on effects of the national competition policy and one of no doubt many consequential Bills that will need to be passed through the House as we move to the new arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States.

I note in the Minister's second reading explanation that it reaffirms the commitment of the Federal Government to provide competition payments to the States. I ask the Minister to touch on that point at the third reading. It is not a particular of the Bill, but reference is made to competition payments. I assume that the Minister has an agreement with the Federal Government to honour the competition payments and that they will flow through. This Bill has the support of the Opposition, and we should move directly to the third reading.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer): I thank the Opposition and the member for Hart for their support. The honourable member is quite correct: we have to honour commitments and have a transparent process. The tax equivalent regime that has been incorporated into the State Government has to spread to all its instrumentalities. It means that almost all taxes paid in the past—some \$1.7 million—were required by the former SASFIT, as the member for Hart would well remember. Two items have been added, because they are required under the policy which states that one should compete on an equal basis with the private sector, namely with regard to wholesale sales tax and council rates. We estimate that about \$200 000 extra will be collected through that process. With assets of over \$2 billion, I can assure the honourable member that it will have little effect on their financial outcome. We are doing something that is in keeping with the competition policy and, indeed, with the Government's determination that we should not allow State Government instrumentalities or departments to compete in areas without their explicitly showing the same costs that would be borne in outside enterprise. I thank the member for Hart for his support of the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

LOTTERY AND GAMING (SWEEPSTAKES) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 3 October. Page 106.)

Mr FOLEY (Hart): As I indicated, I will take the carriage of this extremely important Bill, which was the subject of much debate. I must confess that I do not normally break shadow Cabinet solidarity but, without naming the members involved, I indicate that there was considerable debate about this Bill. It endeavours to clarify the definition of 'sweepstake'. The second reading explanation states that football tipping competitions have been included in the definition of 'sweepstake'. The definition of 'sweepstake' is a random selection of a number, an outcome. Football tipping is not a random selection: it is a science. That created some debate amongst one or two of my shadow Cabinet colleagues, who do not believe that football tipping is anything but pure chance.

I said to my colleague—and it is a pity she is not in the Chamber because I would be inclined to name her—and also to Caucus that tipping in football is a science: it is not some sort of random selection. Indeed, if you back Port Adelaide each week, the chances are that you will win more often than you will lose, as the member for Bright, as a Port Adelaide supporter, well knows. If you put Port Adelaide first, you are on an absolute winner—no ifs, buts, or whatever. Dare I say that, when Port Power makes the AFL, you might need to adjust tipping to take into account the fact that it may not be quite as dominant in the AFL as it has been in the SANFL. So, please, adjust your science, but it is very much a—

Mr Leggett: A what?

Mr FOLEY: It is not a random selection when you tip in football. I was very tongue-tied. I make the point that the Bill caused considerable debate but, in the end, I won out over my colleagues. The art of tipping is a very important science, as I said, made easier when you tip Port Adelaide each week. That is all I can say on the matter.

This Bill tightens up the definition of 'sweepstake'. I have not quite worked out who this Bill confused. Perhaps the Minister will enlighten the House as to who in the Lotteries Commission or Crown Law actually lost sleep over it. Apparently someone was lying awake at night concerned that the Bill did not tightly define the difference between a sweepstake and a footy draw. I am glad that precious moments in this House have been taken up to clarify that issue and that, in the future, if someone wins \$42.50 on a footy pool, the result cannot be challenged in the High Court because of a poor definition of the Act. The Opposition is pleased to support the Minister.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer): This is a moment of great equanimity. The issue of some games that are played and the extent to which they are brought within the purview of the Lottery and Gaming Act has been of interest for some considerable time. We did not believe that there should be any doubt that a game of skill, such as footy tipping, as indicated by the member for Hart, should come into the general arena of a pure game of chance. We have all participated in a footy pool. I do not have one running in my office, which is a great pity. However, as a Sturt supporter, if I showed any allegiance I suspect I would be at the bottom of the pool.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: They actually did a little better this year and, if a tipping competition gets going next year, I may insert Sturt as one of my selected teams. In this day and age we thought it would be a good time to clarify the Act. Tipping competitions are a lot of good fun and do not create any harm. The fact that they are caught by—

The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: No, we do not generate any tax, as the member for Giles reflects. The issue of whether they should remain under the Lottery and Gaming Act simply by absence of definition had to be clarified at some stage. We are clarifying this issue: quite clearly, if the Bill is passed, footy tipping contests will not be caught under the legislation, whereas under the previous definition there was some debate. Also, as the Minister for Police, I would have had trouble standing up in this House if we had not pursued the letter of the law. We would not want that to happen. I would have upset 90 per cent of the South Australian population if that were the case so, to save me any embarrassment and problems that may arise from competing priorities, we are delighted that the Opposition supports this simple change.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

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

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr LEGGETT (Hanson): I rise to support the initiatives that have been taken in the area of education by the Brown Government and, indeed, by Minister Lucas, who is to be congratulated for the work he has done as Minister for Education and Children's Services during the past 2½ years, particularly in the area of specialist support staff and children with specific learning difficulties. This is an area of particular interest to me, as a former teacher of 25 years experience, which is a fair time in the classroom. For much of that time I specialised in assisting children who had specific learning difficulties. I found this to be probably the most satisfying and rewarding time of my teaching career.

Much of that time was spent with children who had specific learning difficulties and was also done outside the classroom in a private coaching capacity. Whilst the Brown Government made some difficult but very necessary budget cuts in education in 1994-95, resources were increased by more than \$10 million over four years to provide extra help for children with learning difficulties. The following statistics are proof of the Brown Government's commitment to assisting children with learning difficulties. In 1995 all 6 000 pre-school, junior and primary school teachers were given intensive training through the Cornerstones program to provide them with greater skills in identifying particular problems experienced by children and, more importantly, to identify ways of assisting them in their classroom situations.

This year, 1996, \$2 million was given to schools in the form of cash grants to provide extra assistance to students with learning difficulties. The stipulation was—and I think it was a very wise and practical stipulation—that schools were required to have an early assistance action plan, and the money had to be used to implement this particular plan. This grant could purchase additional special education teaching time, additional SSO hours, additional training and development or additional curriculum resources and materials. In

other words, it was very much open-ended. The 1996 budget announced that the above grant to schools would be \$3 million in 1997, an increase of 50 per cent. This grant must be spent on providing extra help to students with learning difficulties, under the Early Assistance Action Plan, or help students identified this year by the basic skills testing. I have been a great advocate and fan of basic skills testing, which has been subjected to a lot of criticism by the Opposition but which I believe has been very successful. If all the \$3 million was spent on SSO hours, 100 FTEs could be employed to provide extra help for students with learning difficulties.

The Brown Government has already increased the number of speech pathology positions by six, and this year's budget provides for a further increase of another six positions. An increase of 12 speech pathology positions is a significant increase in the level of speech pathology available to students to help them with their learning.

The other good news that needs to be highlighted, because we get so much negative muck thrown at us by the Opposition, is that the Brown Government has increased the number of guidance officer salaries by six to help reduce the previously unacceptable delays for critical assessment of children with learning difficulties. This Government has provided significant additional funds for the new Early Intervention programs in preschool and in children's services—a vital time.

For example, Eclipse, First Start and Parents as Teachers are new, innovative programs designed to identify and help children with learning difficulties. During this year the Government provided significant funding to establish the new Learning Difficulties Support Team, which is providing specialist advice and training for teachers. The 1996 education budget includes an extra \$300 000 for a significant expansion of the Reading Recovery program in South Australian schools. The Early Years Strategy is the No. 1 priority for the Brown Government, and it will certainly continue to provide extra resources to help students with specific learning difficulties.

At the other end of the scale, the Brown Government is also committed to helping gifted students and their education needs. The Government is committed to establishing schools and programs for students with high intellectual potential (SHIP). Developing the potential of all students, whether it be those with specific learning difficulties or gifted students with high intellectual potential, is a key priority of the Government. For too long the particular needs of gifted students have been ignored. On 14 October Minister Lucas announced the first of three special secondary schools for gifted students. In 1997, 30 students will commence at The Heights school, and enrolment will grow to 150 over the next five years.

It is well worth noting that over 300 students have expressed interest in enrolling in the secondary gifted education program. Selection tests and interviews will be held later this month and, I believe, early in November. The Brown Government will provide \$300 000 during the next three years to establish the program and get it going at The Heights. Similar amounts of money will be made available to establish the other two schools for gifted students, yet to be named, in 1998 and 1999.

I would also like to refer to DECSTech 2001. This Government is committed to ensuring that our young people are prepared for life and work in an information-rich world.

We all know that it is a tough time for young people regarding job opportunities. In the early 1960s, when I left school, it was much easier. One had a number of jobs to choose from: now we have a situation where hundreds of people can be chasing the one job. South Australia is rapidly becoming the IT centre of Australia and the natural springboard into the Asia-Pacific region. In the 1996-97 budget, the Brown Government has committed \$15 million from the capital works budget for the first year of a five year strategy—DECSTech 2001—to provide computers and associated high technology to all schools in South Australia.

This existing initiative will bring the world into every school and classroom, and every school and classroom into the world. Major features of DECSTech 2001 include a subsidy scheme for schools to purchase computers and funding to provide cabling, routers and other infrastructure necessary to link all schools in an education network. Students in remote and isolated schools will especially benefit from the myriad possibilities that the state of the art technology will deliver. Up to \$4 million will be given next year to provide subsidies to assist parent fundraising in the purchase of new computers. Major objectives of DECSTech 2001 include the provision of one computer for every five students, with classrooms to be linked direct to the Internet and an education network. I applaud the Minister. I believe that both he and the Government have displayed initiative and vision, and South Australian education is destined for a bright and productive future.

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): Cutbacks to essential community services appear to be all too common under this Government. The State and Federal Governments have once again refused to acknowledge service needs and their important lifeline connections to our communities. Once again the Government is using the amalgamation of services as an economic rationalism program cynically to cut community services. This time, the Adelaide Inner Northern Community Legal Service, previously known as Kilburn Enfield Prospect Legal Service, has been refused funding and is facing a life and death struggle to survive.

The Adelaide Inner Northern Community Legal Service was established in 1992 with the support of the then Federal Labor Government and, indeed, the support of the legal community, recognising the needs within the community. This legal service has been a godsend to the local community, particularly to the people of the District of Torrens. On a limited budget, the centre outreached into my electorate and provided legal advice to those who could not afford to pay for such services. Sadly, this outreach service is no longer available, and families and those in need are ignored.

The statistics compiled by the legal centre in its September 1994-95 annual report show community support for the services provided. Over 675 clients received assistance. The issues that were covered related to children; criminal; traffic offences; property damages; injuries; immigration; births, deaths etc.; benefits, pensions and employment; housing, tenancy and board; neighbours; wills and probate; taxation; general complaints; debts; contracts; defamation; and equal opportunity.

This shows that there is a need for the services provided by the Adelaide Inner Northern Community Legal Service. The Attorney-General informs us that a steering committee is to be established to conduct a review of community legal services. At the same time, no commitment has been given

to fund the Adelaide Inner Northern Community Legal Service: there is no State funding for this service at all. This is the only community legal service that is not funded by the State Government. The State Government has funded and increased the funding for six other legal services by some 20 per cent. The Federal Government claims to have increased the funding for community legal services by CPI of 1.6 per cent.

In reality it has decreased national funding by 1.4 per cent in the budget. The Adelaide Inner Northern Community Legal Service is forced to struggle in an uphill battle to maintain a much needed service on an ever decreasing budget. A spokesperson for the Attorney-General claims that the service was established against everyone's advice. Since the Attorney has not refuted the claim, we must assume that he is of this opinion and that he is using this as an excuse not to fund this much needed organisation. It is a blatant lie that the legal centre was established against everyone's advice. I have in my possession letters of support from the then local Federal ALP member, Dr Bob Cotley; Senator Michael Tate, the previous Labor Minister for Justice; the previous State ALP Premier, John Bannon; Senator Rosemary Crowley; Barry Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Law Society of South Australia; Senator Meg Lees, Deputy Leader, Australian Democrats; Senator Nick Bolkus; Ian Hamilton, Community Development Manager, City of Prospect; and the Corporation of the City of Enfield.

I and many others in the community question why this falsehood is perpetuated. Is it because the Attorney and the Government do not care about the needs of our communities? Is there no political value in recognising that such a service is greatly needed? I suspect the answer is that for the Government there is little to be gained in the way of votes. This Government's shame is that it hid behind and perpetuated the fallacy so as not to grant funding. We in the community ask ourselves why this is so, and these questions continue to arise. My constituents and the general community in and around Torrens need this service that was once provided. As I said before, many people do not have the money to pay for such a service. They need the legal service and they need help. Many people cannot afford to travel: they do not have the money for petrol or bus fares. Many people cannot do so for health reasons but they still have a need, and this Government denies them the right of access to proper local legal services.

A particular concern is that the people of Torrens have been denied the right to avail themselves of a service that was once provided in their local area. This is simply because the State Government will not make any funding available to the Adelaide Inner Northern Community Legal Service and because the Federal Liberal Government has cut funding overall. Not only has the Government cut funding nationally but it has increased the filing fees and associated fees for legal redress or action by such a hike that people need support services now more than ever. Our society is developing into a tiered system. If one can afford it, one can have it; but if one cannot afford it the mentality is, 'Too bad; just make do.' Well, we will not make do. We want equality, not a handout. We want the same rights as others to access services, particularly legal services.

On behalf of the people in Torrens who have had to use the outreach service provided by the Adelaide Inner Northern Community Legal Service, I demand that proper financial funding be given to this organisation so that it can continue

the outreach service in Torrens, because people in Torrens have a right to access this service. We demand that it happen now.

Motion carried.

At 4.29 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday 24 October at 10.30 a.m.