

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 29 May 1997

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: ROXBY DOWNS HEALTH FACILITY

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the fiftieth report of the committee on the Roxby Downs health facility be noted.

Knowing your interest in this motion, Sir, I am pleased to see that you are in the Chair. Roxby Downs is situated in the State's Mid North and potentially holds the world's largest copper and uranium mine. A \$1.25 billion expansion of the Olympic Dam mining operation has recently been announced, which is expected to significantly increase the economic development activity at Roxby Downs. As a result we will see a rapid increase in population in Roxby Downs and the general vicinity, and Roxby Downs will increasingly become the focal point and population centre for that part of South Australia. In line with this expansion, the South Australian Health Commission proposes to construct a new health facility at Roxby Downs. The estimated cost of these works is \$4.7 million, and the estimated date for project completion is January 1998.

This facility will provide a 10-bed acute accident and emergency service, minor surgical and obstetrical services as well as dental and community health services. It must be borne in mind at the moment that the Port Augusta hospital provides a base of support for the region, but here we are seeing the development of a facility at Roxby Downs that will take pressure off Port Augusta and will also provide certain relief for Woomera, which will also take patients over to Roxby Downs.

The new facility will provide the following community services and health facilities: a medical centre, community health services, private dental services, a casualty X-ray unit, an operating theatre, a 10-bed acute unit providing facilities for accident-emergency, minor surgical and obstetric services, staff and support services. The Public Works Committee acknowledges the importance of constructing this new health facility to provide necessary and substantially upgraded health and medical facilities for the local community in a centralised location to cater for the proposed expansion. Generally, the committee members consider that the provision of health services at Roxby Downs has become inadequate in terms of its scope and frequency to meet the current needs of the community.

Although a number of improvements have recently been made in this area, particularly with respect to the provision of a 24-hour accident and emergency service and pathology and radiology services, it is unlikely that the current level of services will be adequate to cater for the increase in population to which I referred earlier. The committee agrees that the provision of an appropriate health facility for residents of Roxby Downs will mean that services will be available to them locally. This will ensure that disruption caused to families who have to travel to Woomera, to Port Augusta or, indeed, even to Adelaide will be minimised and that significant costs will be saved for local residents because they will not have to incur accommodation and travel expenses to

access medical services in those towns and cities to which I have referred.

In summary, the Public Works Committee endorses the proposal to construct the new health facility at Roxby Downs and recommends that the proposed works proceed.

Motion carried

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: GLOSSOP HIGH SCHOOL

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the fifty-second report of the committee on the Glossop High School redevelopment be noted.

The Glossop High School was built in the 1940s to serve the local catchment areas, including Barmera and Berri. The school remains the largest in the Riverland and at its peak enrolment the numbers were somewhere in the vicinity of 1 000 students. In recent years, enrolment levels have stabilised and are now sitting at approximately 700 students, and this level is expected to be maintained until about the year 2000. The Department for Education and Children's Services proposes to redevelop and consolidate the existing Glossop High School site at Glossop and to construct a new senior campus at Berri. The estimated cost of this total project is approximately \$6.463 million.

In summary, the works for this project include: the refurbishment and upgrade of the current solid structure buildings on the existing Glossop High School site; the removal and demolition of the dilapidated relocatable timber buildings; and the construction of a new senior school campus at Berri adjacent to the existing Berri TAFE college, including appropriate specialist facilities and a community library.

The Public Works Committee acknowledges the importance and the urgency of the proposed works. These works will enable a significant sharing of facilities between the new senior secondary campus of Glossop High School at Berri and the Berri TAFE campus. This will allow access to appropriate tertiary students in the Riverland region and enable local young people to maximise their education and training opportunities without the need to move to Adelaide.

More importantly, the committee notes that for a number of years the local community has expressed significant concern regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the Glossop site and, in particular, the poor state of the relocatable timber buildings. In this regard, the rationalisation of the Glossop site will address these concerns by enabling the removal of all timber buildings and, consequently, will also eliminate a significant maintenance liability that exists in the budget of the Department for Education and Children's Services.

In addition, the committee recognises the strong, dedicated and long-term community and local government support for the proposed works. This project will provide an educational environment conducive to adult learning and is expected to assist senior students to better appreciate the relationship between education and employment. Committee members generally agree that this redevelopment will provide senior secondary students with improved opportunities to access business houses, local industries and employers, as well as other important facilities in the Berri township.

Furthermore, the interaction with Berri TAFE will broaden and significantly increase the range and flexibility of curriculum options which can be assessed by senior students. Finally, the committee considers that, at completion, the redevelopment of the Glossop High School will provide

significant educational benefits for students and staff, as well as the local community. Additionally, it will make a significant and positive contribution to families in the district by supporting middle and senior schooling and providing opportunities which will ensure that the physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs of young adolescents are addressed to guarantee maximum student retention.

In summary, this project presents a one-off opportunity to develop a unique and locally-driven educational facility which can provide benefits to young people in the Riverland region into the twenty-first century. Consequently, the committee endorses the proposal to redevelop and upgrade Glossop High School and recommends that the proposed work proceed as soon as possible.

Mr ANDREW (Chaffey): I am pleased and delighted to support the redevelopment of Glossop High School. Ultimately, an amount of the order of \$6.46 million will be injected into this total upgrade, with a planned completion date, as I understand it, of March 1998 for the Berri site and later in that same year with respect to the Glossop campus. Although we are well aware that \$5 million has already been allocated for the redevelopment of Glossop High School, the current state of the facilities has meant a constant battle against dilapidated buildings. Unfortunately, as a result of white ant damage at the Glossop site, some buildings have been condemned and some have already been demolished.

Over recent years, two alternative future directions were investigated when planning this redevelopment: the provision of a new Glossop Senior Secondary School for 350 pupils on a site at Berri, while also upgrading the Glossop campus; or the upgrading and redevelopment of the existing Glossop High School campus to accommodate the full complement of 800 students. By way of a brief background to my support of this report, I indicate that, in the middle of 1995, the Glossop High School Council unanimously reaffirmed its school's community's commitment to the establishment of a dual campus proposal. During the previous month, a great deal of time and energy had been invested in efforts to decide how best to use the \$5 million budget allocation; the result being that the community believed that the dual campus option—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much conversation. The Chair is having difficulty hearing the member for Chaffey.

Mr ANDREW: —was clearly the best on contemporary education grounds, and the school community believed that that proposal could be achieved within the limits of the funds available. This exploratory process included staff visiting recently developed schools in other areas around the State, significant negotiations and discussions with DECS staff from the Facility Section, as well as local master builders, and a range of meetings with school councils and other school groups.

The comparisons and adjustments made to costing indicated to me that a very thorough and detailed assessment of the requirements of this project had been carried out. Budget limitations had been acknowledged, and these had been a strong guide in developing the project concept, particularly recognising that the school community and the DECS Facility personnel knew that it would be a very challenging proposition to achieve the dual campus option within the budget allocation.

In February 1996 a reinvestigation was required by DECS, and it took another look at the feasibility of the dual campus

option. Consequently, further extensive discussion and consultation took place, involving DECS Facility staff, Glossop High School, the school community, the Murray Institute of DETAFE, the Berri Campus of TAFE and the District Council of Berri Barmera. As a result of those continuing discussions the concept was developed to the design stage, and thankfully the scheme was formally accepted by DECS and the other stakeholders as the best and most feasible design achievable within the current budget.

The work involved in the project includes refurbishment and upgrade of the current solid structure buildings on the existing Glossop High School site, including addressing a backlog of maintenance and workplace legislative requirements under occupational health, safety and welfare. It includes the removal of dilapidated relocated wooden buildings, which have been there for 20 or 30 years and which are long overdue for effective extermination, and it includes the construction of a new senior campus at Berri adjacent—and this is the important feature—to the DETAFE college. Also included is a joint DECS and DETAFE community library in conjunction with local government.

Outside the scope of this project are initiatives under the DECStech 2001 project plus a canteen, which will see the construction of a canteen using Glossop High School funds. In terms of the committee's report, I am particularly pleased to note the strong project justification. As I have indicated, the Glossop site has been in a very poor state with its relocatable timber buildings, and their replacement will eliminate a significant future maintenance liability. As a senior secondary campus, the Berri site will have significant sharing of facilities with the Berri TAFE campus, it will enhance curriculum options and it will provide additional access to the post secondary school environment, tertiary education options and employment connections and opportunities at the site. A brief summary of the budget allocation shows \$5 million out of the 1996-97 budget; additional available funds, if required, \$335 000; back to school grant funds retained by the school, \$290 000; contribution from TAFE, \$450 000; and the contribution from the District Council of Berri Barmera, \$595 000. That provides potential expenditure of \$6.67 million.

The Public Works Committee report recommends that the upgrade is soundly based, acknowledges the importance and urgency of the project to address current unsatisfactory conditions at the Glossop site and recognises that the dual campus concept has been developed to maximise the opportunities for students without necessitating some of them necessarily moving to Adelaide. Importantly, this will play a major and significant part in encouraging maximum retention of students within our education system and the Riverland region.

In its report I note that the committee recognises the extent and commitment of this proposal in terms of community support from both local government and the community at large. I can assure the House that, as the concept has been developed from the feasibility study to the design stage and now to the implementation stage with tenders about to be called, the enthusiasm blended with realism has generated overwhelming support from the community surrounding the high school redevelopment.

I particularly thank the committee for its report and I look forward to redevelopment of the school. Certainly, I want to place on the record my thanks and commendation to the whole community for its commitment and support to get the development to this stage. I refer to the school council and its

Chairman, Mr Mike Johnson, to the school Principal, Mr John Nielsen, and his staff and to the wider school community including contributions from a number of local primary schools, which will be feeder schools to the high school development, to local government particularly for its financial commitment to the joint library and also to DETAFE for its commitment and involvement in that regard. I very warmly look forward to the continuing cooperation with the builders and the school community to ensure that this long overdue project comes to fruition as soon as possible in the interest of the community and that of education in my region. I am very pleased to support the committee's report.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the fifty-third report of the committee on the University of Adelaide lower level site development be noted.

The University of Adelaide was established in 1874 as a modern leading edge university which is widely recognised as the centre of academic learning in South Australia. It has had this reputation since its inception. Additionally, the university is a major partner in several cooperative research centres in which industry, higher education and Government work together on projects of national importance. The University of Adelaide proposed to redevelop and upgrade its building infrastructure within the north-east precinct of its North Terrace campus. The estimated cost of these works is \$41.2 million.

In summary, the works for this project include: the demolition of the seven storey RA Fisher laboratory building; construction of a new science building; construction of a new building for the engineering and mathematical science division; refurbishment of the Benham building; minor works to the union hall; refurbishments of a number of engineering and mathematical science division buildings; and alterations to the Jordan building. The Public Works Committee acknowledges that the primary purpose of this redevelopment is to ensure that the provision of higher educational services by the University of Adelaide is maintained and conducted within an environment of active world-class research so as to keep pace with rapidly changing global technologies and business practices.

In addition, the committee notes that this project is the university's first major building construction since the 1970s and recognises that the university continues to play a major role in educational, social, political and economic life here in South Australia. In this regard, this development will ensure that high level technology, state-of-the-art laboratories and lecture theatres as well as sophisticated data networks are maintained at the highest possible international standing. Furthermore, members considered that this project will address the present outdated teaching facilities, the inappropriate functional relationships which exist between different faculties, the shortage of space and the non-compliance with current occupational health, safety and welfare legislation, particularly regarding the asbestos-related problems present in the existing Fisher building.

In summary, the committee generally agrees that this development will create an outstanding twenty-first century infrastructure for teaching and research which will also assist the university to maintain its mission of advancing knowledge, understanding and culture through scholarship,

research, teaching and community service of international distinction to satisfactorily meet the State's higher educational needs. As such, the Public Works Committee enthusiastically endorses the proposal to redevelop the lower level of the University of Adelaide and recommends that this public works proceed as soon as possible.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: ELLISTON TO LOCK ROAD

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the fifty-fourth report of the committee on the Elliston to Lock road upgrade be noted.

In moving this motion, I am mindful that over the years public highways, roads, road reconstruction and maintenance on Eyre Peninsula have slipped behind what is expected by travelling motorists, local residents, farmers and members of the community in that area. It is nice to see an upgrade of transport infrastructure generally on Eyre Peninsula.

The Department of Transport proposes to complete the upgrading of the Elliston to Lock road so as to provide a sealed link between the two towns. The estimated cost will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$7.1 million. This road, which is classified as rural arterial, is approximately 90 kilometres long and partly sealed at both ends. At the Elliston end, a total of 9 kilometres was constructed and sealed between 1981 and 1986. At the Lock end, a total of 11 kilometres is sealed, most of which occurred between 1981 and 1986. Although 20 kilometres of this road is already sealed, the remaining unsealed sections of 70 kilometres has poor vertical geometry and is in need of upgrading. It is intended to construct and seal this road over a number of years, with completion currently scheduled for 2003.

The committee acknowledges that the road between Elliston and Lock provides a major east-west link across the Eyre Peninsula. Members consider that the proposed works are necessary so as to increase the transport accessibility between the local communities of these towns, while providing an increased level of safety for traffic utilising the route. The committee also recognises that the social benefits which will be derived from the project by improved transport infrastructure and decreased road user cost will certainly be appreciated by all local residents. As such, the Public Works Committee reports to Parliament that it supports the proposed road upgrade from Elliston to Lock and recommends that the works proceed as quickly as possible.

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): This road is of particular interest to me, as most people would be aware. Our farm was on the Lock to Elliston road which, as I remembered it, it was very rough and bumpy. In 1986 a portion of it was sealed, which gave the local people a taste for what a sealed road was like. They have been waiting ever since—yes, I believe that some thanks must go to the Speaker for getting a few things happening. It has taken this Liberal Government to see the need and to acknowledge the importance of a rural community that is as remote and isolated as the one which I represent and which takes in Elliston and Lock. Elliston has the council—

The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:

Mrs PENFOLD: They are going to have a hard job—especially now that I am getting the Elliston to Lock road and the Kimba to Cleve road.

Mr Atkinson: You think voters are grateful, don't you? You are going to find out.

Mrs PENFOLD: I know that a lot of people will be grateful: I know that most of my relatives and friends in that district will be very grateful. Many of them are on the council or have been on the council. People have to commute to Elliston to the council chambers to be involved in their local government. It is a major commitment, especially when the road is so poor that often they cannot get through in the wet weather. It is very dangerous; there have been a lot of accidents on that road. The parents who send their children on the school buses will be very grateful because those roads, at both ends, have been incredibly dangerous, especially in the bad weather. Sport is very important to isolated communities like Lock and Elliston—it is an opportunity to socialise and to compare notes—and people will soon be able to travel between Lock and Elliston with at least the major part of the road, the worst part, being sealed. That is something that people in the city take for granted. But when you travel more than 100 kilometres to sporting fixtures, it would be nice to have at least most of the road sealed—and the sooner it is completed, the better.

The Lock to Elliston road is also the most direct link to Adelaide for the people of Elliston and districts, and that is where the tertiary education facilities are mostly to be found for students. If they are not in Adelaide, they may be in Whyalla. So, for tertiary education purposes in either Whyalla or Adelaide, the quickest way to get there is by the Elliston to Lock road. The same applies to access to hospitals and specialists. More is being done—especially under this Liberal Government—to provide specialist treatment at the Port Lincoln Hospital, but most of the specialist work is still done in Adelaide, although some is done in Whyalla. That also means that they can go across to Adelaide and Whyalla more quickly and more comfortably to get their education and health needs met. So, it is with great pleasure that I endorse the Public Works Committee's recommendation to continue the sealing of this road. I am hopeful that in today's budget we will hear that an amount has been set aside for the next stage of the completion of this project.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Giles): I also support the Public Works Standing Committee's recommendation. For a number of years, as I live on the peninsula, I have heard about this road and the necessity for it to be sealed. In fact, I could not count the number of complaints that I have received about this road. When I was Minister of Transport, one of the first things I did was to have an examination done of the amount of traffic that used this road and where it would fit into our priorities.

The Department of Transport was not at all keen on upgrading this road other than a small amount of sealing that it did. The reason for this, essentially, was that there was very little traffic using the road. Sometimes, four hours would pass without a car going along the road. So, it got a fairly low priority. I did not necessarily agree with that, but it was pretty difficult to argue against when many other roads that got a lot more use required our fairly scarce resources.

I am pleased that the Government has seen fit to spend some money in this area. However, I want to make the following contrast. Eventually, we will have a wonderful road between Lock and Elliston, but where are the people? The policies of this Government have done two things: they have ensured that there will be a good road, but they have also ensured that a lot fewer people are living in these areas. It is

all very well to say that the road will be done, when almost every other Government service on which the Eyre Peninsula relies has been taken away and when some of these towns are very close to becoming ghost towns.

It is all very well for the member for Flinders to say what she has said. If I were in her position coming up to an election where the National Party might again raise its head, I would say how wonderful it was and I would also ignore the other side of the coin: we will have a beautiful road with fewer and fewer people to use it. What about the EWS, ETSA, education, health and Department of Road Transport workers? It does not matter where you look: this Government has taken away those workers and their families from the Eyre Peninsula. I think that what this Government has done is absolutely disgraceful, throwing a sop to the people of the Eyre Peninsula and saying that eventually the Government will bituminise the Lock to Elliston road, as if that will make up for all the things that the Government has done to the people of Eyre Peninsula. I think it is cynical in the extreme.

I welcome any money that is spent outside the metropolitan area, even on roads on which there is little or no traffic. I would do it, because I live on the Eyre Peninsula and I know what this Government has done to the peninsula over the past four years. To my way of thinking, the spending of any funds in that area at all would be excellent. I read every day about the Government's suddenly being able to find \$20 million for projects such as a wine museum. I have nothing at all against a wine museum—but \$20 million? The Government has ripped more than that out of the Eyre Peninsula alone in terms of schools and housing. This is why the Government can find this \$20 million—because it has taken it out of our communities. Apparently, it is a wine museum or nothing. Nothing happens in South Australia unless the Government buys it. Do not let us get carried away with a sop to the people of the Eyre Peninsula of eventually sealing the Lock to Elliston road when this Government has done terrible things to the Eyre Peninsula which have resulted in severe depopulation of the area.

Nevertheless, it is money being spent in the Eyre Peninsula, even if it is on a road on which very few people, if any, will travel. I support the motion and I will continue to support any funds that the Government can find to put into areas outside the metropolitan area—and with this Government it has been less and less. I am not kidded by small sops, and I know that most people on the Eyre Peninsula—those who are left—will not be kidded by them, either, but we are grateful for small mercies.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: KIMBA TO CLEVE ROAD

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the fifty-fifth report of the committee on the Kimba to Cleave road upgrade be noted.

In moving this report I will respond very briefly to my friend the member for Giles's further remarks when he thanked the Government for a 'small', as he called it, contribution to the area in which he lives and the adjoining electorate, and when he made the point that the Government never spends much money in the country. I highlight the point that out of the six reports from the Public Works Standing Committee with which we are dealing this morning five involve large expenditure in rural areas, and most of it on the Eyre Peninsula.

The first motion relates to Roxby Downs; the second relates to Glossop, which was a large infrastructure for a rural area; the third one relates to the Elliston to Lock road, the fourth one relates to the Kimba to Cleve road; and the fifth motion relates to the Wilpena Pound redevelopment. Five out of the six infrastructure projects this morning relate to money being spent principally on the Eyre Peninsula, around the Flinders and also at Glossop. That demonstrates that this Government is interested in rural areas and in infrastructure in rural areas and is making a genuine attempt to put some infrastructure in place around which we can then have regional development, which has been sorely lacking over many years.

The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:

Mr OSWALD: The honourable member said, 'A lot of nonsense.'

The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:

Mr OSWALD: I will be very interested to hear what the honourable member has to say about that because we must have infrastructure before we can have development. In the Glenelg area the Government is putting in infrastructure to allow private sector development and, once again, infrastructure comes first and then follows development. The Government should be applauded for what it has done with regard to infrastructure in rural areas over the past two or three years. Not only will these projects be started now but also they will go on into the year 2000.

Getting back to the motion before the Parliament, namely, the Kimba to Cleve road upgrade, the Department of Transport proposes to complete the upgrading of this road so as to provide a sealed link between the two towns. This project will cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$6 million. This road, classified as rural arterial, is approximately 69 kilometres long and is partly sealed at both ends. At the Kimba end a total of 16 kilometres is sealed. Sealing of this segment of the road began in the early 1980s, with a further 5 kilometres reconstructed and sealed during the 1995-96 financial year. At the Cleve end, a total of 8 kilometres is sealed. This occurred between 1980 and 1988.

I add, though, that about six months ago I went on a tour with the Minister for Health. We were looking at the hospitals along the Lower Eyre Peninsula, and we had the misfortune of travelling from Cleve to Kimba. I would have to say that it is probably the worst road on which I have ever driven anywhere in the world. It is an appalling road.

Mr Atkinson: You obviously haven't travelled far.

Mr OSWALD: We were on a 12 seater bus and at one stage I had grave concerns whether we would even make Kimba in it because of the way in which the road was knocking the panelling and the chassis around. It is an appalling road, and it beats me why any Government over years gone did not have that road fixed properly right from the start. Although 24 kilometres of road is already sealed, the remaining unsealed section of approximately 45 kilometres has poor vertical geometry, with the road verge containing a significant amount of natural vegetation. It is therefore intended to construct and seal this road over a number of years, with completion currently scheduled for the year 2000. The committee acknowledges that the road between Kimba and Cleve provides an important north-south link between the Eyre Highway and towns farther south of the Eyre Peninsula. Members consider that works are necessary to increase the transport accessibility between local communities in these towns and to provide an increased level of safety for traffic utilising the route.

The Public Works Committee also recognises the social benefits which are to be derived from the project *via* improved transport efficiency and decreased road user costs. Someone opposite said that I had not travelled much when I made the point that the road was one of the worst roads I had travelled on. I point out that I have travelled extensively around the world. I found, despite all my travels in countries around the world, that that road is one of the worst surfaces I have travelled on. How the public or farmers have been able to put up with the road in that condition for that length of time, I do not know. But they have—they are a hardy race on Eyre Peninsula. They have put up with it but, at last, with the current Government they no longer have to put up with it. It has been suggested over there that one day they will call it the Laidlaw Highway. Maybe it should be called the Laidlaw Highway given the amount of effort the Minister has put in to ensure that the roadway is completed. The committee has considered the matter, agrees with the project's going ahead and recommends accordingly.

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I thank the Minister for all the support we have had for the development of, and extra expenditure provided for, roads on Eyre Peninsula. I also thank the member for Giles for his support. It is a pity that his Government was not the Government to spend a little bit of money on roads. I take issue with the fact that people do not use the roads as much as they might. The number of cars on the roads will double or triple as soon as the roads are worth driving on. Presently they are so rough that most of the people who do not want to risk the lives of their family or risk damaging their cars avoid those roads like the plague whenever they go anywhere. You do not want to start a trip to Adelaide by going across the Lock to Elliston Road and irretrievably damaging your car.

I also take issue with the ghost towns comment. There is no way that the people—including myself—on Eyre Peninsula will allow any towns on the Eyre Peninsula to become ghost towns. The member for Giles cannot have been over there recently. He would have known that, in Elliston and in most of the coastal towns, with the oyster development, the development of fin fish farms, tuna farms and other aquaculture in sea and on land, industry is moving ahead apace. It will only get faster in future. I am sure the coastal towns will not be running into population problems but increasing their population. Already Streaky Bay's population is increasing. Its increase is mostly coming from the tourism industry which, when we spend more money—as the Liberal Government is doing—on the great number of parks we have on Eyre Peninsula, we will get more people into them. I understand that the Lincoln National Park on Eyre Peninsula has increased its visitor numbers by about 85 per cent.

In addition, I refer to the minerals and the fact that the Yumbarra National Park development is currently being blocked by Labor and Democrat people. There are hundreds of jobs in the Yumbarra National Park.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Even though the matters the member for Flinders is raising are particularly near and dear to the Speaker's heart, she is now starting to spread somewhat wider than the motion before the Chair.

Mrs PENFOLD: Yes. However, the member for Giles said that we would have ghost towns and I do not think there will be a ghost town anywhere on the Eyre Peninsula. The Kimba to Cleve road, as with the Lock to Elliston road, will have a lot more traffic, and the towns will grow. For the

social and economic well-being, health and education of the people in those areas, it will be a great boost. The Liberal Government has bitten the bullet regarding spending on such major roads left unsealed by a Labor Government and is putting in the money to seal them. I am proud to be part of that Liberal Government.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Giles): I really wonder what kind of dream world some people live in. I support this proposition, which I advise the Presiding Member of the Public Works Committee is in my electorate. It is not in the adjoining electorate. Kimba is in my electorate.

Mr Oswald interjecting:

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: That is correct. The honourable member should get his facts right. He does not even know where it is! If he make these statements, he should get them right, but I will leave that to one side. Let me say this: I support it. It is money being spent partly in my electorate and partly in the electorate of the member for Flinders, and I support any money being spent in those areas.

All I can say, and I say it very clearly, is that this is no recompense for taking away our people. What the member for Flinders apparently does not recognise is the number of people who have been taken away from Kimba, for example. Perhaps it does not bother the honourable member because, at the moment, it is not in her electorate but it will be in the electorate that she contests, I assume, at the next State election, and then she might have more interest. When she goes to Kimba, I advise her to call into the school and ask them what has been taken away from the school. Ask them about the EWS workers, the ETSA workers, and the Department of Road Transport workers.

Mrs Penfold interjecting:

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: You ask them what is happening to their population. The population in most of these places is declining. I agree that aquaculture is playing a significant role and is very promising on Eyre Peninsula, and it should get all the assistance that is available to it from the Government. I agree with that, but if members think that will reinstate the population on the Eyre Peninsula they are wrong. The population on Eyre Peninsula has decreased by many thousands, and it will not increase unless the Government puts the services back.

It does not matter what these people vote because they all tell me how they are being treated by this Government. There has been an onslaught against Government employment outside the metropolitan area, and I tell people in Whyalla that this Government is not particularly singling them out, because Whyalla people believe that they have been singled out for harsh treatment. I say that is not the case. People who live outside the eastern suburbs of Adelaide are being singled out by this Government, irrespective of whether they live in a Liberal or Labor electorate. What the Government has done on Eyre Peninsula is absolutely appalling.

I give credit to the former Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Dale Baker, who attempted to get significantly more funds and resources for Eyre Peninsula, and he ought to be congratulated on what he did. He used funds supplied by a Federal Labor Government, but that does not matter. The former Minister for Primary Industries was a supporter of the Eyre Peninsula and attempted to redress some of the balance of the actions of some of the other Ministers who did not even know that the place existed. They do not know that anywhere outside the metropolitan area exists.

I guarantee to the member for Flinders that 90 per cent of her constituents think the same thing, and they are dead right. I guarantee that they tell the honourable member every day that this Government does nothing that it does not have to do—the very minimum—north of Gepps Cross. That is the cry in Flinders, Giles, Stuart, and all the country electorates. By and large they are right, and the population figures on the Eyre Peninsula bear it out. Apparently this road will be called the Laidlaw Highway. My guess is that the mover of the motion is absolutely wrong.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Chair gave considerable latitude to the member for Flinders and has given considerable latitude to the member for Giles. I suggest he is now going far beyond the latitude that anyone should have and I ask him to come back to the debate, namely, the motion concerning the Public Works Committee's report on the Kimba to Cleve road.

Ms Stevens interjecting:

The SPEAKER: And he does not need coaching from the member for Elizabeth.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: She is always very helpful to me, Sir.

The SPEAKER: No, not on this occasion.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: According to the mover of the proposition, this road between Kimba and Cleve will be called the Laidlaw Highway. I did not make that up. This was made up by the member for Morphett, and he ought to know. Well, I will tell you what it will be called. If it is called anything, it will be called the Peter Blacker Highway, because the only reason for the construction of this road is the fear of Peter Blacker. They are dead right to be frightened. Once the redistribution took Kangaroo Island out of Flinders, Peter Blacker's smile just got bigger and bigger. So, even though he is not in the Parliament, he is responsible for this road—

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is now going right beyond the limit, and I will ask him to come back to the motion. If he does not, I will have to withdraw leave.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I was merely responding to the suggestion made by the member for Morphett, and I apologise for doing so, because it was quite out of order. This \$6 million is welcome, but it is an absolute pittance compared to what the Government is contributing to that show in the member for Morphett's electorate. I reckon there is \$100 million going in down there to subsidise private enterprise, to build all kinds of marinas and all other bloody nonsense infrastructure—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: —while people on the Eyre Peninsula have to settle for a road.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Giles has been in this place long enough and has enough experience to know he is now straying far beyond the motion. I ask him to come back to the motion or leave will be withdrawn. The member for Giles.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: Thank you, Sir, for your wise guidance. The member for Morphett listed all these projects for which we are supposed to be grateful on the Eyre Peninsula. We will get \$6 million here and a few dollars there. It was the member for Morphett who raised them. He listed them all and said we ought to be grateful. It is nothing!

The SPEAKER: The Chair would be grateful if the member for Giles would come back to the motion.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: It is a mere bagatelle compared with what is happening in his electorate. Nevertheless, Sir, I support the motion.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: WILPENA TOURIST CENTRE

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I move:

That the fifty-sixth report of the committee on the Wilpena Tourist Centre development be noted.

The Wilpena Tourist Centre, located within the Flinders Ranges National Park, was built in 1947 as a key tourist attraction to the Flinders Ranges and the outback region. It has since become a significant tourism asset for South Australia and an important component for the State's economy.

The MFP Development Corporation proposed to significantly improve the standard and range of tourist facilities at Wilpena in line with contemporary tourist demands and in keeping with the world-class nature base of that particular attraction. The estimated cost of these works is in the vicinity of \$6.4 million, of which Flinders Ranges Tourist Services will provide \$2.5 million.

In summary, the MFP Development Corporation will undertake all essential infrastructure works which will include the construction of an ablution block and four bus shelter sheds in the camping ground, landscaping of the camping ground, construction of a new switchboard room for existing and new facilities, installation of a new camping ground transformer and a new power submain, installation of a new rising water main to the existing storage tanks, replacement and modification of existing water supply and pipe work, provision of all necessary repairs and extensions to the effluent drainage system, construction of a new creek crossover and associated camping ground roadworks, construction of a new entry road to the tourist centre and a sealed short-term car park, and construction of a visitor centre building.

In addition to these works, Flinders Ranges Tourist Services will undertake accommodation and refurbishment works, which will include: refurbishment of existing 34 motel rooms, refurbishment and upgrade of the core motel building, construction of 26 new motel units, landscaping of the motel area and a fit-out of the shop building within the new visitor centre. The Public Works Committee acknowledges the urgent need for the refurbishment and upgrade of the tourist centre. These works will address current infrastructure inadequacies, expand the existing accommodation and camping facilities and provide interpretive, accommodation and retail services in line with contemporary and future tourism needs. In addition, the committee notes that the number of visitors to the Flinders Ranges has steadily been growing over the past 10 years. Therefore, quality accommodation and activities which highlight the natural attractions of this resort are required to help maintain this growth and capture the new tourism market and to ensure that we get our share.

Members of the committee generally agree that undertaking the proposed redevelopment will enable the Tourist Centre to compete with other nature-based tourism attractions both interstate and overseas. Furthermore, the committee considers that, whilst the broader regional benefits are difficult to quantify, expenditure of public funds at Wilpena and the redevelopment undertaken by Flinders Ranges

Tourist Services will establish the tourist centre as a 'lead product' in the region, with extended benefits for the regional communities and other tourism operators. It is expected that this will continue to provide broad employment and economic growth opportunities both for the State and, in particular, within that region.

It should be noted that, while the committee endorses this project its approval is subject to the satisfactory adherence by all parties to the terms and conditions which are set out in the newly signed lease agreement. I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee back in the early 1980s when we first investigated the old lease, the old infrastructure documentation of Wilpena, and there was no doubt at the time that it had been put together in an *ad hoc* way, and each part of the project had been added to sequentially and, in the end, there was some considerable doubt from the public point of view as to who owned what, who was responsible for what, and whether in fact public monies were being spent to the best advantage.

It was certainly my concern when we approved this particular project that we were able to assure ourselves that the lease in fact had been put together this time in a composite way that would ensure that we had a total package that was agreed upon and signed off, so that we could not have a problem arise whereby any accusations could be made that there was any adhocery at all in the way that the development was being marketed in the future. It was because of that that I was instrumental through the committee in writing to the MFP Development Corporation and putting a series of questions to the corporation, and I would like to bring to the attention of the House one of the questions and the corporation's reply. The question was:

Has the Crown Solicitor given advice that all aspects of the agreement with Flinders Ranges Tourist Services are legally defensible?

I carefully chose those words 'are legally defensible' so that we would not have a problem in the future that could come back to haunt any future Governments down the track, that we may in fact have allowed anything to go through. The reply is as follows:

The Crown Solicitor has been closely consulted for the initial preparation and subsequent revisions of the lease document. As negotiations proceed with FRTS the Crown Solicitor is providing advice on any legal implications arising from proposed amendments to the documents raised by FRTS and the MFP Development Corporation.

This advice has been provided on a clause by clause basis as amendments have been proposed. The MFP Development Corporation negotiators have relied on this advice throughout the negotiation to finalise a mutually acceptable document with the FRTS, which is acceptable from Crown Law's legal perspective.

In summary, the committee has been assured through the Crown Solicitor that, on a clause by clause basis, it has been involved and has signed off. It is with that assurance that the committee has gone forward and tabled the report to allow the project to get under way. There is no doubt that an enormous amount of private and public capital is involved in the project. It is important that the private sector capital being released through the banks be made available. Of course, this lease had to be signed off so that that capital could be released. We are satisfied, on the assurance of the Crown Solicitor, that every precaution has been taken. On this basis, the Public Works Committee endorses the proposal to redevelop, refurbish and upgrade the Wilpena Tourist Centre and recommends that the public works proceed.

Ms WHITE (Taylor): It could not be argued that the lease arrangement which the State Government is entering into with the Flinders Ranges Tourist Services—that is, the Rasheed family—is anything but extremely favourable for the FRTS. That the Government should aid development at Wilpena through subsidising some of the expense of such work is not at issue, because this development will, hopefully, act as a catalyst for tourism development in the region and will thereby also boost surrounding operations. However, what is at issue is the extent of that subsidy and the circumstances by which it came about. All members of the Public Works Committee support development of the tourist facilities at Wilpena. However, my colleague the member for Elizabeth and I feel compelled to raise the following issues of relevance and/or concern, as we do not believe that our questions and attempts to obtain better information about this project have been satisfactorily dealt with.

During this investigation, we moved a motion at the Public Works Committee meeting that the committee appoint an independent authority on such lease arrangements to scrutinise the Government's lease agreement with FRTS and its implications for the Government. There are many questions and implications for the Government's liability contained in this document, yet the committee voted against our call for such scrutiny. Our questions remain unanswered and the committee has approved its majority report without seeing a copy of the final lease agreement. The draft lease agreement highlights clauses that had not been finalised about important issues.

As I could not attend the one and only meeting last week at which deliberation of the committee report that had been prepared by the committee staff was to occur, I communicated my request through the committee's Secretary and my colleague the member for Elizabeth that the report be dealt with the following week, as there were several issues that I wanted to raise. Despite holding over reports on many other occasions for the benefit of members' contributions, the committee chose not to do so on this occasion. It has taken a freedom of information request, initiated by me on behalf of the Opposition, to uncover certain facts that are relevant to this investigation of the Government's proposal for Wilpena's upgrade.

At the next available opportunity—the committee meeting this morning—I requested, on my behalf and on behalf of the member for Elizabeth, that a minority report into this report be accepted. It was indicated that there was no opportunity for that, so we raise the following information as an important addition to the majority report of the Public Works Committee. Under the legislation governing the Public Works Committee, the State Government cannot expend moneys on public works projects referred to the committee until the committee has reported to the Parliament. A visit to the Wilpena site on 17 April 1997 revealed that the State Government had already started building, in clear defiance of the Act and well in advance of evidence being gathered by the Public Works Committee, let alone of a report being drafted.

The background to the financial figures of this lease is important. In an attachment to a letter dated 11 November 1993—that is, just prior to the State election—from the shadow Minister to Mr K. and Mrs L. Rasheed of the Wilpena Pound motel, a document entitled 'Extra conditions agreed between G.A. Ingerson MP and Rasheed family company representatives to be used as the basis of lease' and signed by Graham Ingerson, states that:

The annual rental payable by the company will be equal to 1 per cent of turnover with a minimum of \$30 000 *per annum*.

The document further states:

The State Government will provide a guarantee to support borrowings by the company and/or the Rasheed family.

It goes on to say:

The State Government guarantee will be equal to 70 per cent of the company/Rasheed family borrowings.

Advice provided by the Attorney-General's Department was that verbal representations made by the Minister to FRTS prior to the election may be legally binding. In a 23 April 1996 letter from the then Chief Executive of the South Australian Tourism Commission (Michael Gleason) to Mr Keith Rasheed, Director of FRTS, the Government's intention to provide a guarantee of \$1.25 million on the FRTS borrowings is described as 'Government assuming significant risk'. In a minute dated 8 May 1996 to the Minister for Tourism about the \$1.25 million Government guarantee on the \$2.5 million FRTS borrowings, the responsible officers working on the project on behalf of the Government (Dean Lambert and Matt Babidge) state:

Government's financial analysis suggests the bank's requirements for a [\$1.25 million] guarantee appears unnecessarily large and it is difficult to justify from the Government's commercial viewpoint. The commercial arrangements possibly will have to be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

So, obviously Government officers were concerned that this guarantee did not quite stack up commercially. This guarantee is more than the previous figure of 'up to \$750 000 of FRTS borrowings' agreed to by the Cabinet finance subcommittee. That information comes from a minute from Dean Lambert through the South Australian Tourism Commission Chief Executive to the Minister for Tourism, dated 21 December 1995.

The Government's public commitment to the project was \$3.9 million in 'infrastructure', plus the \$2.6 million to \$2.9 million for the provision of power. However, careful reading of the draft and, I stress, incomplete lease agreement provided to the committee appears to indicate that the Government is expected to foot the bill for infrastructure in an ongoing capacity. I quote from the draft lease agreement that was provided to the committee. Clause 2.4, 'Lessor to provide services', provides:

The Minister will provide all electricity, telephone lines, water, effluent and garbage disposal services, and [I emphasise this part] other facilities as are necessary from time to time to service the needs of the business conducted by the lessee on the premises.

This is a wide commitment from the Government and, when witnesses were asked in questioning by the committee whether further infrastructure work would be required, they indicated that it was likely. The above is a small portion of a number of issues about this project that should be made public and debated in a public way. However, due to the actions of the committee in not providing my colleague and me with adequate opportunity to table the information revealed in the several hundred documents that were provided as a result of our FOI request regarding the Wilpena development, we do not believe that all that should be divulged has been made open to the public. This we will endeavour to do at the earliest opportunity in coming parliamentary sitting days and within the committee meeting process.

The Government began with a commitment in its election policy to give the FRTS assistance in terms of infrastructure for Wilpena. However, what started out as a joint venture between the Government and FRTS has now turned into a

heavily subsidised development. All the preliminary documents show an intention for a fifty-fifty arrangement for costs, but the Government is now spending more than twice the FRTS commitment of \$2.25 million, plus guaranteeing half that contribution. This is not to say that we do not believe that this is an appropriate arrangement, but rather to state that at least two members of the committee have not had the opportunity to satisfy themselves that it has been investigated appropriately by the committee. The Government made a guarantee not to provide any direct funding to the project, but the line between direct funding and necessary infrastructure does seem to have been blurred.

The Government's desire to have Wilpena fast tracked—and I support the call for the development to be completed as quickly as possible—has meant that on a number of occasions price hikes have seemingly been accepted without question. Serious evaluation of another investor or alternative funding arrangements as suggested by Government officers have not been pursued. It does not seem that the Government has put any limit on the spending which it will absorb under the heading of 'necessary infrastructure'—at least according to the draft lease agreement seen by the committee. I believe that more information should be made public. I do not believe that the committee knows enough about the financials of this arrangement to have gone ahead and reported.

Mr CAUDELL (Mitchell): As a member of the Public Works Committee, it is important that I provide correct information in relation to the hearing on the Wilpena Pound development. I am concerned about the statements made by the member for Taylor and her suggestion that both she and the member for Elizabeth were not satisfied with the committee's proposal.

Let us put on the record the hearing dates and what occurred in relation to this matter. The first hearing in relation to the Wilpena development was on 19 March and both the member for Taylor and the member for Elizabeth were present. At that stage, nothing was put on the record by the member for Taylor or the member for Elizabeth in relation to problems with a draft lease, nor did they intimate any problems which would require a freedom of information report. At that hearing, a number of questions were asked by the member for Taylor but at no stage did she intimate that her questions were unanswered. At that stage, the member for Taylor listed a number of questions and every one of those questions was answered.

The next hearing in relation to this matter was on 2 April when we discussed whether the draft lease which had been distributed for a period of time should be given to an independent consultant for investigation. The member for Taylor and the member for Elizabeth had both had that draft lease for over seven days yet neither had read it and neither could pinpoint a problem area, but on 2 April they wanted to spend over \$2 000 on a consultant's report that was not required.

Ms WHITE: I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a point of order or a personal explanation?

Ms WHITE: It is a personal explanation, Sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Personal explanations are not permitted until the conclusion of the debate.

Ms WHITE: It is a personal point of order, Sir. I ask you to direct the honourable member to issue an apology as the information he has given is incorrect—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Ms WHITE: I did read the draft lease.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr CAUDELL: As I said, that occurred on 2 April. At that stage the members for Elizabeth and Taylor had not read the draft lease. On 17 April, the committee travelled to Wilpena for a site inspection at which time an opportunity was available to the members for Taylor and Elizabeth to direct questions to representatives of the company involved in the development, to people from the MFP, and to people from the Tourism Commission. At no stage did the members for Taylor or Elizabeth address issues associated with the draft lease because, as at 17 April, neither member had read the draft lease.

On 23 April, the member for Taylor moved a motion that the committee engage a consultant to evaluate the proposed lease between the SA Government and Flinders Ranges Tourist Services and to compare that lease with the concerns of the committee. At that stage neither the member for Taylor nor the member for Elizabeth could present their concerns to the committee. Members of the committee asked for details of their concerns, but neither member could explain their concerns because neither member, as at 23 April (nearly one month later), had read the draft lease and therefore could not advise the committee of any concerns.

At that stage no mention was made that they wished to put forward a minority report, neither member mentioned they were unhappy with the information provided, and neither member mentioned that they had submitted a freedom of information request, and the matter goes on from there. On 30 April the committee held a meeting at which the Wilpena development was not mentioned by the member for Elizabeth and, although not attending that meeting, the member for Taylor did not submit any information to the committee indicating her concerns. On 7 May the members for Taylor and Elizabeth conducted a school site inspection at Tanunda, at which time neither member advised the Presiding Member of any concerns with respect to the lease.

On 14 May no meeting was held of the Public Works Standing Committee and the member for Taylor did not request a meeting to discuss any issue in respect of the Wilpena development. On 21 May, again the member for Taylor submitted an apology and did not attend the meeting of the Public Works Standing Committee, but she advised the committee that she had concerns with respect to the lease. The committee asked the honourable member to submit her concerns in writing so that they could be addressed. At none of the meetings of the Public Works Committee was the member for Taylor able to describe her concerns—she could say only that she had concerns.

The up-shot of all this is the comment made by the member for Elizabeth who, at that stage, had not read the draft lease. The member for Elizabeth abstained from the vote. She did not vote against it; she abstained from the vote, her reason being that she had not looked at the draft lease. She indicated that she had not read the draft report as it was not her political responsibility, nor was it her political responsibility to look at the draft lease. Irrespective of the fact that the honourable member is paid to be a member of the Public Works Standing Committee, she had not looked at the draft lease, nor had she looked at the report: it was the responsibility of the member for Taylor as the shadow spokesperson on tourism.

So much for the honourable member's interest in tourism in this State; so much for her interest in development in this

State; and so much for her interest in jobs in this State. The members for Taylor and Elizabeth had great concerns about the lease and had submitted a freedom of information request, but neither member read the lease, neither member could turn up to meetings, neither member could put information in writing, and still today neither member can tell us their concerns. They came to a convened meeting at 10.15 today and said, 'We wish to put in a minority report.' They well knew that the report had been tabled in the Parliament on Tuesday. And they had also been told by the Clerk of the Parliament that, if they wished to put in a minority report, which is their right, they had until 2 o'clock on Tuesday. But where were the members for Taylor and Elizabeth at 2 o'clock on Tuesday? They were nowhere to be seen. In the interests of great political grandstanding, they wait until Thursday 29 May and arrive before the Parliament saying, 'We have concerns with regard to the Wilpena development.'

This is a development that will bring tourism benefits to this State, a development that is going to bring jobs, a development that is going to be good for South Australia, and a development that has been around this State for so long that the people in the Flinders and the outback areas have been calling for it. The members for Elizabeth and Taylor stand up here and oppose it, yet they still have not read the lease or the report of the committee, and they should be condemned for those sorts of actions in this place.

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): What an amazing and outrageous performance we have just seen. I am absolutely stunned—

Members interjecting:

Ms STEVENS: I would like you to be quiet.

Mr Becker: We're in class now.

Ms STEVENS: Yes, perhaps we ought to be in class.

Mr BRINDAL: I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is a long tradition in this House that, to avoid personal altercations, all remarks must be addressed through the Chair and I draw that to your attention.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. The fault is on both sides. There was an interjection and it was responded to. Neither of those courses of action is acceptable under Standing Orders. The member for Elizabeth.

Ms STEVENS: Thank you, Sir. Also, I ask you to watch the interjections coming from my left. I feel angry to have heard what has just been said in this House and I challenge the member for Mitchell to make those comments outside the House. I would like to make a number of points. The assertions that my colleague the member for Taylor and I did not read the lease or do our jobs in terms of the committee are absolutely outrageous and I unreservedly reject them. Indeed, I believe we deserve an apology for those remarks. It seems that the most venomous remarks were directed at me, accusing me of not being pro-development or pro-employment in this State: I find that absolutely outrageous and unbelievable.

Members interjecting:

Ms STEVENS: I would like a little quiet so that I can continue and make the following points. This is a very important project for South Australia. It is being organised and developed in an area that is certainly dear to me, an area of South Australia that I have visited with my family and friends over many years. I support the development being undertaken and so does my colleague the member for Taylor. However, this is a very complex project, and this has been acknowledged by all speakers in the debate. All the more

reason for all the issues to be canvassed and canvassed carefully and widely.

That is why, during the committee's consideration of this matter, the member for Taylor and I asked for further consideration of the lease document. I freely admit to this House that I, Lea Stevens, member for Elizabeth, am no expert with respect to lease documents. It was for that very reason and because concerns were raised many years ago by a past Public Accounts Committee in relation to Wilpena that I thought it was very important to be quite sure that this was the right way to go, and that is why I supported my colleague's motion. For the member for Mitchell, in his usual bullish, impetuous fashion, to stand up in this House and accuse me of not even reading or caring about the lease is absolutely outrageous.

I regret that the committee moved ahead and did not wait to hear the matters that my colleague the member for Taylor put on the record a few moments ago. I was aware that our FOI request had gone forward. I also knew that about 300 documents were involved in that FOI request and that it would be difficult to process all those documents. We do not have a lot of staff to assist in this respect. I also regret that it did take time to get through all that, but that was the reality of the situation with which we were faced. It is important that when we confront a development of this nature we are quite sure. I hope that in some way we can still consider these issues, because I believe, as does my colleague, that the importance of this development is such that no concerns which may hinder its progress should remain.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Deputy Premier): I wish to make a few comments about this lease because I was directly involved in the setting up of the lease and the original negotiations with the Rasheed family. I always become concerned when people in this place make statements that they are not prepared to make outside. I hope that the member for Taylor is prepared to make the same comments outside, because I would be very happy to take—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Because it was accurate.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Yes, I did as a matter of fact. It is quite amazing that a scandalous statement of this nature is made purely and simply to hold up development. I shall put on the record what actually happened. Here we have a private company that is prepared to invest \$2.5 million of its money to ensure a development at Wilpena instead of the messed up, mucked up exercise that the previous Government tried to establish. Here we have a private sector group that was prepared to put up its money. The fact that it is putting up \$2.5 million ought to be recognised in any lease. I know that the member for Taylor would not understand how leases or commercial reality work, but the reality is that, before you sling mud at individuals, you ought to do a little bit of homework and ask Ministers or ex-Ministers how things work.

Ms White interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: No, you haven't. You have never been near me to ask me, as the Minister, how this process has gone from nothing under the previous Government to having an excellent development at Wilpena. One of the major hassles in this place is—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Hart.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:—that the member for Taylor—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I warn the member for Hart.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: The member for Taylor would have no idea—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I warn the member for Hart.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:—what she is talking about. The problem in this instance is that the member for Taylor—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, the honourable member had his—

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:—is putting at risk private people's individual integrity without any advice or any knowledge of it whatsoever. I do not care if she has a go at me; it is irrelevant. However, when you take on private individuals who have no chance of having their case put to this place reasonably and sensibly, I believe it is a disgrace. Again, as the member for Taylor previously proved in her research into tourism, she is wrong again. Unfortunately, all she ever does is carp and whinge and stops things from progressing in this State.

Debate adjourned.

WILPENA RESORT

Ms WHITE (Taylor): I wish to make a personal explanation and, as this is a personal explanation and not a debate, I will save debate comments for another opportunity. A number of incorrect statements were made by the member for Mitchell, who claimed that I had not read the lease agreement between the State Government and FRTS. This is wrong. I believe I read the lease in more detail probably than any other member of that committee—perhaps with the exception of the member for Elizabeth—so much so that I sought further information about the arrangements and the Government exposure which would result from that lease. I moved a motion in the Public Works Standing Committee, seconded by the member for Elizabeth, that we have an expert analyse concerns against the lease.

The member for Mitchell implied that concerns were not given to the committee. I believe he said that at the first hearing of evidence we did not raise our concerns. We raised questions. We asked that issues be followed up with the witnesses and we gave them reasonable time to respond. That is appropriate; that is our duty; and the honourable member's implication that we were derelict in our duty in not raising all concerns at that initial meeting is a bit silly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is going well beyond a basic personal explanation. There is a limit to the number of examples required to establish that there is cause for concern.

Ms WHITE: I reject almost completely everything that the Minister and the member for Mitchell have said—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member is entering into debate now.

Ms WHITE: True, the Opposition initiated an FOI request and I was at the last moment unable to attend last week's meeting, which was the one and only meeting at which the draft report—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: These are points of agreement rather than dispute, and I believe that the personal explanation has probably been made appropriately.

Ms WHITE: The last point I wish to raise is that the meeting for this week was cancelled, so there was no opportunity before this morning's meeting to—

Mr CAUDELL: I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The honourable member is entering into debate and not making a personal explanation. I ask you to rule on that matter.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has concluded her personal explanation.

Mr MEIER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

A quorum having been formed:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: WILPENA TOURIST CENTRE

Adjourned debate (resumed on motion).

Mr EVANS (Davenport): I wish to make some comments about the Public Works Standing Committee's inquiry into the Wilpena development. Opposition members of the committee have had plenty of time to prepare a minority report, if that was their intention. As I understand it, from memory, the leases were distributed to members of the committee on about 3 April, and there was a site visit on about 16 or 17 April which I did not attend, as there was no need, because other members of the committee passed to me information from that visit. The facts are that Opposition members have had well over seven or eight weeks to prepare a minority report, if they so wished.

Ms White: It was debated only last week.

Mr EVANS: The member for Taylor raises the issue about when the report was debated. If Opposition members had concerns and wished to bring up a minority report, they could have done what every other member of the Parliament should do, namely, go to the Clerk and seek advice on the procedure of introducing a minority report. At any time, those members could have indicated to the committee that they intended to bring up a minority report and called a meeting to discuss that.

Ms White: We did.

Mr EVANS: The honourable member called a meeting after the time in which she had to submit a minority report to the House, which is absolutely ludicrous. I support the general thrust of the comments made by the member for Mitchell. There is absolutely no doubt that the Opposition members had sufficient time to prepare a case. For whatever reason, they have not taken that opportunity and it is a matter of trying to debate something after the issue is closed. I support the comments made by the member for Mitchell.

Mr OSWALD (Morphett): I will not delay the House, but I want to respond to some of the comments that have been made in the Chamber this morning. Every member of the committee is aware of the procedures within the committee. Certainly, this reference had been around the committee for some time. It was finally listed for hearing when the member for Taylor was not present. The member for Taylor had every opportunity to ring up the Presiding Officer and say, 'I have a problem; I want to delay it; I want to do something about it,' and give us some information. For the two years in which I have been Presiding Officer of the committee the *modus operandi* has been, if you have a problem with some part of the report, then let the Presiding Officer know what it is. We

have cooperated on every occasion and we have delayed reports so that the committee can deliberate.

In this case I am questioning the representative of the member for Taylor, the member for Elizabeth, who was present and who said that she had no idea what the member for Taylor's concerns were. Members of the committee also knew—because they are privy to private knowledge regarding what is happening behind the scenes in developments—about the sensitivity of this report regarding the availability of funds from the ANZ Bank to the Rasheeds. They knew the sensitivity. The timing of this report was crucial; that is, if there was too much delay on the passing of this report, the funds would not be available. I have a feeling today that, because of the Labor Party's failed Ophix development, we are seeing a little bit of sour grapes. The Opposition is frightened of something successful happening under a Liberal Government—and something successful is about to take place.

Everyone involved in the project knows of the sensitivity regarding the funds and the fact that the FRTS had to get underway. As far as checking is concerned within the committee—and the committee has only certain powers with which it can check—I would have thought that to approach the Crown Solicitor and obtain assurances through that process that the Crown Solicitor was satisfied with the documentation would have been sufficient. It is true that we considered—and I was the person who first floated this on the committee—looking at an outside consultant. We received some prices from these various outside consultants. When it came to deciding between a private firm or the Crown Solicitor we considered the matter very carefully and decided that, on this occasion, the advice from a private firm would not be superior to that provided by the Crown Solicitor's Office for which the taxpayer had already paid. Therefore, we decided to accept the word of the Crown Solicitor.

In my initial contribution members may recall I said I wrote to the MFP Development Corporation seeking information about the advice received from the Crown Solicitor. I asked:

Has the Crown Solicitor given advice that all aspects of the agreement with Flinders Ranges Tourist Services are legally defensible?

I carefully chose those words 'are legally defensible' so that we or any future Governments would not have a problem in the future. As I quoted previously, the reply was that the Crown Solicitor had been closely consulted for the initial preparation and subsequent revisions of the lease agreement. I will not reread the whole of the quote but *inter alia* it says that the Crown Solicitor has sat beside the MFP Development Corporation clause by clause and is totally satisfied with the lease.

As a parliamentary committee it is proper that the committee can accept the advice of the independent solicitor, in this case the Crown Solicitor, when he says that his office has sat beside the MFP Development Corporation clause by clause and is satisfied. My main concern in raising this with the committee—and I have to say the Opposition members on the committee have 'me tooed' a little—related to the fact that I was on the PAC inquiry. I said, 'We have to satisfy ourselves that we will not have a repeat of what happened in the 1970s.' Consequently, I led the committee down that track. The Opposition members did not indicate that that should be the course of action. I go into these matters properly. My concern is that this matter is being used as an attempt to torpedo the project and that is a disgrace.

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

Motion carried.

INTERDOMINION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms GREIG (Reynell): I move:

That this House congratulates the South Australian Harness Racing Club on its successful and truly outstanding Sensational Adelaide 1997 Inter Dominion Championships.

It does not seem that long ago that the President of the South Australian Harness Racing Club, Mr Peter Marshall, visited the Victorian summer carnival in an endeavour to secure acceptances for the 1997 Sensational Adelaide Inter Dominion Championships. The final acceptances closed on 12 February this year, and Mr Marshall's mission in Victoria was not only to recruit horses for both the pacers and trotters series but also he had the task of reinforcing the qualities of Globe Derby Park as the home of a first-class racing track. The track itself is considered to be one of the safest and most modern tracks in Australia.

Mr Marshall came back to South Australia overjoyed with the final acceptance list for the Sensational Adelaide Inter Dominion Championships for both the pacers' and trotters' series. The South Australian Harness Racing club achieved its target and attracted the best pacers and trotters in Australia and New Zealand, along with horses that have raced in the United States and are owned by Australian connections.

I read only recently in BOTRA's racing magazine that every sport has its ultimate event: in football it is the grand final, in racing it is the Melbourne Cup and for harness racing the ultimate prize is unquestionably the Inter Dominion pacing and trotting championships—the most important harness event in the southern hemisphere, and widely regarded as one of the world's top six racing carnivals.

The Inter Dominion was born on 4 March 1896 at Moonee Valley when a contest was held between the best standard bred horses in Australia and New Zealand. This contest was then known as the intercolonial free-for-all. Thirty years later the event was again organised for the top performers from both countries. In 1925 the Western Australian Trotting Association staged such an event at the Western Australian cricket ground. After only two years, however, the series lapsed. In 1935 another move was made to bring to harness racing a prestigious event that could become to the sport what the Melbourne Cup had for so long meant to thoroughbred racing. The inaugural Inter Dominion was held in 1936 at Gloucester Park in Western Australia. In 1937, the host city for the 1997 series, Adelaide, presented the championship which, from that day, has been a gruelling program of three heats and a final in just two weeks.

The two week carnival is more than just a horse race or race series. The Inter Dominion brings with it a two week calendar of yearling sales, breakfast with the stars, a barrier draw luncheon, day trips to local tourist attractions such as Victor Harbor, the Port, Birdwood Mill and Kangaroo Island, winery tours and a gala dinner. I also noted that there was an Inter Dominion mass at Saint Francis Xavier cathedral. Each night of the Inter Dominion carnival Globe Derby Park featured a variety of entertainment between races: top-class bands, marching girls and cultural displays by New Zealand Maoris. There were rides and free amusements for children. Every night was a carnival filled with racing and entertainment to satisfy people of all ages.

The Interdominion brings together the best horses, trainers and drivers from across Australia and New Zealand. As I mentioned, horses from the United States joined the competition. The Interdominion is more than a test of speed and stamina. It is not a matter of preparing a horse for a race. These horses are prepared to contest four gruelling races in the Interdominion fortnight. Only the fittest and toughest survive the three nights of heats leading up to the final, where the field is decided on points and not reputation.

Mr Atkinson: Who wrote this for you?

Ms GREIG: I did.

Mr Atkinson: You wouldn't know one end from the other.

Ms GREIG: I was brought up with horses. To win the Interdominion final is the ultimate dream of every owner, trainer and driver. The champions are remembered for ever. They hold an indelible place in harness racing history. The very nature of this race series means that horse, trainer and driver have to endure the rigours of racing four times in 14 days and still perform at their optimum under the inevitable pressure that the event carries with it.

The period 1 to 15 March was an action-packed fortnight for the harness racing industry and even more so for the winners of the ultimate events: race 4, the Interdominion trotters final won by Pride of Petite (bred in the United States and from New Zealand); and race 5, the Interdominion pacers final won by New Zealand horse Our Sir Vancelot. I admit that I had a nice win on Pride of Petite but, in the pacers final, my money was on Rainbow Night, driven by South Australia's own Lisa Justice. She brought Rainbow Night to a flashing finish, missing the win by only a short half head.

For Brian Hancock, his win in the pacers final carries more than the glory of winning the ultimate in harness racing. Because of his brilliant performance, Our Sir Vancelot is now in a position to take on America's leading pacers. On that night it was revealed that Tom Charters, Executive Director of the prestigious US Breeders Crown, had invited the Interdominion winner to compete in a \$300 000 feature held at Meadowlands in New Jersey on 2 August. Following the running of the pacers championship, the Hon. Graham Ingerson as Minister for Racing announced that the South Australian TAB would subsidise Our Sir Vancelot's travel expenses, which are thought to be in the vicinity of \$25 000. This is an excellent opportunity to promote Adelaide and South Australian harness racing on an international level. The money will come out of promotional funds allocated to RIDA and no clubs will be disadvantaged in any way through a drop in TAB distribution.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Our Sir Vancelot's brilliant performance on the night of the ultimate event. In front of more than 15 000 people Our Sir Vancelot produced a stunning display of sustained speed to lead throughout the memorable Interdominion victory. The six-year-old set a track record, breaking pace in the lead and shooting clear as they ran to the home turn. Saturday night's win must be the greatest moment of Brian Hancock's career. It was obvious that his horse, Our Sir Vancelot, means a lot to him and, as a team, driver and pacer, they did the job. Our Sir Vancelot made the pace, he was entitled to the win and it was a great win.

The pacers final was the highlight of the Interdominion, but it is important to note that South Australia hosted two prestigious harness racing events, the other event being that for trotters. While the trotters do not take the limelight or prize money of the pacers, all punters present on Saturday

night have to admit that race 4, the Interdominion trotters final, was the most spectacular event of the evening. We all stood in awe as we watched Pride of Petite move from the rear of the field to the winning position. As she entered the home stretch, Pride of Petite proved why she is a super mare with an equally talented driver in Tony Herlihy. Her finish led to us all standing there silently due to the fact that the race was a photo finish, so close that two lots of prints were needed to determine the winner and, when she was announced, it seemed like the whole crowd was cheering. Pride of Petite's driver admitted after the race that he had never experienced so much applause, and this, his Globe Derby championship, was his best race ever.

Another feature of the carnival was the guest announcer, Roger Houston, visiting from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Roger is the race caller of the famous Little Brown Jug. His style took a little getting used to and, whilst he was calling his race, all eyes were glued on him in fascination rather than on the track. Whilst speaking of features, I should also mention that, for the first time in the history of the South Australian Police, two police greys in harness pulled the landau for Governor Neal, doing a complete circuit of the track. One could see why the greys are the pride of the Police Force. The Sensational Adelaide Interdominion Championships were truly sensational. We showed the world how it is done and how to turn a race meeting into a carnival, but this did not happen on its own.

In conclusion, it would be remiss of me not to mention the untiring efforts of Mr Peter Marshall, President of the South Australian Harness Racing Club (the host club) and his committee; Mr Graham Eglinton, General Manager of the South Australian Harness Racing Club, and his Secretary (Cheryl) and staff; Mr Michael Trenerry, Chairman of the South Australian Harness Racing Authority, and his board members, including Sam Leaker and staff; Dr Ern Manea, Chairman of the Australian Harness Racing Council; and the on-the-ground staff, caterers and entertainers. I should also mention Mrs Raelene Marshall for the assistance she provided, and last (but by no means least) the owners, drivers, trainers and horses who provided us with a world-class, first-class racing event and two weeks of sheer entertainment.

Motion carried.

AUTOMOTIVE TARIFFS

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): I move:

That this House calls on the Federal Government to publicly release the final report of the Productivity Commission on automotive tariffs and export facilitation so that Government and Opposition, industry and unions can respond in defence of South Australian jobs.

I do not want to speak at great length today because we have all spoken with passion about this matter over some months, but I understand that the final report of the Productivity Commission is to be handed to the Federal Government either today or tomorrow. Officers were working over the weekend trying to finalise the commission's final response. I understand there is a majority report and a minority report, as there was with the draft recommendations.

There is absolutely no doubt that the draft recommendations, if re-endorsed, and if then accepted by the Federal Government, would cause this State to lose thousands of jobs. It would be probably the bitterest blow to manufacturing industry to this State in the last 50 years. We believe that

some amendments have been made to the final recommendations to be handed to the Federal Government in the next day or so. We understand that those amendments follow errors made in both economic and computer modelling done on behalf of the Productivity Commission prior to its announcing its draft recommendations. But we cannot take that for granted, of course.

I am certainly very concerned that the Productivity Commission seems to continue to exist in an ivory tower. Both the Premier and I recently visited Japan and met with the leaders of Mitsubishi, Bridgestone and other organisations. The clear message from Mitsubishi was that if the Productivity Commission's draft recommendations became the law of Australia they would be forced to immediately reconsider their future investment in South Australia. What does that mean?

There has been some debate about what that means. It is interesting that it has been clarified in recent times in the national press following the visit by Mr Kuromizu, Executive Vice Chairman of Mitsubishi world wide, who was reported as saying in Canberra exactly what I said in Japan two and a half weeks ago following my three hours of meetings with him. Mitsubishi has to make a decision some time between October next year and the end of January 1999 on whether or not to reinvest in Mitsubishi, and this involves the next model Magna and Verada. That is a \$443 million investment. If they make the decision not to reinvest, that means no new model Magna or Verada after 2002.

It should not take a rocket scientist in South Australia, in terms of commentators or analysts, to understand what they mean. When Mr Kuromizu leans across the table and says to Senator Schacht and myself, 'We're not bluffing'; when he says to us, 'There are other options, including moving to another APEC nation' which perhaps cares more for protecting the investments in the local car industry, I thought the message was very clear. Indeed, I wrote down the comments of Mr Kuromizu, as did Senator Schacht. Both of our recollections of that meeting match identically.

The same, of course, is true of Bridgestone, who told us in no uncertain terms that, as regards their investment in automotive components in South Australia, if the Productivity Commission's draft recommendations become law it would have a 'fatal impact'. It would also have a serious impact on its tyre division, because they supply tyres to manufacturers such as Mitsubishi.

The other issue that came through loudly and clearly in Japan was that export facilitation and the maintenance of an Export Facilitation Scheme is as important as maintaining the tariffs at an acceptable level, say around 15 per cent at the turn of the century. Again and again export facilitation was raised in our meetings in Japan. The media in Australia has largely ignored the export facilitation scheme component of the Productivity Commission's recommendations, because they do not understand it. The fact is that the Export Facilitation Scheme has helped Mitsubishi export more than \$300 million worth of cars to both the United States and Europe and also to Japan in 1996, with a projected export of nearly \$600 million by the year 2000. So we have to win the war on export facilitation as well as on the tariff.

The fact is that John Howard politically cannot afford to wipe out tens of thousands of jobs across Australia by endorsing the Productivity Commission's recommendations even if he wanted to, because he knows that that would mean that he would lose his own job. But we have to win on both fronts. It is imperative that the Productivity Commission's

final report should be tabled in the Federal Parliament and made available to the industry leaders, such as Mitsubishi and Bridgestone, and also be made available to the unions and to the State Government and State Opposition in both Victoria and South Australia. We cannot have a situation where John Howard, his Industry Minister, Mr Moore, and Mr Costello and Mr Fischer, and others, sit around the Cabinet table discussing a report and recommendations that could affect the future of South Australia without being able to make some response to those final recommendations.

I found it appalling that the head of the Productivity Commission, Mr Scales, refused to see me, and I understand refused to see key Liberals as well concerned about this matter. He certainly refused to see me after my visit to Japan. The message from his office was, 'He will not be meeting with any politicians.' So here we have John Olsen as Premier of the State and me as Labor Leader in Japan meeting the heads of Mitsubishi and the heads of Bridgestone and being given a very clear, unsubtle, direct message about their future investment in our State and in our nation, and the Productivity Commission did not want to hear that message. I think that is an outrage and a disgrace. To whom do these people believe they are responsible? It would have been good for Bill Scales to come to Adelaide and get the message or for us to go to Melbourne or Canberra and give him that message and debate this message up front and face to face. In my view it would also have been civil for Mr Scales to have met with Mitsubishi workers prior to handing in that final report.

So I guess what we have to do is keep maintaining the pressure; we have to maintain the pressure on members of the Federal Cabinet who reside in South Australia and in Victoria. We have to insist publicly that this report be made available to the public and most particularly to workers in industry so that we can give John Howard and his Cabinet a response to those final recommendations. I am pleased to see reports on the front page of the *Financial Review* that the head of the Prime Minister's Department, Mr Maxwell Wilton, has come up with an alternative plan that involves not only freezing the tariff cuts but also getting rid of wholesale sales tax. However, there was no mention in those reports of any action in terms of export facilitation. If there is an alternative plan let us see that plan, rather than playing ducks and drakes in the darkness, particularly when there is an enormous sense of job insecurity amongst the work force here in South Australia.

I hope that, if the State Government is given an advance copy of the Productivity Commission's recommendations, which was indicated a week ago, that will become public knowledge. In my view, it would be a back-door attempt at trying to silence the State and the industry if the Premier is given a copy of the Productivity Commission's final report and it is not made available to the workers and industry and, indeed, for debate in Federal and State Parliaments.

We must continue to maintain our battle right down to the line. It is important that we are bipartisan. It is also important that we stop these political games about saying what was or was not said in Japan. I was at the meetings, and so was Senator Schacht. I heard Mr Kuromizu's message. Anyone in that room would have had a clear understanding from Mr Kuromizu's words about what Mitsubishi is considering in terms of its options. It is important to recognise that that has now been confirmed in the national press following his visit to Canberra a few weeks ago. In the meantime, I hope there is bipartisan support for the public release of the final report of the Productivity Commission.

Mr BASS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADELAIDE CITY SOCCER CLUB

Mrs HALL (Coles): I move:

That this House congratulates the Adelaide City Soccer Club for another outstanding season in the National Soccer League and for an impressive achievement in reaching the finals series for the eighth consecutive year and, in addition, applauds the dedication and untiring efforts of John Nyskohus and his coaching team, along with the hard work, loyalty and devoted support for the club by its players and officials.

It is not the first time, and I suspect it will not be last, that I rise to say a few words about the Adelaide City Soccer Club. The A League concluded last Sunday, and there will be many in these precincts who would have liked to see the name of a local club freshly inscribed on the trophy. However, that was not to be, and this year the spoils of ultimate victory went elsewhere—to the Brisbane Strikers, under their player coach, Frank Farina. British racing champion Damon Hill said, 'Winning is everything—the only ones who remember when you come second are your wife and your dog.' This does not apply to Adelaide City and its supporters. So my enthusiastic impatience has to wait another 12 months. Whilst sports fans congratulate the Strikers on their victory over Sydney United, as our State's ambassador for soccer I can offer the expert prediction that the trophy is coming south next year. As a fan not prone to the evils of impartiality, I can predict that the person who engraves next year's Ericsson Cup will need to know how to spell Zebras.

The Adelaide City Soccer Club is an organisation renowned for its commitment to excellence. It has produced coaches and players of status, internationally acclaimed, so much so that it has suffered the losses of players keen to ply their trade in the better and financially rewarding soccer markets of Europe. 'Game, set and match!' said the experts. 'It would be a year of rebuilding for Adelaide City—they wouldn't contend, they wouldn't even make the play-offs.' But to the supporters of Adelaide City it seems that John Nyskohus rebuilt the team and, after a slow start, the Zebras found form and the expectations of fans remained high until they ran into Marconi in an 'away leg' of the semifinal where they lost 3:0. However, again the boys in the black and white did the impossible. Returning to Adelaide to play the 'return leg' not on their favourite Hindmarsh pitch but on the footy oval at Norwood, they drubbed Marconi 4:0 to advance to the next round.

It was there, however, against South Melbourne at Olympic Park that their season ended after a nil-all draw, and then in extra time the crunch came: that sudden death goal. The arguments from Adelaide City's inner circle were, 'We won nothing; we weren't good enough.' I believe that such harsh self-analysis is unwarranted, as it is always followed by the stated aim, 'We must do better, and we will do better.' It is that sentiment no doubt that is one of the secrets of Adelaide City's continuing success.

The statistics of soccer, the record books and the trophy cabinets in the clubrooms show beyond doubt that Adelaide City is the most successful soccer club in Australia, unquestionably strong and professional as a club, inspirational and dedicated as a team—and what a team it is. This year's players were: Jason Petkovic, Bradley Armour, Mark Yates, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin (their wonderful captain), Angelo Costanzo, Bradley Hassell, Dino Mennillo, John Gibson, Michael Musitano, Michael Brooks, Mark Brazzale, Kosta Salapavidis, Travis Dodd, Ross Verschoor, Michael

Pirone, Carmelo Graziano, Joe Barbaro, Anthony Breden, Nick Sabljak and Sergei Vaskin. By the time the referee blows the whistle to signal the beginning of the next Ericsson Cup season of the National Soccer League, there will be a most impressive, new look stadium and surrounds with better facilities for players and spectators alike.

The redevelopment of Hindmarsh is proof of the commitment this Government has given to sport, recognising that the games we play are good for our health (apart from the nil-all draws and the penalty shoot-outs) and good for the business of sport. I pay tribute to the hard work and commitment to the project by the Hindmarsh redevelopment project team—the Construction Manager, Kevin Anderson, architects Woods Bagot, Services SA, Michael Scott of the Department of Recreation and Sport and of course Tony Farrugia, the General Manager of the South Australian Soccer Federation, along with the Board of Commissioners, led by Chairman Les Avory, and capped off by the ongoing support of Soccer Australia and David Hill, particularly through its Deputy Chairman, South Australia's own Basil Scarsella.

With the team selection trials for the Socceroos upon us and the prospect of our first World Cup appearance since 1974, the world game is headed for new heights in this country. A successful national team, as with any successful club team, will generate new interest from both fans and sponsors. Fans of Adelaide City can be proud that under the watchful eye of Terry Venables quite a number of players have come through the Zebra system, such as Damian Mori, Craig Foster, Tony and Aurelio Vidmar, Alex Tobin, Jason Petkovic, Milan Ivanovic and Carl Veart. They have all represented Adelaide City with pride, and Kris Trajanovski will do the same next season. Being impartial for a moment (which I do not like doing), I should add that Robbie Hooker and Stan Lazaridis have great connections with our other A League team, the West Adelaide Sharks, which surely would have had a better season had injuries not rocked it so badly.

As South Australians I believe we should be proud of Alex Tobin, City's captain, now a full-time development officer. He is a great ambassador for the sport, and his undoubted soccer skill and personal popularity will attract many more people to Adelaide City and the game of soccer. Alex has captained the Socceroos and, if the Socceroos make it to the World Cup (and there is no earthly reason to think they will not), the Zebras will have played a major role in that achievement. Adelaide City grew out of the old Juventus Club. It has always been a leader, from the energy and dedication of those many Australians of Italian origin back in 1946 who first formed the team to the strong leadership given to establishing the Australian Soccer League; the promotion of this State; the game and goodwill extended through the tours of Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia; the support and development of our juniors and women; the special relationship that exists between the club members, committee members and past and present players; and, of course, the special ongoing commitment from and to their sponsors.

It is surely one magnificent club, which has captured a special place in our hearts. It has a history full of victories and achievements with the high spots far outnumbering the odd disappointments. Adelaide City has played in the Ericsson Cup Top 6 play-offs for eight consecutive years, in five grand finals, winning the championship on three occasions, and giving its fans a decent run for their money every time.

This year Johnny Nyskohus put together a squad short on experience but big in youth, enthusiasm, spirit and skill and,

as the season progressed, they found their form and duly made their mark. This was some achievement as before the season began Adelaide City had lost Damian Mori to Borussia Moenchengladbach, Craig Foster decided that there were more opportunities in Sydney and signed up to play with Marconi Fairfield, and Goran Lozanovski headed home to Melbourne to play with Collingwood under Zoran Matic.

As we all know, Johnny Nyskohus succeeded two Adelaide City legends—Zoran Matic and John Perrin—in the coaching role and he has done us all proud. His assistant—long time Adelaide City veteran Joe Mullen—provided great back-up for Nysko. He could have been forgiven if he was a little underwhelmed by City's elimination final victory, because his wife, Teresa, gave birth to their first daughter just hours before kick off.

The Zebra administration has always been solid. Austin Toner, the President, leads a vigorous and active board of management and, along with the General Manager, Irene Toner, plus the amazing Sports Director, Charlie Capogreco, they have provided the sport with the support and leadership to ensure that City maintains its place in the forefront of Australian soccer. They are backed by club members, both financial and vocal, generous sponsors and supporters who yell and scream hard for their team. Adelaide City is unquestionably a class act and its professionalism allows it to rise above indulging in any of the shameful and unacceptable conduct fuelled by battles fought in faraway places.

Played in more than 150 nations by more than 25 million people we know soccer is the sport of the future. It is truly the international game and here in Adelaide, Australia, we are good at it. It is growing in popularity and support with more than 600 000 people playing, and here in our own State the numbers of men and women, boys and girls has passed 35 000.

There are a number of reasons that make soccer such an important part of the lives of so many South Australians, but now we can add another to the list. It is the sport of soccer that will enable Adelaide to take on the title of an Olympic city. This international game will be played here at Hindmarsh as part of the Olympic tournament in September of the year 2000. The game generates a strong desire to win for your club, your State or your country. I hope many of our South Australian players—present, past and future; and not just the Adelaide City squad—will have the privilege of representing Australia in that tournament. It is the proud history of Adelaide City that has substantially assisted us towards securing Olympic soccer for Adelaide.

Without the vibrant and well supported clubs of Adelaide City and West Adelaide, there would have been no justification for the extensive stadium facelift and Adelaide would not have even been considered as a venue. As it is, long after the year 2000 games have finished, Adelaide will have a soccer arena of which we can all be very proud, and I can see the day coming when there will be many more trophies housed in the new Zebra clubrooms at South Australia's soccer headquarters.

I salute Adelaide City's memorable heritage and its proud and impressive past, but look forward with great impatience to its rich and future successes and believe it is only fitting that this House recognises its achievements this season.

Mr De LAINE secured the adjournment of the debate.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL

Mr ANDREW (Chaffey): I move:

That in the interests of long-term rail jobs and a strong viable future for rail in South Australia, this House notes the support for the sale of Australian National from Rail 2000, Trades and Labor Council, Port Augusta, Corporation of the City of Port Augusta, Spencer Regions Development Association, Northern Regional Development Board, SA Farmers Federation, Australian Barley Board, Australian Wheat Board, Senator Bob Collins and Australian National.

In the future interests of the rail industry, the State, the national economy and AN employees, it is important that Australian National be sold as soon as possible. This State Government is determined to get the best outcome for future job security, job options and employment opportunities for the current employees of AN and, indeed, to increase the employment opportunities in the rail industry. It is for that reason that this State Government is strongly and clearly supporting the sale of Australian National by the Federal Government. Having worked closely with the State Minister for Transport, the Hon. Diana Laidlaw, over the past couple of years, I am well aware of her very strong determination to achieve this end.

I know that this State Government recognises that the sale process for Australian National needs to proceed either as a total package or as separate component parts, and that the intrastate operations are to be offered as a fully integrated business with track and rolling stock. It is unfortunate, of course, that AN has been losing about \$10 million a month over recent years and, as a result, this sale is the only realistic option. It is a sad but inevitable outcome following 13 years of confused policy decisions and poor management by the previous Labor Government.

The Federal Government has indicated that separate expressions of interest will be sought for passenger rail services. The State Government is encouraged by the strong and credible interest already expressed by the private sector in the sale of AN. The State Government will continue to work cooperatively with the Federal Government to settle the terms of the sale expeditiously and to renegotiate the sale of the rail transfer agreement. The Federal Government recognises the need to embrace in any legislative reform the basic protections and safeguards in the rail transfer agreement on issues such as line closures, reduction of service and divesting of land and, of course, it recognises the interests of AN workers.

In his second reading speech of 14 May in the Federal Parliament, the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Development, the Hon. John Sharp, said:

Australian Nationals' operations, in common with many other government owned railways, are characterised by large and increasing debt and a declining market share. The performance of rail stands in stark contrast to the road transport sector, which has been very successful in addressing consumer needs and therefore increasing its market share. To a large extent this situation reflects the fundamental problems arising from government owning and operating businesses that are more efficiently conducted by the private sector. In particular, government rail authorities have in many cases over the years largely operated as monopolies, have often been subject to political interference and have not been placed on a fully commercial footing.

Further in the Minister's contribution he states:

AN's rail operations have been restricted in their operation by corporate overheads and the burden of debt. Recognising that this arrangement is not sustainable, the Government has decided to offer AN for sale free of debts and liabilities.

In his conclusion, the Minister states:

The future of rail in Australia lies with using our current system much more efficiently and effectively, through encouraging the participation of the private sector, introducing competition and providing a greater customer focus. It is possible for the rail industry to operate profitably, and this will require substantial programs of cost reduction and capital investment by the private sector, accompanied by improvements in service quality. AN is losing money and is in an unsustainable and declining financial position which is unlikely to be improved in the current environment of uncertainty.

The extensive restructure required to generate an efficient and profitable rail system is best able to be achieved with Government divestment and injection of private sector transport expertise. This is also the best long-term guarantee of employment in the rail industry.

In moving the motion, I want to refer to a spectrum of comments and support from a range of other individuals but, before doing so, what is alarming and what needs to be put on the record is the absolute non-public support from the Opposition at the moment, whether it be federally or in the State. I am sure members in the House will be particularly disappointed and certainly very unhappy with the fact that Labor members here in South Australia are not pushing and putting pressure on their Federal colleagues to support the sale of AN in the Senate to get the best deal for the State, the nation and our employees. I refer to the *Advertiser* of 27 May 1997 as follows:

Labor has decided to vote against the sale of Australian National, despite fears the move could see even greater job losses. Shadow Cabinet [federally] yesterday resolved to try to block the AN sale in the Senate.

The report goes on:

Yesterday's decision came despite fears among sections of the union movement that blocking the sale would see the Government close sections of AN, resulting in even greater job losses.

I find it particularly disconcerting that Labor is taking this approach. I now refer to an article in the *Advertiser* of a week earlier where the Secretary of the Public Transport Union, Mr Rex Phillips, is referred to. It states:

It comes despite warnings by the Public Transport Union that halting the sale could be even worse for the troubled rail operator. The union's State Secretary, Mr Rex Phillips, said he had 'no doubt' the Government would close sections of AN if it could not sell them. 'The Government does not have a vision for rail and if the sale is blocked in the Senate there wouldn't be a great deal of hope for job security...'

I now wish to refer to some of the contributions on the recent Brew Report on the continuing role of the Commonwealth in the Australian rail industry. A number of pertinent, accurate and appropriate comments were made in support of the privatisation and sale of AN. I refer to these comments to reinforce the argument for our support of the sale of AN. Mr Mark Carter, Executive Officer, Rail 2000, stated:

We would not wish to see the outcomes of this inquiry delay the sale of Australian National. AN has been an organisation in terminal decline for a number of years now. At times it appears to have been an organisation out of control. Any delay in the sale of AN will only exacerbate the situation, and the rail transport industry in Australia and, more importantly, South Australia and Tasmania will be the worse for it.

He went on to state:

The previous Federal Government. . . has had three years to sort this mess out. Rail 2000 highlighted in our newsletter in, I think, May 1993 that unless something was done then, we would be seeing wholesale job losses and wholesale rail closures. And everybody has sat [back] and let it happen. It was obvious when National Rail, for whatever reasons, took over the interstate business of Australian National, that AN then, on that day, was doomed, and nothing has been done about it.

I now refer to Mr Jack Smorgon, Chairman, Australian National. In answer to a question by Senator Jeannie Ferris, 'If the debt was set aside, does AN have a future?', he stated:

No. . . we have reached a stage now where, in AN's hands it would be almost impossible for us to continue but in private hands I think those businesses can be rescued and the jobs of those people currently employed can be saved.

I now quote Labor Senator Bob Collins. When Jack Smorgon was speaking about making the *Indian Pacific* and the *Ghan* experiential train journeys, Senator Collins said:

I think that is a strategy that will work. When AN was established in the 1970s it was done with the intention that the Commonwealth would own and control all of the rail systems of Australia. I would have to say from a policy perspective that AN's purpose was doomed from that point. It was not the national rail system it was set up to be, and in that were really the seeds of what then happened.

I now quote the joint contribution of the South Australian Farmers' Federation, the Australian Barley Board and the Australian Wheat Board, which said:

Reform of rail in South Australia should remain one of the highest priority issues. . . must be internationally competitive . . . competitiveness is a way of doing it. . . competition brings [about] . . . savings. AN has not got a future. The slate has to be wiped clean.

There was then a strong contribution from the Corporation of the City of Port Augusta. The city manager, Ian McSporry, said:

Council favours the privatisation of Australian National.
Debate adjourned.

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

ELECTORAL (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL

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

SUMMARY OFFENCES (PROSTITUTION) AMENDMENT BILL

Petitions signed by 266 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to support the passage of the Summary Offences (Prostitution) Amendment Bill were presented by Messrs Atkinson, Bass, Blevins, Leggett and Lewis.

Petitions received.

TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN (Minister for Tourism): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN: I am pleased to announce to the House today the appointment of Ms Carole Hancock to the position of Chief Executive of the South Australian Tourism Commission. Ms Hancock has a strong background in marketing and extensive experience in tourism. Her experience, which will be invaluable to South Australian tourism, has been gained in both national and international

markets. I anticipate that Ms Hancock, who is currently marketing director of a major national retailing company, will take up her appointment in early July. The South Australian Tourism Commission board and I are confident that Ms Hancock's extensive marketing and tourism background will enable her to make a strong contribution to tourism in South Australia.

QUESTION TIME

WATER PRICES

Mr FOLEY (Hart): Why did the Minister for Infrastructure provide incorrect information concerning water prices on ABC radio this morning? On ABC radio this morning the Minister said that the water contract had delivered savings without water price increases. Over the last three years rates for the average water use of 250 kilolitres have jumped from \$220.32 to \$274.75. This is an increase of 25 per cent and is more than 2½ times the rate of inflation. Over the same period, the cost of the first 136 000 litres has increased by \$52.15 or 43.45 per cent. Where did you do your mathematics, Minister?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart knows that he was out of order at the end of his explanation and, if he follows that line, he will suffer the consequences. The Minister for Infrastructure.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: This morning on ABC radio I said that \$10 million had been saved by the management contract and that, in essence, that was an average of \$15 in savings right across the board for all South Australian households. That also meant that the bill had not gone up by that amount because there were savings. What I also said this morning on air was that there had been a continuation of this nonsense of misleading the State—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:—by saying that the assets of SA Water had been sold to overseas interests. I took the opportunity to correct Mr Royal and explain that SA Water was 100 per cent owned by the taxpayers of South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Budget day is an important occasion. If members think that they can start off in this fashion, some of them will not be present to hear the budget. I warn the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the first time.

Mr Brokenshire: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not need any assistance from the member for Mawson.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: The member for Hart has been told in this House on numerous occasions that the overall price increase for water in this State has been in line with inflation. There have been two other increases, one being a levy on water in the Murray River, and the other, a levy for filtration plants. That takes the increase for 1997-98 to 4.8 per cent, averaged right across the whole South Australian community. That means that the forecasts of SA Water show that the income it will receive from water pricing is 4.8 per cent, or the average plus those two extra levies, right across the State of South Australia.

AUTOMOTIVE TARIFFS

Ms GREIG (Reynell): Will the Premier respond to comments attributed to John Moore, Federal Minister for

Industry, Science and Tourism, that the Commonwealth Government's response to the Productivity Commission report on the car industry will include the question of fundamental reform of the tax system?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Like the honourable member, I was interested to read the Federal Minister's remarks in the *Australian* and the *Financial Review* today. Those remarks indicated that the Federal Government will critically examine every element of Government policy which adds to the industry's cost base. Minister Moore went on to say:

I believe we [that is, the Federal Government] must look at the question of a fundamental reform of the taxation system.

I strongly endorse those remarks. That is exactly the point that South Australia has been arguing with the Federal Government for a number of months. Reform of wholesale sales tax is especially important, not just for the automotive industry but also for South Australia.

The inequitable system of wholesale sales tax is a double whammy for South Australia. First, much of the growth in Australia in the last two decades has been in service industries, which escape wholesale sales tax. Most of that growth has occurred in Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland and, to a lesser extent, New South Wales. Manufacturing industry, which is found predominantly in South Australia and Victoria, has been burdened with the wholesale sales tax.

Wholesale sales tax was relevant across Australia when we were principally involved in the production of goods. We have now moved into the services industries. The service industries have been the growth industries of the past decade or two. The second aspect of that—and the double whammy for South Australia—is South Australia's most important manufactured goods of cars and wine, which are taxed at the highest rates: cars at 22 per cent and wine at 26 per cent. Therefore, Commonwealth tax policies, particularly wholesale sales tax, has a disproportionate effect on South Australia and causes an impediment to growth and investment in those two key industry sectors in this State.

Therefore, I certainly welcome John Moore's comments last night. Now the issue is on the national agenda we must ensure that it stays on the national agenda. In my view, the Commonwealth should establish a Wallis type inquiry to prepare a blueprint for the reform of Australia's taxation system. In this way the debate on tax reform can progress in an orderly, rational manner with a clear focus on creating an efficient, equitable system suited to Australia's needs now and as a participant in the global economy in the twenty-first century. In the past two decades in this country a number of attempts have been made to reform our tax system, and each time they have failed. We well remember that the Bob Hawke-Paul Keating option C was thwarted in a late night meeting at a hotel. Then there was John Hewson's GST, which was not fundamental taxation reform across the board—it was simply too narrow based and it failed.

We need to ensure that we get fundamental taxation reform in this country that addresses not only the wholesale sales tax that has a disproportionate effect on States such as South Australia but also areas such as payroll tax, that iniquitous tax employers pay for the privilege of paying someone else a wage. Payroll tax and wholesale sales tax add between 4 per cent and 6 per cent to goods we produce for the international market. They are an impediment to us accessing that international marketplace. The Business Council of Australia has identified that 4 per cent to 6 per cent impedi-

ment. The consumer markets of the next century will be in the Asia-Pacific region. They do not have wholesale sales tax or payroll tax, yet we expect our industry and international companies to invest in South Australia and compete in these marketplaces with a 4 per cent to 6 per cent impediment. A competitive global marketplace will not allow that to happen.

Fundamental reform is important if we are to keep a skilled employment base in South Australia in such key industries as manufacturing. Overseas investment is very important. I hear Opposition members going on about French and British involvement with water—

An honourable member: And America.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: And America; that is dead right.

Mr Foley: What about Australians; any Australians?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: I have not heard one peep out of the member for Hart regarding the American GM company's investment in the automotive industry in Adelaide. I have not heard a word from the member for Hart about the Japanese investment at Mitsubishi or Toyota or Bridgestone. The Opposition cannot have it both ways. International investment in this State is important for this State, and tens of thousands of jobs will be created as a result of that international investment. Stop being hypocrites and support industry and investment in this State, which, on the bottom line will create jobs in this State.

BOLIVAR SEWAGE PLANT

Mr FOLEY (Hart): Given the announcement on 1 June 1995 by the Premier in his capacity as the then Minister for Infrastructure that \$20 million would be spent on upgrading the Bolivar sewage treatment plant, including \$1 million for odour control and chemical dosing trials, will the Minister for Infrastructure detail how much has been spent and whether the odour control measures were successful? On 1 June 1995 the then Minister for Infrastructure (now Premier) announced programs totalling \$20 million to upgrade the Bolivar Sewage Works, including the replacement of the sludge lagoons, which were designed to reduce odour emissions.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Let me put a few things into context. We did a quick search of the media comm this morning and thought we would pull out a few issues that some of us who have been here a while would remember. Back in 1989 Minister Susan Lenehan said that it would be years before any solutions to Bolivar would be fixed up or implemented. Also, in 1990 she said that there had been some teething problems with some of the equipment, that it did not work, and 'because of odour problems, we have a little built of difficulty.' The Messenger press in 1990 said that the smells were worse than ever. So, it seems to me that this issue, as I stated yesterday—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: We will get to that in a couple of seconds. We did some other research this morning that we thought would be worth the Parliament's knowing. It is very important that we understand that it was back in Labor times that the EWS started cutting back on chemical usage at Bolivar. It came about because of an industrial strike in 1992-93, when the workers went out because there was an excessive amount of chlorine gas around. It was decided that they would look at what would be the resultant odours if they did not use any chlorine. They found it a quite amazing exercise. When they went around and tested the people who knew, the people in the Salisbury area, there was absolutely no difference at all when they did not use chlorine.

To put that in perspective, in 1991-92 \$1 million was used by EWS; in 1992-93 it was \$720 000; and in 1993-94 it dropped to \$187 000 because of that decision, during the strike, that chlorine was no longer needed. This all happened under Labor—a huge drop in expenditure occurred at the end of 1992-93 and beginning of 1993-94. In 1994-95, \$127 000 of chemicals were used; in 1995-96, it was \$154 000; and in 1996-97, the actual expenditure up until April was \$135 000—by the end of the year it will be \$162 000. So, more money is being spent now on chemical treatment at Bolivar than there was back in 1993-94.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Since the Leader has just walked in, perhaps he ought to have quoted back to him Susan Lenehan's comment in 1989 when she said that it would be years before any solutions could be implemented, that the equipment that did not work was causing continued odour problems and, in fact, that the smell was worse than ever. This reduction in chemical use has come about because of an experiment that occurred under the Labor Government, which found that the non-use of chlorine had no effect whatsoever on the odour. In fact, there has been an increase in the use of chemicals in the past 12 months, and it has had nothing to do with the major problem.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! When the Deputy Leader—who is now warned for a second time—finishes, I will call the member for Hanson.

TIMBER PROGRAM

Mr LEGGETT (Hanson): Will the Treasurer provide an update on the implementation of the Taxation Information and Money by Electronic Return (TIMBER) program? The Treasurer has previously outlined how this significant computer program, which has been developed by the State Taxation Office, was assisting businesses by using electronic means to assess documents for duty and transfer payment.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I am sure that every member of this House appreciates that it is hard enough paying taxes, but sometimes life gets difficult for businesses because of regulations that the Government wraps around them. In South Australia we do, through the efforts of our taxation office, enjoy a strong rapport with the business sector. Our philosophy is that life has to be as easy as possible for those people who have to meet their bills. We are not reducing the bills, but I can assure the House that the simple process of filling all the records and forms is time consuming for small business. If the member for Playford talked to all his small business people, he would recognise that probably 30 or 40 per cent of their productive time is tied up in meeting regulations by Commonwealth and State Governments.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: He is. Perhaps when he is firmly seated in the Senate he will be able to take the time to talk to the people who count. It is quite clear that, whilst we demand a price through the taxation system, it is our intention to reduce the work loads wherever feasible and possible, and TIMBER provides that capacity. It is an innovation in South Australia. It is now recognised around Australia, and every other jurisdiction is looking at this process. It means that we can exchange information and the bills can be paid through the TIMBER system.

Importantly, it was entered for national awards—the Prime Minister's Award for Innovation in the public sector and the tenth Government technology awards. Originally, because the system was not at the stage of operation, it received an honourable mention in the Prime Minister's awards. However, it won an award in the tenth Government technology awards. In South Australia in many areas of taxation we are making every effort to make taxpayers feel comforted that they will get every assistance to meet their obligations but that they will not be loaded down with the enormous burdens which prevail in other jurisdictions and which are forced on them quite often by the Federal Government.

I formally congratulate my officers in the taxation office for developing this system in-house, for making it work and for reducing the burden. I am sure that, with the growth of technology and, indeed, the capacity now of the Internet to operate in areas such as these, we will see an extraordinary development of this sort of machinery in government to make life easier for business people. It is great to see South Australia at the leading edge.

SUBMARINE CORPORATION

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Does the Premier still strongly support the view of his predecessor that the Australian Submarine Corporation should build and sell 10 submarines to Taiwan? In the *Advertiser* of 29 March 1996, under the headline 'Brown push to sell submarines to Taiwan', it was announced that the Premier's office was preparing a submission formally urging Canberra to allow the \$6.5 billion sale of submarines made in this State to go to Taiwan.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I understand that this proposal has been reviewed and I wonder whether it was discussed with Chinese officials.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is now commenting.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Australian Submarine Corporation is an important industry in South Australia. It has established a technology base and an intellectual capacity that is internationally recognised and renowned. In addition to that, South Australian taxpayers have a significant investment in the Australian Submarine Corporation and have had over a considerable number of years.

That investment has had intangible benefits and spin-offs in a number of other industry sectors in South Australia. As I have mentioned to the House on a number of occasions, the defence and electronics industry, with a 20 per cent annual growth rate in recent years in South Australia, is based not only on DSTO and British Aerospace and formerly AWA Defence Industries but also on building up and expanding that technology base for the future. Therein lies a very strategic industry sector-fit for South Australia in the future, and we will put a lot of effort into building it over the next 10 or 15 years.

The fact is that the Australian Government will expend up to \$30 billion on defence procurement over the next 15 years. At the moment, about 40 per cent of Australia's defence procurement dollars are expended in Adelaide and South Australia. We will be seeking to ensure that we not only maintain that 40 per cent of defence procurement expenditure in the State of South Australia but also expand it to 50 per cent of defence procurement of the increased expenditure of

\$30 billion. In doing so, we will create an industry expansion in this State in a very critical sector.

That is the reason why, in the past couple of years, formerly as Minister and certainly continuing since then, I have looked at how we can underpin and attract international companies to Adelaide and South Australia that are focused on defence and electronics so that European and American technologies underpin the defence and electronics industries in South Australia. We will continue to pursue that. We have undertaken a number of overseas visits and discussions with senior companies to put the case for South Australia, to market the strengths of the State. In addition, we have taken up with a number of those companies and showcased the capacity—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Clearly, members opposite do not want to listen to an answer about an industry sector that is pretty important to South Australia. We are showcasing our capability. A matter is being addressed in a number of those industry sectors in South Australian defence and electronics. We are intent on ensuring that, whatever the shake-out from the considerations, that base is preserved within this State. That is why we have also taken up that issue with a range of national companies, and further I have taken up the matter with the Minister for Defence on a number of occasions in terms of how South Australia can progress its defence industry, how we can dovetail into the bilateral agreements that the former Keating—

Mr CLARKE: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. Standing Order 98 provides that Ministers must answer the substance of the question. Do you support selling the submarines to Taiwan or do you not?

The SPEAKER: Order! I would suggest that the Deputy Leader pay attention to a number of other Standing Orders which deal with interrupting members while they are speaking. Regarding the direct point of order, Ministers have more latitude in answering questions than members have in asking them. I would suggest to the Premier that it may be a good idea if he rounded off his answer. The Premier.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have taken up with the Federal Minister for Defence those bilateral agreements between Australia and our near neighbours to look at how we might position South Australia to pick up opportunities in software engineering and the replacement, operation and maintenance of software in the defence systems of other countries. That underlines that this Government has a strategic plan for the development of the defence industry in South Australia, in stark contrast to the Opposition, which has no plans, no ideas and no vision for South Australia. For the third Question Time this week, members opposite have demonstrated that they are not worthy of consideration to form Government in this State, because they simply have no concept, vision or plan for any industry sector in this State.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is fully aware that he is totally out of order. He ought to set an example to his colleagues.

AGED PERSONS

Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurana): My question is directed to the Minister for the Ageing.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not sure whether the Leader is deliberately defying the Chair with those comments, as well as turning his back on the Chair. I have warned the Leader now for the second time and, if it was not budget day, I would have named him for that behaviour. The honourable member for Kaurna.

Mrs ROSENBERG: Will the Minister for the Ageing explain the cause of the current situation facing the ageing population in South Australia? South Australia's ageing population is growing, yet spending on the Home and Community Care program still lags behind other States on a *per capita* basis, even though this Government, for the past three years, has exceeded the Commonwealth offer of growth funding.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: As the Minister for the Ageing, I commend the member for Kaurna for her concern for the interests of older South Australians. South Australia's 200 000 people who are now aged over 65 contribute a significant amount to the social and economic wellbeing of South Australia. The collapse of the State Bank and the Labor Government's mismanagement of the State's economy, however, has had a very detrimental effect on funding for older South Australians. It is interesting to look at a number of areas for which funding for older South Australians might have been provided if the \$3.5 billion lost by the previous Government had been available.

For example, that \$3.5 billion represents the payment of some \$17 500 to every person in this State over 65 years of age. It also means that we could have financed our grants for seniors programs for 23 000 years and funded Seniors Week at the current level for 78 000 years.

The Hon. R.G. Kerin interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Yes, I might still be Minister. Let us look in comparison at the Liberal Government's commitment to the ageing in this State, particularly over the past three years. Last year a commitment was given in relation to 'Ageing—A 10 year plan for South Australia', which was launched in April and which significantly increased funding for the HACC program, or at least gave a commitment to match the Commonwealth growth offer of 6 per cent. In the current year, members might be interested to know that HACC growth of around 10 per cent will be achieved and, as the honourable member pointed out in her question, this is the third consecutive year in which we have surpassed the Commonwealth's offer of growth funding.

In fact, in 1994-95 HACC funding rose by 7.87 per cent, and in 1996-97 by 6.86 per cent. I can assure the honourable member and all South Australians over the age of 65, as well as those who are disabled and who care for others, that in 1997-98 the Commonwealth offer of growth funding will again be matched or bettered. In real terms this means that, in the past three years alone, this Government has pumped an additional \$20 million into the HACC program, boosting expenditure to nearly \$68 million in the past financial year. Our record of three consecutive years of growth and adding an average of nearly \$7 million a year to HACC funding reflects this State's commitment to the ageing, and it is a record of which members on this side of the House can be very proud.

The Liberal Government is committed to rectifying the mistakes of the previous Administration and to ensuring that the aged, disabled and carers in our society are not forgotten and that their needs are addressed. In the past three years HACC funding for respite care has jumped from \$3.7 million to \$6.9 million, an average growth of 28 per cent. Recently

the new Office for the Ageing grants program set aside an extra \$249 000 in one-off funds to develop proposals to enhance and promote the citizenship of older people in South Australia. There is clear evidence of the commitment shown by this Government in regard to older South Australians in very clear contrast to the situation involving assistance provided for these people by the previous Labor Government.

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): Will the Minister for Health explain the effects on older people in South Australia of the Howard Liberal Government's cuts to the pharmaceutical benefits scheme?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Health in South Australia is not responsible for the decisions of the Federal Government; therefore, unless the honourable member can very quickly relate her question to South Australia the question is out of order.

Ms STEVENS: With respect, Sir—

The SPEAKER: No, there is no respect. Either the honourable member does it very quickly or I will rule the question out of order.

Ms STEVENS: My question is whether the Minister will explain the effects on older South Australians. He is the Minister for Health in South Australia. He has the responsibility to look after the total health needs of South Australians—

The SPEAKER: Order! The question is out of order. Leave is withdrawn.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. Can you provide an explanation of your ruling? Does that mean that from now on questions in this place with respect to car tariffs and the effects on people in South Australia will be ruled out of order on the same basis?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Giles has been in this place long enough to ask questions in accordance with the Standing Orders. I would suggest he give a little coaching to the member for Elizabeth and teach her how to ask questions. The question asked by the honourable member was framed in such a manner that it was completely out of order.

SERVICES SA

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I understand that \$250 000 has been allocated to support Services SA's export initiatives. Will the Minister for Information and Contract Services outline to the House the benefits of this expenditure?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Over many years Services SA has developed a very significant capability in terms of restoring heritage buildings. Our Parliament House is one of those buildings. Members only need look at the way it has been restored, with particular attention to the paint work in this Chamber and in the members dining room, to see the capability that exists. Services SA is working with the private sector in South Australia to sell those same heritage skills throughout South-East Asia. It has been very successful indeed; in fact, it has already signed a number of contracts. One such contract involved restoration of a synagogue in Hong Kong, and another that of a mosque in Malaysia. For that particular mosque the contractual services of Danvers Architects and the National Trust of South Australia were engaged. For the synagogue project in Hong Kong the services of Hassell's (a local architect), McDougall & Vines and Artlab SA were involved. It has also been successful in

doing a heritage precinct in Penang, Malaysia, as well as advisory services for a temple in Taiwan. It has a further eight jobs for which it is now tendering. So far, it has brought back at least \$2 million into the private sector in South Australia through the contracts that have been executed.

In addition, it has brought back \$250 000 into the coffers of the Treasurer for the South Australian Government. Further, Services SA is helping the private construction industry and consultants involved to put together a significant capability statement and a database for the supply of services from South Australia in the construction industry throughout the Asian area.

The Hon. D.C. Wotton interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: That is right; they are putting a new roof on the old Queen.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: A great theatre it is, too, and I support the Minister very strongly in his drive to restore that theatre. The important thing is that we are being successful now not just in selling a range of goods and services into South-East Asia but in selling the expertise of individuals from South Australia whose work has been so important in preserving the heritage of Adelaide buildings, giving this city its style, class and character. Indeed, we have now been very successful in getting those companies into Asia. My final point is that Services SA coordinated an exhibition at the Singapore International Exhibition for the Construction Industry in May 1996. As a result, a number of orders are now starting to flow through. That has been very successful, with the first order of about \$1 million likely to be placed at any moment. We are now able to export our construction skills into the Asian area, particularly those skills involving the restoration of heritage buildings.

SHOP TRADING HOURS

Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Does the Premier agree with recent media comments of the Director of the Retail Traders Association that unless the Premier announces his Government's policy on shop trading hours prior to the next State election his Government, if re-elected, will have no mandate for change?

The SPEAKER: I suggest to the Deputy Leader that the question is very close to being hypothetical and that he is aware of that. However, I am prepared to allow the Premier, if he desires, to respond.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: In the budget being brought down today this Government will deliver on specific promises of several years ago. The hallmark of this Government's period of over 3½ years in office is that what it says it will do it will deliver upon. In relation to—

Mr Clarke: You haven't said anything about shop trading hours.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has got it wrong yet again, because this Government made a quite clear and specific commitment in relation to trading hours, and we will honour that commitment. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition cannot help himself. He has actually ruled himself out of going places faster in the Labor Party with his great throw-away line that the Secretary and ALP candidate for the seat of Kaurana was nothing but a bloody idiot.

Mr CLARKE: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. The Premier knows that to be untrue, and one has only to examine the *Hansard* report for the truth.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There are far too many interjections. I would suggest to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that if he is unhappy with the comment he can make a personal explanation at the end of Question Time.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: My hearing is not that bad, and I am sure the record shows it. The real question is: who first left Question Time to telephone the State Secretary of the Labor Party to tell him that the Deputy Leader had made the mistake? Was it the member for Playford, the member for Hart or, in fact, the Deputy Leader?

MICE

Mr BUCKBY (Light): Will the Minister for Primary Industries update the House on plans to combat the build-up of mice in some of our major grain growing regions and on the move to introduce the chemical zinc phosphide as a control method?

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: As you would be aware, Mr Speaker, over the last few months there have been quite a few reports of increasing mice numbers. The Animal and Plant Commission has been carefully monitoring mice numbers over recent months. Certainly, high numbers have been observed in certain localities. While the threat of a serious plague appears to have been averted, there are still many localised hot spots which will require a baiting program this year. For the last mouse plague in 1993 we used strychnine, but that is no longer acceptable to the market and as such is no longer available. As members would appreciate, mass baiting campaigns need a long lead time to ensure that the appropriate chemical from overseas can be stockpiled.

In mid 1996 we approved trials in conjunction with the GRDC of a chemical called zinc phosphide. We have taken the product from trials to approval in the relatively quick time of under a year, thanks to the cooperation of the Victorian Government, the NRA and the Grain Research and Development Corporation. The use of zinc phosphide requires a degree of care and chemical use awareness, and the Government has provided free training courses for farmers in the safe use of the bait. Successful completion of this course is a prerequisite for access to bait material under a requirement set out by the National Registration Authority, and 500 farmers have been trained in less than 3 weeks. Members should be aware that the Grain Research and Development Corporation does not look on the use of a chemical such as zinc phosphide as a long-term answer for controlling mouse plagues, and a lot of research is going into means of control other than chemicals. Let us hope for the sake of farmers and the South Australian economy that the rains continue and all regions enjoy a good year.

RILEY, Mr J.

Ms HURLEY (Napier): My question is directed to the Minister for Correctional Services. Has a Yatala maximum security prisoner, Jim Riley, who was convicted some years ago of murdering a young boy in Adelaide, been transferred to the Port Lincoln Prison, and is it true that he has been able to mix unguarded with young children attending prison visits? The Opposition has been informed that a visitor to Port Lincoln Prison saw prisoner Riley at the prison a week or so ago. We have been informed that the prisoner was sighted in an area where visitors can go for refreshments and that

children unattended by their parents or a prison officer were seen there with prisoner Riley.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: I have heard the comments that were brought up in media expressions of interest in relation to this alleged incident.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: That would definitely make it incorrect, for a start. This is a serious matter, in as much as it is not my policy to name prisoners or the locations in which they reside in the prison system. The names have been used, and I suggest to the honourable member that part of the problem with a non-official complaint to the department is probably the misinformation that is given. In this instance, the name that the honourable member has asked me about is certainly not the name of the prisoner that this allegation is placed against. That is one incorrect aspect of this issue. What I can tell the honourable member—

Mr Atkinson: Do your job.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: If the honourable member listened long enough, he would find out whether I know my job or what the answer is. The answer is that at this point I can inform the House that I did seek a briefing on this matter on the allegations that were not presented to my department, and apparently the circumstances as described have occurred in the past with a prisoner. On previous complaints some time ago, certain conditions were placed on the prisoner during visits by his parents. So conditions exist at present, and the allegations that have been made do not coincide with the period since those conditions were set against this prisoner. In fact, the prisoner cannot mix with other visitors or children, and I am also advised that the situation as described by the person who made the allegations is not correct. In fact, since the conditions were set in respect of where this prisoner can meet his visitors, those conditions have not been breached.

TAFE VOCATIONAL COURSES

Mr WADE (Elder): Will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education explain to the House how TAFE SA is ensuring that its vocational education courses realistically reflect employment opportunities in the workplace?

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: I am very pleased to report to the House that TAFE SA is indeed responding directly to industry needs. Under this Government, the educational programs in TAFE have been reorganised into program clusters to reflect the State Government's economic development priorities. These clusters mirror the State's strategic framework of industry clusters and economic foundations and enable TAFE SA to focus training on those industries showing strong growth and job potential. This approach to training is reducing unnecessary duplication of programs and shifting resources to meet regional training needs and ensuring that TAFE SA staff are kept up to date in their area of professional expertise.

The program clusters are information industries, human services, primary industries, tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, construction and transport services and business services. Additionally, TAFE is responding to the realities of the workplace by constantly reviewing its curricula and providing new courses which reflect the demands of employers. Three new information technology courses, including a diploma and two certificate courses being offered this year,

are perfect examples of TAFE responding to changing industry needs and the national training agenda.

TAFE SA is also offering the State's first retail management course. This is a diploma course which acknowledges that the retail industry is the single biggest employer in South Australia. The course will take people through to supervisory and management levels with topics that include marketing, merchandising, inventory control and human resource management. A certificate in security operations is another new course which is responding to the growing private security industry and recent requirements for licensing. A large number of new tourism and hospitality courses have been developed due to the increased demand from students and the food and beverage industry to provide a course which extends into management level studies.

Three new food processing courses were developed when TAFE was approached by industry to address specific needs within that industry. Two new certificates in recreation studies have been developed because no formal qualifications were available. The new award has been endorsed by industry and in some cases will become a requirement of employment. The new recreation courses also address the dramatic growth in the associated industries of hospitality and tourism. I can assure the House that TAFE training is responding directly to the needs of industry and the community and is helping to produce a highly skilled work force in this State.

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): Will the Minister for Health explain the effects on the South Australian Health Commission and older people in South Australia of the Howard Liberal Government's cuts to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme? The Federal budget cut nearly \$700 million from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme on top of last year's cut of \$500 million. These cuts come from the introduction of a base price for drugs and dropping certain drugs off the prescribed list. Media reports indicate that patients may have to pay up to \$20 more per script.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: There are a couple of initiatives in the program which it is particularly important to draw to the attention of the House. The first is a continuation of what is known as the generic prescribing preference, and that is where there is a number of drugs which all have similar effects. Clearly it is in the taxpayers' interest if the bulk of scripts which are written are written for the cheapest of those drugs, given that they all have the same effect. That is a perfectly logical and reasonable thing to do.

There is another particularly interesting new initiative relating to 'rational prescribing', and I emphasise the word 'rational'. A half dozen categories of drugs are taken in. They include ACE inhibitors and H2 antagonists, which are used in ulcer treatment, cholesterol lowering medication and a variety of other problems such as that. An advisory panel has been set up to give advice and to monitor the use of the various medications to ensure that they are prescribed rationally. There is an advice line for general practitioners so that, if someone comes in with a potential ulcer, the first advice might be an antacid, then they move on to H2 antagonists and so on, depending on the symptoms.

They are perfectly reasonable guidelines for prescribing medication. Interestingly, that meets with the approval of general practitioners. I say that because there is already a program in place in South Australia based around the pharmacy department of the Repatriation General Hospital.

That is based on a technique known as academic detailing. Rather than having someone with a marketing budget detailing the benefits of a drug to a general practitioner, the details are provided by an academic from the pharmacy department of the hospital.

This is working particularly well. Indeed, according to results, we are now seeing the effects of this academic detailing in outcomes for patients; and, more importantly, is the extraordinarily high acceptance rates of general practitioners in the two areas of this system which are being trialled. It is well over 80 per cent, and I believe it may even be in the 90 per cent area. The changes will build on many of the very positive things already happening in South Australia. I spoke about utilising the data exercise in South Australia as a national base—if you like, a springboard for much of the Federal programs—with the Federal Minister, Michael Wooldridge, only a short time ago, and he was most interested. I believe it will be another opportunity for South Australia to lead the way.

POLICE, FUNDRAISING

Mr ROSSI (Lee): Will the Minister for Police explain to the House more about the involvement of South Australian police in local charity fundraising activities and particularly in an event known as 'Crop a cop'?

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: This program was instigated in 1995 in Victoria. It is a very special fundraising campaign to recognise the problem that kids have with chemotherapy treatment in relation to leukaemia. It is one of the very important social faces of the Police Force, in that officers come together in a major fundraising program to ensure that, through having their hair cut off, they raise significant sums of money for the community. In 1995, \$235 000 was raised in Sydney, and in 1996 \$1.3 million. It is a huge and very successful event for which all police officers around Australia should be congratulated. This year the cancer research program at the Women's and Children's Hospital is being supported in South Australia on 16 August. I ask members of Parliament to consider not necessarily having their hair cropped but making a formal donation to this very important police initiative. I congratulate all members of the Police Force in South Australia who get behind this very public campaign, because it is a very good campaign for kids with leukaemia.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MARLA

Ms HURLEY (Napier): Will the Minister for Correctional Services maintain the two Correctional Services positions at Marla until other arrangements are in place and agreed to by the Aboriginal people on the Pitjantjatjara lands and by the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement? Both Correctional Services officers based at Marla will have their employment terminated by 10 June this year. The officers are responsible for pre-sentence reports and supervision of community service orders. The use of community service orders ensures that non-gaol sentences are an option for Aboriginal people in the area. I am informed that the Correctional Services officers are being replaced by a system of contracts with communities but that only the Oodnadatta community has sighted a contract as yet, and there is concern that more Aboriginal people will be inappropriately placed in gaol.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: I understand that some reassignment of programs has occurred within the Aboriginal lands. At this stage no positions have been removed in this area.

Ms Hurley interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: It is not my understanding and it has not been the advice given to me that that is the case. There are workers already at Marla, and I am assured that they will continue to be there after 10 June.

HEALTH INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Mr CONDOUS (Colton): Will the Minister for Health advise the House of any initiatives to assist people from a non-English speaking background to assess health services?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: I thank the member for Colton for his very important question in relation to expanding mainstream health service access to people from a non-English speaking background. A number of important initiatives have taken place which demonstrate the Government's commitment to making world quality health services available to all South Australians whatever their ethnic or cultural background. A new alcohol and drug telephone information service was launched recently which, frankly, will have the potential to save lives and decrease harm for people from non-English speaking backgrounds. Until now it has been difficult for someone from a non-English speaking background to access those services for a couple of reasons. First, there is an emotional reason and a stigma attached, anyway, in admitting that someone has a drug or an alcohol problem whether or not one has a problem speaking English.

That is a big enough hurdle. Obviously, it presents yet another barrier if the services are provided in a language which is not one's native language. Those barriers of language and culture may be hard enough to overcome, but in areas of drug and alcohol the consequences could be fatal. The scheme has been developed in South Australia by the Drug and Alcohol Services Council and the Commonwealth Translating and Interpreting Service. Advice about the service has been targeted at many communities such as the Vietnamese, the Polish, Spanish, Chinese, Khmer, Greek, Italian, Serbian, Croatian and Russian. That is one example of how we are providing appropriate services for Australians from a non-English speaking background.

That builds on another example which I launched a couple of weeks ago at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Government made a \$350 000 commitment to provide South Australia's first targeted interpretive services for hospital patients from a non-English speaking background. This will see a multicultural coordinator employed at the North Western Adelaide Health Service, which encompasses the Lyell McEwin and QEH campuses. Clearly, all sorts of difficulties are faced by people if they find it difficult to overcome a language barrier, and hence the need for this first statewide service being provided at the North Western Adelaide Health Service.

I know from my own personal experience that it can be extraordinarily difficult even eliciting a history from a patient for whom English is not a first language. Given the number of complaints and stories that we as members of Parliament hear from people whose native language is English concerning the difficulties that they sometimes have with the explanations about disease processes, investigations and so on, we can all imagine how much worse it must be to have a language barrier or a cultural barrier added to it. I contend that the establishment of both these services is in clear

recognition of this Government's intense desire to make sure that the mainstream health services are available and easily accessible to people from a non-English speaking background.

BUDGET PAPERS

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer): By command, I lay on the table Estimates of Receipts and Payments 1997-98, Financial Statement 1997-98 and Capital Works Program 1997-98 and move:

That they be printed.

Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION BILL

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the year ending 30 June 1998, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

In doing so, I present the budget for 1997-98.

When elected in 1993, we, the Liberal Government, undertook to clean up the mess created by Labor.

Mr Speaker, all Members will recall the shameful circumstances that prevailed at the time—all the result of the failures and unbelievable incompetence, for which Labor forever stands condemned.

Debt was spiralling to over \$9 billion—following massive losses totalling \$3.5 billion sustained by the State Bank and SGIC, and Labor borrowing more and more to prop up operational spending on a badly directed, unaffordably large public sector.

Taxation levels were crippling, the lifeblood had been drained from the economy, unemployment was over 11 per cent, the State was choking on huge unfunded superannuation liabilities, and the standard of services was deteriorating rapidly.

We were presented with a State deeply in debt, with no hope for the future. Morale of South Australians was shattered, not by external crises or threats, but by the failure of those entrusted with stewardship of our State. No surprise then, when in December 1993, South Australians gave the incoming Liberal Government a record majority.

But, Mr Speaker, the presentation of this, our fourth budget, marks a remarkable and historic turnaround in the financial and economic fortunes of our State. This is a South Australia vastly different from the one the Liberal Government inherited in 1993.

Mr Speaker, it is worth recounting the differences just to remind ourselves of the giant strides that South Australia has made.

Most importantly the days of South Australia spending beyond its means—depending on the savings of others—are gone. From today, the State pays its way.

Compare that to 1993 when Labor was spending \$1 million a day—every day of the year—more than it was receiving in revenue and grants. Content to borrow the difference, Labor was expecting our children, and our children's children, to pay for those excesses.

In the coming financial year, South Australia will pay for both its day to day spending and its capital works from the income it earns.

We are continuing to push debt downwards.

The unfunded superannuation liability—estimated by the Commission of Audit at \$4.4 billion and growing—is being tackled, with a total of \$679 million set aside toward that liability in our first four budgets.

Government owned businesses which were not operating efficiently have been made more competitive and are providing an improved return to taxpayers. Only by tackling Labor's mismanagement head on have we made these giant strides. But we will not rest on our laurels. Our reform program will continue to build a future filled with greater opportunities and growing economic strength, as we slowly but surely discard the burden of Labor's legacies.

I recall saying at the time of my first budget in 1994, that there were no quick fixes—I made no apologies then and I make none now. The path has not been easy, but we are seeing the fruits of our commitment—a commitment to this State and its people.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget that is balanced, not only in the sense of Government income and expenditure, but also in the sense of balancing social with economic and financial responsibilities.

The Government has achieved admirable results from the clean up of State Bank failures by the South Australian Asset Management Corporation and the sale of other assets by the Asset Management Task Force. Improvements in the performance of Government owned businesses, particularly ETSA Corporation, have also exceeded expectations.

While these returns could have built a stronger surplus for the future and taken another slice off the debt, the Government decided to return some of the dividends back to the community through a priority package of measures to stimulate job growth, particularly for our young people, and further invest in the key areas of health, education and police. I will come to the details later.

Mr Speaker, as impressive as these financial milestones are, our achievements are not confined to Government finances and the economy. Investment in areas of social capital improve our quality of life and make South Australia a great place to live and work, bring up a family and do business. To mention just a few examples:

- South Australia's primary and secondary students enjoy the best pupil/teacher ratios of all the mainland States;
- hospital waiting lists have reduced and our hospitals are now recognised as the most efficient in Australia;
- the escalation in major crime has been turned around;
- the rejuvenated Art Gallery and Mount Lofty development signal successful projects of long standing benefit to South Australians and visitors alike;
- our reputation as the centre of cultural and artistic excellence and innovation is growing;
- our transport infrastructure systems are changing markedly with the extension of the Adelaide Airport runway, the Southern Expressway, the Mount Barker freeway and tunnel project, and the Berri Bridge;
- an \$85 million beachside project at Glenelg including marina facilities, promises to be a landmark in tourism, commercial and residential development, not to mention the clean-up of our waterways;
- the MFP Development Corporation will shape future living and working environments with the Mawson Lakes development;

- additional investment is occurring in the State's national parks to improve infrastructure and tourist amenities in high visitation areas including Waterfall Gully (Cleland) and Innes parks, and in the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens;
- new businesses have been attracted to South Australia, with thousands of jobs being created; and
- even the whales feel more secure with their new sanctuary!

All South Australians can be proud of their State. Together we are working to ensure South Australia has a future.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Mr Speaker, I now turn to the cornerstones of this budget:
- as promised, we are delivering a budget for 1997-98 which balances income and expenditure;
 - once again, there are no new taxes or increases in rates of taxation;
 - debt continues to fall—with this budget down to below 20 per cent of Gross State Product compared with 28 per cent in 1992;
 - our program to extinguish the \$4 billion superannuation 'black hole' remains on track;
 - there is a strong surplus on the current account of \$463 million—sufficient to meet the cost of all social capital in 1997-98;
 - more monies have been committed to service delivery, with real terms outlay increases of \$46 million for education, \$16 million for health, and \$10 million for police;
 - there is a strong and carefully targeted capital program—up by 22 per cent in real terms to \$1 291 million—supporting 21 500 direct jobs and even more indirect jobs, while at the same time creating essential social and economic infrastructure;
 - to further stimulate job growth, a number of other initiatives, including payroll tax and WorkCover levy exemptions for employers taking on young people, have been included in a \$145 million priority package of initiatives; and
 - we accommodate a significant contribution to the Commonwealth's budget task, without resorting to tax increases, as some other States have done.

Mr Speaker, this is a responsible budget, consolidating the hard work of the past three and a half years. It is a budget that delivers on promises. This budget remains steadfastly on the course set by the Government in the May 1994 Financial Statement.

Mr Speaker, the four budgets that I have brought down as Treasurer of South Australia see debt cut in real terms by \$1.8 billion. The real measure of the benefit for South Australians is in the proportion of our own source revenue that is consumed in just paying the interest costs on that debt.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: The Leader of the Opposition should not interrupt this speech, because we well know that he tried to stop the Roxby Downs development; he supported Marcus Clarke when he was destroying the State; and he lost the Grand Prix. People need to be reminded about the Leader's performance.

An honourable member: Relevance!

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I'd say it was at the centre of it.

Three years ago interest costs were consuming 29 per cent of our own source revenue, whereas in the coming year, this is cut to 19 per cent—this means more of our revenue can go into services.

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

be dealt with. Wage pressures, which have been building over the past year or so, remain the major threat.

The Government acknowledges the contribution of our employees who have worked diligently to achieve the changes outlined earlier, and has demonstrated that it is prepared to negotiate fair wage increases which reward improved productivity. However, with the pressures that remain, we cannot afford a cost blowout that would erode the very worthwhile gains that have been made to date.

Mr Speaker, this budget completes the 'first wave' of reform promised by the Government on its election in 1993. It has been a period of restoration and repair. But we cannot sit still. The future for our State demands higher levels of performance. We are not competing against other States or even the private sector—we are in a global market place. Our future prosperity and quality of life will depend on how well we as a State compete in that market place.

To prepare it for its rightful place in that future, further reform of the public sector must be achieved.

Mr Speaker, I announce today that this is the last budget to be presented on the traditional cash basis. The introduction of accrual output budgeting across the public sector will tell taxpayers and the Parliament what they have always wanted to know—what services really cost, and what they are getting for their money. No longer will budgets focus only on inputs—that is, things like stationery, equipment and cars as a measure of performance. This second wave of reform will move our Government agencies to a more competitive and business like approach to serving their customers.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Mr Speaker, the State's economy continued to improve during 1996-97 with a strong rise in business investment across a range of sectors and higher overseas exports.

I am pleased to say that in the three years to June 1997, business investment spending in South Australia is estimated to have been around 30 per cent higher than the average over the three years before that. Significantly higher levels of tradeables sector investment are an important foundation for employment growth in the medium term.

Job vacancy levels have strengthened during 1997, consistent with an expected lift in employment during 1997-98. Increased construction activity and household spending are expected to be key sources of stronger employment growth in 1997-98, aided by the Employment Strategy and priority funding package implemented with this budget.

Mr Speaker, the lift in confidence in South Australia as a place to invest is the direct result of getting the fundamentals right in three key areas:

- stabilising State finances—the real basis for future certainty and sustainability;
- competitive tax rates—as measured by the Grants Commission, taxation is less severe than the average of the States;
- low infrastructure costs—a recent study of mainland States' business infrastructure costs—covering electricity, gas, rail freight and waterfront—showed businesses in South Australia enjoy a major cost advantage over all other States. Substantial reform of government business enterprises has contributed to this result.

During 1996-97 rural production made a major contribution, manufacturing exports rose sharply, particularly overseas motor vehicles exports, the tourism sector continued to improve, and petroleum and mineral exploration expanded strongly.

Activity levels in the housing construction sector also improved in the first half of 1997 as a result of the Deposit 5000 scheme launched by the Government in late 1996.

Looking forward to 1997-98, there are significant developments and investment in prospect in the resources and manufacturing sectors—vital areas for job growth in the South Australian economy. These include:

- Western Mining's \$1.5 billion upgrade to Olympic Dam operations;
- continuation of significant petroleum and mineral exploration activities;
- General Motors-Holdens Automotive Ltd's Commodore upgrade and production of a new Vectra model;
- construction of a major electricity cogeneration facility;
- construction of a second continuous caster by BHP at Whyalla;
- upgrade and expansion of Pasminco Smelter facilities at Port Pirie;
- construction of a Computing Resource Centre by EDS (Australia) Pty Limited; and
- significant expansions of aquaculture, horticulture and winery capacity.

These developments, and the major lift in business investment, reflect increased confidence and certainty in our State, the direct result of this Government's policies.

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

REVENUE

Mr Speaker, in its first three budgets the Government rejected taxation measures as a means to sensible and sustainable budgetary adjustment. With this budget, we continue that policy.

South Australia maintains its status as a low tax State relative to other States and Territories. It is imperative that we maintain this competitive edge.

The budget does however, contain several measures designed to foster reform and correct certain anomalies—but I emphasise that these measures are not aimed at the budget bottom line.

As part of the move to greater competition in electricity and gas markets the Government has decided to abolish the 5 per cent levy in respect of electricity sales from 1 July 1997 and to progressively phase out the gas levy over a five year time frame commencing in 1997 98.

The two-tier progressive tax structure on gaming machines, introduced from 1 July 1996 following consultation with the industry, incorporated a guarantee by the hotel and club industry of a revenue yield of \$146 million in the first full year of operation.

In the event of any shortfall, provision was made in the legislation for the tax scale to be amended to achieve revenue levels consistent with that guarantee including introduction of temporary surcharges to recover the actual shortfall incurred in the first full year.

The latest forecasts for 1996-97 indicate that the legislative provisions now seem certain to be triggered, with a revenue shortfall of the order of \$11 million below the guarantee level. Final decisions on an appropriate recovery time frame will be made after 30 June 1997 once the size of the shortfall can be determined and after consultation with the industry.

Mr Speaker, other minor relief measures will be introduced to correct particular anomalies in the stamp duty treatments for transfers of shares by gift and Pooled Superannuation Trusts.

OUTLAYS

Mr Speaker, total outlays rise by 1.4 per cent in real terms in 1997-98. The real terms increase comprises a decline in current outlays of 0.2 per cent, and a substantial increase in capital outlays of 19 per cent.

Mr Speaker, while the budget continues the Government's disciplined approach to outlays restraint, there are changes in accounting treatments and the like that mask the real trends in agency spending.

In particular, Tax Equivalent Regime payments, introduced in line with competitive neutrality principles, and introduction of transparent funding arrangements between the commercial and non commercial sectors for Community Service Obligations, together have the effect of adding \$152 million to non commercial sector outlays and revenues. In addition, payments for past superannuation liability in 1997-98 were brought forward into 1996-97, reflecting delays in other projects.

Aside from these effects, current outlays grow 1.8 per cent in real terms in 1997 98, reflecting:

- increased wage costs in key employment areas—notably health and education;
- introduction of a package of measures designed to stimulate employment growth; and
- strategic initiatives in health, education, youth employment and police.

Mr Speaker, the Labor Opposition has done much to peddle the view that we have cut back in these sensitive areas.

With this, my fourth budget, I think it is time to set the record straight. Yes, we have made savings in the delivery of services and we have cut out inefficiency and waste.

But in health, outlays are up 6 per cent real compared with Labor's last budget.

In education, outlays are up 7 per cent real.

And in police, outlays are up 6 per cent real.

Perhaps even more telling is the fact that when I became Treasurer of South Australia, 20 per cent of total outlays went on health and 18 per cent went on education. Today, 23 per cent goes to health and 20 per cent goes to education.

I ask everyone to reflect on those numbers as indisputable evidence of the Government's commitment.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

Mr Speaker, on our election, the Government made it quite clear that there was no alternative to continuing and extending the previous Labor Government's public sector workforce reduction program. Careful management of the large numbers of surplus employees—entirely by voluntary separation—has made a significant contribution to reducing the deficit.

Over the five year period to 30 June 1997, a reduction of 12 400 full time equivalent (FTE) employees has been achieved in an efficient but equitable fashion.

Beyond that, the Government has sold businesses that are not core Government activities and contracted out services able to be delivered more efficiently by the private sector. This has resulted in a further reduction in public sector employment to 30 June 1997 of an estimated 2 600 FTE employees, through transfer of employment to the private sector.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE RELATIONS

Mr Speaker, since the last State budget, the Coalition Government in Canberra has brought down two budgets and, as we found in 1993, it has had to address a huge structural deficit left behind by a former Labor administration.

In each of those budgets, the Commonwealth has required the State of South Australia to repay more than \$50 million of its General Purpose grant funding as a contribution to eliminating the national deficit.

For South Australians, this has been an unwelcome but unavoidable extra burden. Mr Speaker, beyond the process of fiscal consolidation to which I have just referred, there are several other critical issues in our relations with the Commonwealth which are as yet unresolved.

Amongst these are motor vehicle tariffs, funding for the Darwin to Alice Springs Railway, Australian National Rail, the general issue of national tax reform and the serious imbalance between spending responsibilities and taxing powers—known as vertical fiscal imbalance—which exists in Australia. The South Australian Government will continue to actively lobby for sensible policy outcomes in these areas.

I now turn to the major items of budget spending.

BUDGET INITIATIVES

Mr Speaker, the 1997-98 budget continues the Government's commitment to strengthening the State's economy and increasing investment in key community services, such as health, education and police.

After many years of neglect by Labor, the State is developing robust new industries in our wine, tourism, information technology, mining, aquaculture and back office operations which provide extensive opportunities for South Australians and that means jobs.

Economic development initiatives include \$6.4 million for long term capital development at Mawson Lakes by the MFP Development Corporation, \$10 million for industry assistance, and a variety of measures to support small business and regional development.

To provide further stimulus and job growth, the State Government has developed and progressively announced a priority package of initiatives worth \$145 million, including:

- \$30 million for employment strategies aimed at reducing the rate of unemployment amongst young people, including payroll tax and WorkCover levy exemptions for employers taking on young people;
 - payroll tax rebates for exporters;
 - \$3 million for Youth Traineeships;
 - \$20 million for the National Wine Centre to promote the international status of Australia as the premier wine producer;
 - \$10 million for health initiatives which increase throughput and further cut waiting lists;
 - an extra \$2 million for the upgrade of the Adelaide Festival Centre;
 - \$1.5 million in extra project funding for the Adelaide Festival of Arts; and
- \$3 million to reduce the backlog of school maintenance.

Other initiatives under this package which have previously been announced and are now successfully being implemented include the Deposit 5000 scheme for home buyers.

Mr Speaker, the budget also includes a range of further measures in a new 3 year South Australian Employment Partnership. This Partnership—which is expected to generate thousands of jobs over the coming year—includes the additional 500 jobs for young people in the State public sector and placement of up to 200 unemployed people with local councils for six months on projects of economic or community significance.

Mr Speaker, once again education spending—an investment in our future—is increased, by 3.9 per cent in real terms in this budget. \$18 million has been provided to strengthen

staff resourcing in schools and—as part of the strategy to address unemployment—\$12 million has been provided over three years to establish vocational programs, links with industry, career counselling and student work placements in schools.

\$5 million has been provided to support students with disabilities and learning difficulties and additional funding of \$1 million has been made available to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes.

Mr Speaker, the ageing of the South Australian population and a steady decline in private health insurance levels, together with growth in technologies and demand for public health services, place tremendous pressure on the State budget.

In recent years, the health system—hospitals in particular—has succeeded in improving efficiency, thus providing capacity for growing demand and reducing waiting times for surgery. In 1997-98 the budget provides for an increase of \$40 million for hospitals.

A further \$5 million is provided for the disability services area, \$6 million for enhanced access to specialist and medical practitioner services in rural areas, funding is provided for 125 additional police staff and \$1 million is allocated to improve services for abused children and their families including a new State Wide Child Abuse Report Line.

Mr Speaker, in the past, rural communities have experienced difficulties in accessing government services, thereby impacting on their quality of life. To overcome these difficulties the Government has created the Rural Communities Office within the Department of Premier and Cabinet to build better links between people in the country and essential government services.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr Speaker, the 1997-98 budget provides for a gross capital works program totalling \$1 291 million, including private sector funded infrastructure projects of the order of \$150 million. The program continues the emphasis on building economic and social infrastructure, further stimulating economic recovery and growth, and creating jobs for South Australians. The building and construction industry will again benefit significantly from the increased major works—supporting around 21 500 jobs.

Major projects in the 1997-98 capital works program include:

- \$106 million for capital works in schools, preschools and child care centres, including \$12.5 million for the successful 'Back to School' program and \$15 million for DECStech2001, the major 5 year information technology plan in schools;
- \$122 million for capital works in the health sector including \$24 million for INFO 2000 initiatives, commencement of Stage 1 of a major upgrade of Royal Adelaide Hospital and \$10 million on strategic works in country areas;
- construction by the South Australian Housing Trust of 75 new dwellings and upgrade of a further 850 dwellings, \$11 million for major renewal of ageing housing stock including in Port Pirie and Port Lincoln, and \$3.6 million for Aboriginal Housing;
- \$27 million for infrastructure works and recreation facilities to assist in the redevelopment of the Glenelg-West Beach area and progress works associated with the rehabilitation of the Patawalonga Basin and upstream catchment areas;

- commencement of the development of a \$20 million National Wine Centre;
- \$3 million for further upgrading of the Adelaide Festival Centre in preparation for the Centre's 25th Anniversary year in 1998, the 20th Adelaide Festival and the year of the Ring Cycle;
- completion of an \$8 million athletics stadium at Mile End;
- additional investment in the State's national parks system with \$3.5 million provided for infrastructure and tourist amenities, including roads, in high visitation areas including Waterfall Gully (Cleland) and Innes parks, and in Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens; and
- \$8 million for the continuation of works associated with the extension of the Adelaide Airport runway, a further \$30 million for the Southern Expressway and approximately \$47 million of Commonwealth monies for the construction of the Adelaide to Crafers Highway.

Mr Speaker, significant private sector construction projects are expected to continue or commence during 1997-98 including a new acute care public hospital at Port Augusta and a private hospital at the Flinders Medical Centre, waste water treatment plants, the Bolivar to Virginia reclaimed effluent pipeline, a new netball facility at Mile End, and upgrading the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium.

The 1997-98 capital works program confirms the Government's commitment to the development of South Australia and to rebuilding confidence in the State's future through the provision of quality infrastructure and community facilities.

GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Mr Speaker, over the life of this Government, many reforms to the way services are delivered have been initiated—putting this State at the forefront in many areas of government administration.

These reforms have been fundamental to improving services to the public while lowering costs at the same time.

In many areas we are leading the way for other Governments in Australia. Contracting out of the management of water and waste water and Government information technology services is delivering substantial benefits to South Australians—not just in lowering costs, but in opportunities for industry development and generating new jobs.

Competitive tendering of services previously undertaken on a monopoly basis, is enhancing services, encouraging innovation and reducing costs. This is occurring in public transport, the delivery of health services, prison management and prisoner transport and will be extended to other areas of service delivery if there are benefits for the community. As an example over \$40 million worth of public sector building maintenance and minor works has been identified for contracting out.

The performance of our government owned businesses has been improved dramatically. No longer do these businesses operate like traditional government departments—they are expected to operate in a business like manner, serve their customers and make a return to their shareholders, the taxpayers of South Australia.

SUMMARY

Mr Speaker, South Australians can now feel relief that much of the damage wrought by Labor has been redressed over the past three and a half years as clearly demonstrated in this, our fourth budget.

This would not have been achieved without a commitment at the 'coal face'. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Under Treasurer and his officers during this period of adjustment.

While the extent and pace of reform in this State are beyond question, we must now extend our vision into the twenty-first century. The past three and a half years have rebuilt the platform for the State, but we cannot stop now. The challenge is to continue the revitalisation of our economy—this budget assists that process.

The challenge is to remain competitive with our neighbours, particularly in taxation—this budget does that.

The challenge is to facilitate growth in job opportunities—this budget does that.

The challenge is to encourage the formation of new industry—this budget does that.

The challenge is to ensure we do not re-enter the debt cycle—this budget does that.

The challenge is to provide a future for South Australia and one which we can all look forward to with confidence—this budget does that.

I commend the budget to the House.

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

Leave granted.

Clause 1 is formal.

Clause 2 provides for the Bill to operate retrospectively to 1 July 1997. Until the Bill is passed, expenditure is financed from appropriation authority provided by Supply Acts.

Clause 3 provides relevant definitions.

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

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

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

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

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

Clause 8 sets a limit of \$50 million on the amount which the Government may borrow by way of overdraft in 1997-98.

Mr CLARKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.39 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 3 June at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 27 May 1997

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

NORTH EAST AND SUDHOLZ ROADS INTERSECTION

70. Mrs GERAGHTY:

1. How many road accidents have occurred at the intersection of North East Road and Sudholz Road in the past two years; how many fatalities have occurred; how many injuries have occurred and how many accidents were related to motor vehicles, trucks, motor bikes, cyclists, pedestrians and others?

2. Have any reports been made by the police to the Police Department or Minister or to any other State Government departments to counter the dangers of this intersection and, if so, who submitted the reports and to whom were they submitted?

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:

1. During the two year period 1994-95 (1996 data is not yet available), 119 crashes were reported at this intersection. During this time there were no fatalities but 20 people were injured. Of these, three people were admitted to hospital and the remaining 17 were treated by medical practitioners.

There were 255 vehicles involved in the 119 crashes. Of these, 226 were either cars, panel vans, utilities or station sedans, 11 were either trucks or semi-trailers and 18 were unidentified vehicles. One accident involved a pedestrian being hit by a truck, three involved cars hitting stobie poles and two involved cars hitting a fence and a road works sign.

The South Australian Police Department has provided the following information.

2. There is no record of any reports having been made by police to SAPOL, the Minister or to any other State Government department concerning the dangers of this intersection.

VEHICLES, COMMERCIAL

74. Mr ATKINSON:

1. What is the number of commercial vehicles carried along Portrush Road (between Payneham Road and Glen Osmond Road) on a typical weekday, that is, vehicles with a gross vehicle mass exceeding 4.5 tonnes and with more than four tyres on the road?

2. What is the comparable number for South Road between Port and Torrens Roads?

3. If 'heavy vehicle' is defined as long or combination vehicles, such as semi-trailers and B-doubles, what are the numbers for Portrush Road and South Road on the nominated stretches on a typical weekday?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The Minister for Transport has provided the following information.

1. On a typical weekday Portrush Road (between Glen Osmond Road and Payneham Road) carries between 1 300 and 1 700 such vehicles.

2. On a typical weekday the section of South Road between Port Road and Torrens Road carries approximately 5 000 such vehicles.

3. On a typical weekday the section of Portrush Road in question carries approximately 500 such vehicles, while the section of South Road referred to carries approximately 1 400 such vehicles.

CHILD SEX OFFENDERS

75. Mr ATKINSON: What is the Department of Correctional Services doing to rehabilitate child-sex offenders in prison, on home detention or parole, respectively?

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: Whenever child sex offenders are imprisoned they are assessed, and a sentence plan is prepared by the Prisoners Assessment Committee (PAC). This plan will normally deal with the prisoner's location within the prison system and the sorts of remedial action which may be necessary. This may include individual counselling or group work in relation to issues such as anger management, interpersonal relationships, domestic violence, past abuse (as the victim), victim awareness, substance and alcohol abuse, literacy, numeracy and other educational issues.

In the last three months prior to release on parole, the prisoner is referred to the Sex Offenders Treatment Assessment Panel (SOTAP) for assessment as to suitability for treatment in the SOTAP program, which is run by the Health Commission. The outcome of that assessment is made available to the Parole Board which normally imposes, as a condition of parole, that the offender attend remedial group work at SOTAP during his parole.

Child sex offenders are not permitted to participate on the Home Detention program.

VEHICLES, COMMERCIAL

77. Mr ATKINSON:

1. What is the preferred route through Adelaide for interstate semi-trailers and B-doubles recommended by the Value Management Workshop arranged by the Department of Transport?

2. Has the Minister adopted the recommendation and, if not, when will a decision be made about the route?

3. How will drivers of interstate semi-trailers and B-doubles be encouraged to use the preferred route?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN:

1. The Value Management Workshop identified the preferred route as that bordering the city to the east, along Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton Road, Hackney Road and Fitzroy Terrace, and then utilising Torrens Road and South Road. This route option was closely followed by the same route bordering the city to the east, and then utilising Churchill Road.

2. The Department of Transport is assessing the outcome of the Value Management Workshop, and when this task has been completed will forward recommendations to the Minister for Transport for adoption of a Vehicle Freight Network Strategy.

3. As part of its current assessment, the Department of Transport is working with the Transport Industry to explore options designed to encourage drivers of interstate semi-trailers and B-doubles to comply with the preferred route as outlined in the proposed strategy.

GAMBLERS REHABILITATION FUND

78. Ms STEVENS:

1. How much has been transferred from the Gamblers' Rehabilitation Fund to the Keeping Families Together program and was this transfer recommended by the Gamblers' Rehabilitation Committee?

2. Does the allocation to the Keeping Families Together program comply with the requirement that funds deposited in the consolidated account as recommended by the independent Gamblers' Rehabilitation Fund Committee to organisations servicing gambling addicts?

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:

1. The Australian Hotels Association and Licensed Clubs Association, through the Independent Gaming Corporation, contribute \$1.5 million to the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund which is directed to a range of non government services to assist problem gamblers and their families. None of this funding has at any time been transferred from the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund to the Keeping Families Together program.

2. Funding for the Keeping Families Together program is not part of the responsibilities of the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund Committee.

WINDSOR GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL

79. Mrs GERAGHTY:

1. What is the method of assigning principals to public schools, and, specifically, how does this relate to Windsor Gardens High School?

2. Why will this school have to wait for a year for a permanent principal and how do the circumstances differ from Norwood-Morialta High School with an identical vacancy process and which is able to secure a principal by Term 2?

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:

I am informed there are two processes for the appointment of principals in South Australian State schools. The most commonly used process in recent years has been to advertise the Principal's position in a school for selection by merit. Any eligible teachers may apply for the position.

A second process still used for filling approximately 30 per cent of principal vacancies is known as the Principal Placement Process whereby permanent unplaced principals are listed against particular

schools. Both processes involve the District Superintendent and a representative of the School Council.

In the case of Windsor Gardens High School, three permanent principals with appropriate classification were available for placement in that school. I am advised a staff representative, a school council representative and the District Superintendent were involved in recommending the current principal for the position. After negotiation with the school council representative, it was agreed to appoint the principal for a tenure of one year.

Norwood-Moriaalta High School carries a Class 'A' secondary classification. It is current policy for all Class 'A' schools to be advertised upon becoming vacant.

SCHOOL SALES

80. **Mr CLARKE:** What are the names of the agents appointed to handle the sale of each of the following properties and were tenders called for each agency and, if not, how was each agent appointed?

- Aberfoyle High School (portion of the former primary school site)
- Adelaide Girls High School (portion)
- Bevan Crescent Primary School
- Glenunga International High School (portion)
- Hindmarsh Primary School
- Marden High School (portion)
- Nailsworth High School
- Norwood High School (portion)
- Norwood Primary School (portion)
- Para Hills East Primary School (portion)
- Playford High School (portion)
- Plympton High School (portion)
- Redhill Primary School
- Seacliff Junior Primary School (portion)
- Seaton North Primary School (portion)
- Thebarton Senior College (portion)
- The Orphanage Teachers Centre (portion)
- West Lakes Primary School (portion)
- Windsor Gardens Primary School (portion)

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: The following information has been supplied by the Minister for Education and Children's Services:

Site	Agent
Aberfoyle High School (portion)	No agent
Adelaide Girls High School	Knight Frank Hooker
Bevan Crescent Primary School	Elders Real Estate
Glenunga International High School (portion)	No appointment made yet
Hindmarsh Primary School (portion)	No agent appointed
Marden High School (portion)	No agent
Nailsworth High School	Knight Frank Hooker & Jones Lang Wootton
Norwood High School (portion)	Bernard H Booth & Knight Frank Hooker
Norwood Primary School (portion)	No agent
Para Hills East Primary School (portion)	First Pacific Davies
Playford High School (portion)	Knight Frank Hooker
Plympton High School (portion)	Brock Barrett and First Pacific Davies
Redhill Primary School	J.G.Esklund, Port Pirie
Seacliff Junior Primary School (portion)	Not yet declared surplus
Seaton North Primary School (portion)	Brock Barrett
Thebarton Senior College (portion)	Theodore Bruce
The Orphanage Teachers Centre (portion)	No agent
West Lakes Primary School (portion)	No agent, acquisition

Windsor Gardens High School (portion)

Knight Frank Hooker

The agents selected for the sale of surplus Government properties are drawn from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources list of preferred agents. The selection is carried out to ensure that the agencies receive opportunities on a regular basis. The list is formed every two years following assessment of submissions received from Agents wishing to represent the Government in the disposal of Surplus properties.

The Real Estate Institute provides the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with a data base of registered Agents in South Australia.

LEIGH CREEK OIL-SHALE

81. **Mr LEWIS:**

1. At what stage of assessment is the Leigh Creek oil-shale deposit?
2. When did the Mines Department and/or ETSA first begin making an assessment of this deposit?
3. On how many occasions has the department and/or ETSA advised Government since commencement of assessments that the project is not viable?
4. What is said to be the order or scale of the possible volume of oil-shale and the average grade or yield per tonne?
5. When was the first assessment made of yield per tonne of oil-shale deposits from the general locality of Leigh Creek?
6. At what price per barrel on the international market for light Arabian crude is it considered the oil-shale deposit is likely to become viable?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER:

1. It has long been known that the overburden or mudstone being removed at Leigh Creek to uncover the coal which is used at Port Augusta for electricity generation contains a low grade oil shale and some carbonaceous material. A number of bore core samples have been taken around the perimeter of the Leigh Creek coal basin and oil yield analysis undertaken. The Department of Mines and Energy Resources (MESA) in conjunction with SAGC (previously ETSA) is currently finalising details with a consultant to undertake a conceptual study to estimate the cost of producing oil from the Leigh Creek overburden. This study should take several months to complete.

2. The first known official assessment of the Leigh Creek oil shale was made by a Government assayer (Mr G.W. Goyder, Jnr) on 30 October 1890. Goyder reported that 'the shale from 965 feet when distilled gave 3 000 feet of unpurified gas per ton, a little tarry matter and water and a trace of petroleum'. Another analysis about the same time (5 November 1890) was made by Mr Cosmo Newberry, CMG, and also showed petroleum; he concluded '... whether it will pay to extract from the shale, oil, tar and other products. . . will have to be settled by future experiment under the conditions of cheap fuel and an economic process'.

In more recent times, in early 1987, analysis was undertaken by MESA of existing drill core at Leigh Creek. The assay result showed an average oil yield of 35 litres per tonne. Since then further drilling has been undertaken by ETSA which indicated elevated oil yields suggesting the presence of one or two higher grade bands of oil shale. This information will be used by a consultant with previous analytical data to undertake a conceptual study.

In October 1990, SAGC sent samples of the mudstone or oil shale for direct combustion testing in the circulating fluid bed (CFBC) plant in Germany with encouraging results. The aim of this ongoing combustion testing program is to determine the potential of using the coal/mudstone mixture as a direct fuel for electricity generation.

3. I am unaware of any occasion where either MESA and I understand ETSA have advised Government that the oil shale project is not viable. However, both organisations have expressed caution about the economics of producing oil from the Leigh Creek overburden because although there are higher grade shale bands present in the overburden which average around 50 litres/tonne, this is well short of the 175 litres/tonne average head grade planned for the proposed Gladstone oil shale plant to be built by the Southern Pacific Petroleum/Suncor Joint Venture.

4. Based on current drilling information and within the ETSA's proposed mine life of, say, 30 years, the possible oil shale size could be around 400 million tonnes with an average grade of 34 litres per tonne (as received basis). Provided the retorting of this resource proved economic for the entire volume of overburden to be moved,

the maximum possible volume of petroleum type products is around 77 million barrels over the life of the mine assuming a 90 per cent recovery. It should be noted, however, that after refining not all of the petroleum type products are useable.

If only the higher grade bands prove economic, the maximum possible oil shale tonnage based on ETSA's calculations is reduced to around 70 million tonnes at an average grade of around 50 litres per tonne (as received basis). Once again, based on a 90 per cent recovery, the maximum possible volume of petroleum type product is around 20 million barrels over the 30 years mine life.

5. As mentioned in my earlier answer, the first official recorded analysis of Leigh Creek shale was undertaken by a Government assayer on 30 October 1890. Since that time there has been oil shale analysis undertaken by MESA over measured and logged intervals of drill core. On occasion there may have been unofficial analysis undertaken on 'grab samples' taken from either the face or the overburden dumps. This type of sampling and analysis tends to be very unreliable and not representative of the oil shale resource and therefore generally not recorded or accepted. I cannot say with any certainty when the very first assessment was made of 'yield per tonne of oil shale deposits in the Leigh Creek area'.

6. Until the proposed conceptual study is completed I would not even attempt to guess at what price per barrel on the international market would the oil shale deposit become viable. I would point out, however, that the Stuart oil shale deposit near Gladstone in Queensland has a probable resource of 2.65 billion barrels with grades of up to 300 litres per tonne, and even this high grade oil shale deposit which has been investigated for about 20 years is still to be developed.

OVINGHAM OVERPASS

82. **Mr ATKINSON:** What is the Government's timetable for constructing the Ovingham Overpass to take Torrens Road clear of the northern railway now that the Value Management Workshop on the Metropolitan Freight Network, commissioned by the Department for Transport has recommended that interstate semi-trailers and B-doubles be encouraged to use Torrens Road and South Road?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The outcome of the second Value Management Workshop of the Metropolitan Freight Network Study indicated a benefit in encouraging trucks to use the route bordering the city to the east, along Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton Road, Hackney Road and Fitzroy Terrace, and then utilising either Torrens Road or Churchill Road.

This 'benefit' will now be considered by the Department of Transport in the context of a preferred freight network that comprises all possible route options, with each having a different emphasis on use. At no time has it been intended that the preferred routes carry all of the heavy vehicle demand from Mount Barker Road.

In the meantime, planning and construction of an overpass at Ovingham is estimated to cost approximately \$15 million. Considering the size of the anticipated investment, the Government considers that at this time there would be higher priority contenders for expenditure of this magnitude. However, the Department of Transport will retain the land required for any future overpass at Ovingham—and monitor heavy vehicle volumes to determine any change in this priority.

An at-grade improvement of the Churchill Road/Torrens Road intersection is scheduled to be undertaken to address the delay and safety problems at significantly less cost. This project is currently in the planning stage and is scheduled for consideration in the budget process for 1998-99.

CHRISTIES BEACH MAGISTRATES COURT

96. **Mr ATKINSON:** Does the Government have a plan to construct another waiting room at the Christies Beach Court to separate prosecution witnesses from the accused and, if not, why not?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: The Attorney-General has provided the following response:

The Courts Administration Authority has no immediate plans to construct another waiting room at the Christies Beach Magistrates Court. However, the Authority has commissioned a feasibility study to be undertaken for the redevelopment of the Christies Beach Magistrates Court Complex. In any redevelopment modern concepts, including separate facilities for prosecution witnesses, will be provided.

INTOXICATION DEFENCE

97. **Mr ATKINSON:**

1. How many criminal defendants in South Australia pleaded intoxication last year and how many were acquitted on this basis?
2. Are such pleas and outcomes recorded and, if so, by whom?
3. Have records of such pleas and outcomes been kept for any of the past 25 years?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: The Attorney-General has provided the following response:

1. Alcohol is often raised in pleas and trials to negate a specific criminal intent or in an attempt to diminish responsibility for particular outcomes of criminal behaviour. It is unusual, however, for a person to be acquitted of all charges because of intoxication. The number of cases where intoxication is pleaded is not recorded. Therefore, the answer to this question is 'Unknown'.

2. No.
3. No.

COURTS RECORDS

104. **Mr ROSSI:** In relation to each individual (anonymously) who has stood trial before a court in the past 12 months and had a conviction for either graffiti, assault, rape, stealing, illegal use of cars, manslaughter or murder, what was their age at the time of their first offence and the number of crimes committed in each of the above categories by each offender and have any of them also appeared in the Landlord Tenancy Tribunal disputes records and, if so, what were the topics of the disputes?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: The Attorney-General has provided the following response:

I have been advised that it would take approximately six months to obtain the information requested because of the way information is kept. There is also no statistical link between Courts details of parties and statistics and those of the Residential Tenancies Tribunal. I am not prepared to allow staff to abandon their day-to-day duties to undertake this task.