

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 8 July 1997

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

### SUMMARY OFFENCES (PROSTITUTION) AMENDMENT BILL

A petition signed by 89 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to support the passage of the Summary Offences (Prostitution) Amendment Bill 1996 was presented by Mr Leggett.

Petition received.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the written answer to question No. 14 on the Notice Paper be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

### WATER, FILTERED

The **Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Deputy Premier)**: I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The **Hon. G.A. INGERSON**: The member for Hart last week raised a number of questions regarding the water supply to consumers in the Monarto area. It is sad that he misrepresented the situation as he often does and did not bother to check on the background to his questions with either SA Water or me. SA Water staff have gone to great lengths to personally deal with individual property owners on this matter. In many cases they have gone to speak with them at night or on weekends. Most of the affected customers have commented favourably at the approach taken by SA Water and the way they have kept people informed working to find a solution to this problem. The member for Hart was, of course, responding to the concerns of four customers who were not satisfied with the proposal—four out of 90. Let me present a few facts for the record.

Those customers who cannot be economically provided with chlorinated water are known as 'supply by measure' and 'party liners' who are served through the supply by measure customers. All are supplied directly or indirectly from the main Murray Bridge-Onkaparinga pipeline with unfiltered chlorinated water. Many do not drink this water now because of the way it looks as it comes out of the taps. These customers are outside any recognised water district, and before they were connected agreed to allow SA Water to terminate supply if necessary at a future time.

No-one is being disconnected and SA Water people are working night and day to find a solution which works for the majority of people. They can maintain a water supply from the pipeline if they wish, but they will need to make their own arrangements for chlorination or disinfection if they choose to drink the water.

The filtration of water in the Adelaide Hills is bringing better water to 30 000 customers in the region and is the most significant development in local water supply for many years. Due to filtration of water in the Adelaide Hills benefiting some 30 000 customers, it is no longer operationally sound for SA Water to supply chlorinated water direct from the

Murray Bridge-Onkaparinga pipeline. If the water is chlorinated at this point, there are possible health risks brought on by the new treatment process at the summit for the customers who will receive filtered water for the first time. It would involve some \$10 million being spent at the Summit Treatment Plant to overcome this problem, which affects 90 customers, of whom only four have said they are not happy with the proposal and with whom SA Water is still negotiating.

In other areas which could have experienced similar problems, major areas of supply like Callington, Kanmantoo and Monarto, package chlorinators have been installed by SA Water to ensure the *status quo*. This approach is not economic for the 34 supply by measure customers and others who are supplied by them, as they are dispersed over 40 kilometres and are not serviced by a single offtake line which can be isolated from the main pumping pipeline.

If we had the \$700 000 we now spend daily on interest to support the State Bank debt, we could probably do something more. It is an excellent example of the disaster that the Labor Party has left this Government and the way in which it continually holds us back. SA Water has offered the \$3 600 subsidy to all 34 supply by measure customers and 41 or so party liners—all but four have agreed so far. Another 20 party liners have not been offered the subsidy as they have no need for drinking water with another 40 able to be connected back to a chlorinated supply.

In the future, if the customers to whom we cannot economically provide chlorinated water to want to use the pipeline water, it would be recommended that they dose the water with liquid chlorine measured by the tank capacity they have installed or adopt other measures as set out in guidelines issued by the Health Commission. It is unfortunate that this situation has arisen but it is common only to the Murray Bridge-Onkaparinga pipeline because of the configuration of the existing filtration facilities.

In closing, I would invite the member for Hart to ask the questions of SA Water before resorting to sensationalising these issues in a way which risks being seen as an attempt to drum up a bit of media attention to further his own ambitions. We will filter water where it is economically feasible, but this State cannot afford to invest another \$10 million to keep four customers happy. We want to find a realistic compromise with these people whom we value as SA Water customers, and that is what we are concentrating on doing today.

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Treasurer (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Statutory Authorities Review Committee—Response—  
Review of the Legal Services Commission (Part 2)—  
Report

Rules of Court—District Court—District Court Act—  
Amendment No. 16

By the Minister for Finance (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Police Superannuation Scheme—Report, 1995-96  
Friendly Societies Act—General Laws—Albert District  
No. 83 Independent Order of Rechabites—Salford  
Unity Friendly Society

By the Minister for Housing and Urban Development  
(Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Development Act—Crown Development—Expansion and  
Relocation of the Tanunda Primary School—Report

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. E.S. Ashenden)—

District Council—By-Laws—Elliston—No. 9—Camping.

#### ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Mr BECKER (Peake):** I bring up the twentieth report of the committee on the Economic and Financial Aspects of the Operations of the MFP Development Corporation for the year ended 30 June 1996 and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Deputy Premier):** I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion carried.

### QUESTION TIME

#### FINANCE MINISTER

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** My question is directed to the Premier. Will the principles used to determine whether the stood down Minister for Finance has been—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr ATKINSON:**—involved in a conflict of interest with his ministerial duties be the same as those prepared by the former Attorney-General that applied in the Worthington inquiry into the Hon. Barbara Wiese and, if they have been changed, by whom, and when?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The code of conduct for all Ministers is there; it is clear, it is concise, it is for all to see. The matter has been the subject of investigation and report to me. I will consider it and report to the House in due course.

#### EMPLOYMENT

**Mr CUMMINS (Norwood):** Will the Premier tell the House of the success of the Government's efforts towards creating the right conditions for job growth in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** There is some encouraging news on the horizon for South Australia. The MTA put out a press release today which indicates that new motor vehicle sales for June 1997 are the highest recorded for any single month since December 1985. That is an 11 year turnaround in the month of June for motor vehicle sales. The MTA poses the question whether this signals a return of some consumer confidence in South Australia. One hopes that that is exactly where the direction lies, because that can be added to the ANZ job advertisement series trend data, which indicate that, in June, job advertisements rose for the sixth consecutive month in South Australia and that South Australian job advertisements are now at their highest level since September 1990. The job advertisement figure is 14.1 per cent higher than that of 12 months ago compared with an Australia-wide annual rise of 7 per cent. In fact, South Australia recorded the largest annual increase in jobs of all the States.

The ABS business expectation survey, which reported yesterday (7 July), provides further signs of strengthening business confidence with strong sales growth forecast for South Australia. For example, over the year ahead, total sales growth in the June quarter is expected to be 3.4 per cent in South Australia compared with 2.4 per cent nationally; and

growth of 5.3 per cent in manufacturing sales is expected in South Australia compared with 2.6 per cent nationally. So, motor vehicle sales, job advertisements and ABS business expectations all give some good economic pointers for South Australia. Based on some of those economic pointers, clearly South Australia has bottomed in terms of economic difficulties, and there are some prospects on the horizon. The Government will continue to pursue those policies to give further encouragement to the rejuvenation and rebuilding of the State's economy.

#### FINANCE MINISTER

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** My question is directed to the Premier. Were the principles used to determine whether the Minister for Finance had a conflict of interest presented to him and approved by him before the completion of the Anderson report on Friday? The information that the Opposition seeks is not a copy of the Cabinet handbook but a list of precedents compiled by the former Attorney-General and circulated to all Ministers of the last Government in connection with the Worthington inquiry.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The basis of the investigation and the inquiry by Mr Anderson is well known. The terms of reference have been clearly established. I have now received the report, and I will consider it and report to Parliament in due course.

#### LABOR PARTY, JOBS BLUEPRINT

**Mr CONDOUS (Colton):** Is the Premier able to report to the House on the success of the blueprint by the former Labor Government to create jobs? In 1991, the Labor Government issued a 12 point plan which it claimed would kickstart the economy and create a job recovery program.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The current Leader of the Labor Party put out a 12 point plan when he was Minister to 'create the right climate and kickstart the economy for a jobs recovery'. The plan's creator, now the Leader of the Opposition, put down that 12 point plan in 1991. The plan said that Australia had suffered 'a very rocky landing with major damage to employment'. I point out that most of that damage was done through the Keating-Hawke Labor Government's years of policies of high interest rates which sapped any available cash from small business operators in this country and made their participation in expansion and job creation far more difficult.

Let us look at this 12 point plan which the Leader of the Opposition put out when he was Minister. When the then Employment Minister issued his 12 point plan in June 1991 there were 68 000 people out of work in this State. By the time his term as Minister ended in October 1992, there were 82 500 people out of work. So, whilst the Leader of the Opposition's plan as a Minister of the former Government was in operation and whilst he had his hands on the employment levers in South Australia, an additional 14 500 people in this State registered for unemployment benefits.

That clearly indicates that the Opposition had a plan in Government that did not work. In 3½ years members opposite have not put a plan on the table to demonstrate that they have even considered job creation, economic rejuvenation and rebuilding the economy of South Australia. The simple fact is that, after 3½ years in Opposition, they have learnt nothing, have devised no plan and have no focus on where South Australia needs to go.

**FINANCE MINISTER**

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** Will the Premier advise whether the Minister for Finance has been supplied with a copy of the Anderson report? Has the Premier discussed the report with the Minister for Finance and will the report be tabled in the House before the end of the current budget session?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** I would anticipate tabling my reply to the Anderson report before the budget session.

**REMM-MYER CENTRE**

**Mr BECKER (Peake):** Will the Premier advise the House of the consequences of the Remm-Myer development project and of the implications resulting from its failure for all South Australians?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** I am pleased to respond to the honourable member's question and report to the House the track record of the former Government and the size of the mess we had to pick up and clean up. The member for Hart was a key adviser to the then Minister responsible for State development and a key adviser to the Premier at the end of that term.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** Indeed, we know from the yellow stickers on the files that he was a key policy determinant of the Government. This flawed project as part of the bad bank, which had its birth under the former Labor Administration, commenced a decade ago in 1987. The taxpayers of South Australia are still paying for the excesses and incompetent management seen in relation to this centre. The total legal debt, that is, total costs including interest, as at November 1995 when the Remm-Myer Centre was sold, was \$1 061 million. The Remm-Myer Centre cost the taxpayers of South Australia \$1.061 billion. That was the stewardship of the former Labor Government in South Australia and the legacy it left. The important part—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** Yes, the former Treasurer, the former adviser to the Minister and latterly the Premier. The net loss for the taxpayers of South Australia at the time of finalisation was \$910 million on the Remm-Myer Centre because the eventual sale price of that project that cost \$1.061 billion was \$151 million. That was the sale price—seven times the legal debt foisted on the State of South Australia. That stewardship of the Remm-Myer Centre by the Bannon-Arnold Labor Government is a clear indication of its incompetence as a financial manager.

What would \$1 061 million provide for us today if we had the money? It would give us the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link. The cost of the Remm-Myer Centre equals the cost of a railway line through to the Port of Darwin. Or, if we consider the current cost of the Port Augusta Hospital—close to your heart and electorate, Mr Speaker—we could build 53 Port Augusta hospitals in South Australia with what was lost on the Remm-Myer Centre; or at \$4 million a primary school we could have built 265 primary schools in South Australia with what Labor lost on that one project—the Remm-Myer Centre.

The consequences for taxpayers are long term, punitive and binding. They do nothing to build the fabric of the community, stripped bare by Labor's mismanagement and neglect. The financial consequences do not go away just because the former Government was voted out of office. This

Government did not create the mess, but we are still fixing it, and it will take us a number of years to fix the mess we inherited from the Labor Administration.

**FINANCE MINISTER**

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** Will the Premier say whether the whole unexpurgated Anderson report will be tabled in Parliament in this budget session?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** As I have indicated in my previous answer to the honourable member, I will give a report and table documents in the Parliament.

**OPTIMA ENERGY**

**Mr ROSSI (Lee):** Will the Minister for Infrastructure inform this House on the progress of workers' safety at the Torrens Island power station for those people employed at the South Australian Generation Corporation, now known as Optima?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** One of the outstanding performances in worker safety improvement has been that of Optima Energy, particularly at its site at Port Adelaide. Over the past five years, the lost time injury frequency has improved by 75 per cent. That has come about not only because of management decisions but clearly by a commitment of all the staff and employees at Optima Energy to make that change. They have also implemented during that period the Dupont safety assessment system, in response to which there has been quite a significant improvement in WorkCover levels, which are now at level 3. However, the most outstanding achievement is that last week Optima set a new safety record of two years injury-free days, and that is an outstanding record for an electricity station of that type.

Most importantly, the 227 employees at the power station have had no injuries at all for the past two years. That is a quite fantastic achievement, and I take this opportunity to congratulate all the management and staff of Optima. If all our major industries could work to an extent such as that in reducing their safety problems, we would have significant reductions in workers' compensation costs right throughout the State. Optima Energy and its staff need the full congratulations of this Parliament for setting the record of being injury free for two years at the power station at Torrens Island.

**BRITAX**

**Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is directed to the Premier. How many people were laid off from the Britax operation last Friday, and was the Premier aware that these layoffs were about to happen when he announced on 24 June that the State Government would give \$360 000 of assistance to the company to create 10 jobs? The Opposition has been contacted by workers contracted to Britax through a labour hire company who were laid off last Friday. The Opposition has been informed that some of these workers have served Britax for over two years. The workers advised that at least a dozen jobs have gone.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The Deputy Leader has it half right yet again. The simple fact is that we gave some support to Britax to bring its international research and department arm into Adelaide, South Australia, instead of Singapore. Yes, the number is 10 but that number is anticipated to grow. The important thing was to get this major new research and development arm of Britax Rainsfords established in

Australia and, importantly, South Australia, and we are pleased to have received it. In addition, Britax has told me that in the course of the next 90 days it will be increasing its work force in South Australia, indicating the number of employees it anticipates employing full time. I will seek further clarification from the company on that matter. However, my clear understanding is that not only do we have the extra 10 in the R and D but, over the next 90 days with the new product line and contract with which it has been successful internationally, it will be expanding the work force at its facility.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ASSET MANAGEMENT CORPORATION**

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher):** Can the Treasurer give an indication of the South Australian Asset Management Corporation's likely profit for the 1996-97 financial year?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The House will be well aware of the \$3 150 million bail-out of the State Bank. The Government formed the South Australian Asset Management Corporation under the chairmanship of John Branson to quit those flawed assets. When it commenced operation in July 1994, the assets under the corporation's control totalled \$8.4 billion, most or more than half of those involving Treasury assets rather than loans or properties. For 1996-97 it is expected that the corporation will make a profit of some \$70 million. There have been a number of successes, about which I am sure most members of the House would be pleased. Included in that has been the recovery of about \$16.7 million through the pursuit of a London law firm in relation to a property dealing that the former bank had in London.

Members will also be aware of the sale of 333 Collins Street for over \$240 million and, indeed, the recent signature and contract on the sale of the old State Bank building—now called the Santos building—for \$68.2 million. Due to the success of the corporation the assets have been reduced to some \$2.5 billion from the original \$8.4 billion at 1 July 1994. Of the \$2.5 billion, \$2.4 billion is held in Treasury liquids. The remaining \$100 million in outstanding loans and other property assets will be quit during the 1997-98 financial year. The mess is being cleaned up. We are actually achieving some significant results as a response to the challenge set for the South Australian Asset Management Corporation, and I congratulate its members.

#### **BRITAX**

**Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is directed to the Premier. Precisely what conditions concerning jobs were placed on the Britax company when the Government agreed to assist the company with a package worth \$360 000?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The Deputy Leader knows full well that I will not detail to this House those commercial confidence negotiations with the company and I will follow the practice of the former Bannon Administration, that you do not disclose company details on the floor of the House or through the media. Even the member for Hart, having had a lapse on one occasion, has retreated from pursuing exposure of companies, the level of incentives and what they are because, if you put that information on the table, you ruin the Government's future negotiating position in attracting investment at the least cost to the taxpayers of South

Australia. You have ramping up of any company wanting to invest in this State. I will not expose taxpayers to that sort of risk, and neither should the Deputy Leader, if he had any semblance of understanding of these matters, raise it on the floor of the House in this way.

Most of the instances where incentives are given go through IDC and other forums of the Parliament so that there is a bipartisan check on incentive packages put in place by this Government to a range of companies investing in South Australia. I make no apology for the investment of \$300 000 to get Britax Rainsford employing hundreds of South Australians. The company has successful international contracts such as the supply of rear-view mirrors to Ford in the United States and the like; it is an internationally competitive company providing jobs for the automotive industry and the automotive component supply firms in South Australia, giving job security to South Australians and investing further funds to establish its research and development arm in this State to ensure that the product lines out of the factory in South Australia remain ahead of the product lines out of factories in other locations throughout the world.

The bottom line for that is jobs security for families in South Australia. If members opposite are worried about jobs, I would suggest they look at a different range of questions rather than tackling that which is done solely for the purpose of underpinning an automotive component supply firm out of South Australia which has been internationally successful and which is giving job security to people in this State.

#### **COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE**

**Mr ANDREW (Chaffey):** Can the Minister for Emergency Services please inform the House how upgrading of the State's Country Fire Service fleet will affect employment, particularly in regional South Australia?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** The Government will be spending about \$3 million this year to completely upgrade appliances used in the Country Fire Service. When we add that to the \$3 million put in by local government, we find that the \$6 million campaign will enable a very significant change in the models and the upgrading of all fire appliances.

Moore's Engineering at Murray Bridge employs 23 people, and a quarter of those staff are involved in the upgrade and development of fire appliances. It is because of this expenditure that there is significant growth in the regional area around Murray Bridge. The company has also made a commitment to purchase its fibreglass and other supplies from within the township of Murray Bridge so there is a spin-off from that \$3 million that goes to other manufacturers in Murray Bridge. I also congratulate the company because it has now opened offices in the Northern Territory and New South Wales and, because of its skill in upgrading these emergency services vehicle, it is now able to expand into those markets.

Here is another example of how regional South Australia is benefiting from the expenditure of this Government and how regional South Australia is getting growth after some devastating years, particularly the past five or six, left by the Labor Government of this State. We need to be reminded of the situation every now and again in relation to the mess that was left. In reality, and on advice from the Treasurer, some \$2.5 billion of the \$3.5 billion of debt is still part of the system; \$700 000 a day in interest is still being paid because of the Labor disaster.

Imagine what we could be doing in the emergency services area in terms of replacement of vehicles and the upgrading of equipment in country areas if we were not loaded with \$700 000 every day of the year, year in and year out, because of the debt that the previous Labor Government left this State. It is an absolute disaster; the emergency services area, like all other areas of South Australia, is suffering because of the financial disaster left by the Labor Government of this State.

### POLICE, ALLEGATIONS

**Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is directed to the Minister for Police. Will the inquiry by the Commissioner for Police into allegations made against the police by the member for Bright examine the member for Bright's serious allegation that police were responsible for a smear campaign against him in 1995, and will the Minister undertake to release the full report of the Police Commissioner's inquiry?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** As I said last week when answering a question, this whole inquiry is being handled by the Police Commissioner, now in conjunction with the Police Complaints Authority. All the issues that have been made public, whether mentioned inside this House or outside this House, will be taken into consideration in the inquiry. I am advised that the Police Commissioner some time in the future will give me that report. As I said at that time, it will be tabled in this House.

### SGIC HOLDINGS

**Mr WADE (Elder):** Will the Treasurer inform the House how SGIC has developed since it was sold by the Government in 1995?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** SGIC Holdings was sold to SGIO Insurance in November 1995. It is useful to report to the House not only what has happened in the past with the State's assets but also what is happening now, and there is some good news to be told. In terms of the new partnership formed with the SGIO group out of Western Australia, in January the data processing for the whole SGIO group was moved to Adelaide. The health insurance from SGIC, which emanated here, has now been transported into Western Australia and has achieved its fifth successful month of operation.

In terms of the telecentre here, which was an SGIC innovation and picked up by SGIO, it is certainly showing itself to be amongst Australia's leaders. It was the winner in its category at the Telstra Australian Telemarketing Association Telecentre awards. Now that the telecentre here is obviously first in its class, it is not only servicing South Australians but is operating over the border as well. In November 1996 the SGIC CTP business unit, which provides claims service to the Motor Accident Commission, won an Australian quality awards achievement in business excellence.

So, it is not only good to remember the past and the damage that was done but it is also useful to reflect on the partnerships that were achieved through the sale of those assets. I congratulate SGIO for its continuing contribution to this State and the expansion of businesses outside our borders.

### POLICE, ALLEGATIONS

**Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Given the serious claims by the member for Bright that the Police Force started rumours of criminality about him in 1995 when he was the Minister for Police, will the now Minister for Police ask the Police Commissioner to investigate whether a senior Liberal, who provided the Labor Party with information two years before that date, also provided information to Ms Alex Kennedy to be used in articles in the Messenger Press in January and February 1993?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** This is a very important issue and it disgusts me that the Deputy Leader wants to trivialise it. It is a very serious issue being treated very seriously by me as the Police Minister and also by the Police Commissioner. The inquiry is being made and it combines both the Police Complaints Authority and the Police Commissioner. When that inquiry report arrives it will be tabled in Parliament, as I said.

### MILE END SPORTS STADIUM

**Mr LEGGETT (Hanson):** Will the Minister for Tourism explain to the House why it has taken over 10 years for the Mile End netball complex to be built? I understand that recently an international netball umpire is reported to have described the new netball complex as potentially the best facility of its kind anywhere in the world. Furthermore, the netball community is very excited about the development and believes that it will have a major impact on the sports profile of this State.

**The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN:** I am delighted to respond to the question from the honourable member. The development he refers to is in his electorate and I know just how keenly he has followed that development. To answer his specific question as to why it took 10 years to complete, it can be summed up in a couple of words: the ineptitude of the previous Government. It considered this matter for some 10 years. However, while it was busy losing all the money through the State Bank, the Myer-Remm development and concentrating on important things such as appointing Marcus Clark to head up the greatest disaster this State has ever seen, it was completely ignoring the needs of sport in South Australia.

Not only has this Government completed that netball complex development but also it has almost completed adjacent to it a magnificent athletics facility, which just goes to show the importance this Government has placed on ensuring that we do have the best possible facilities for sport in South Australia. Not only is it in this area that the former Government has been so lax in the past; we can see it in many areas, including soccer, athletics, netball—we could go on and on. All of these sports involve a large number of players and participants in this State, and all of them were totally ignored by the previous Government.

Despite the horrendous financial burden that the present Government inherited, we have been able to provide those magnificent facilities which, as the member pointed out, are receiving praise internationally. I know it hurts members opposite, particularly the shadow Minister, to see the success of these developments. Again, I point out that the United States delegation which was recently here to look at our facilities has indicated they are second to none in the world and we are expecting to get six of their teams to come here and train in the lead-up to the Sydney Olympics. The inept-

tude of the previous Government is well and truly gone, but the results of this Government are there for all to see.

### STATE TAXATION

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** Will the Premier rule out the imposition by his Government of any new taxes or increases in the rates of existing taxes above inflation if it is re-elected?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** I answered this question in Parliament a week or a fortnight ago.

### HOSPITALS, CAPITAL WORKS

**Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna):** Will the Minister for Health advise the House of the Government's approach to capital works for hospitals?

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** Over the 11 years of the previous Government, whilst the champagne socialists were busy gambling away this State and our State Bank, the infrastructure of the hospitals was also decaying. But while the hospitals were decaying, the Labor Party was building an office tower in Melbourne, a tourist resort in Queensland, scrimber plants and so on, all of which have led to nought. In fact, they were building everything but hospitals.

Over the 11 dark years of the Labor Party's rule, on average the Labor Party spent \$45 million in capital works in the health sector. The \$3.19 billion State Bank would have funded the hospital capital works program for 70 years at that rate. Some 70 years of expenditure could have been spent, I would suggest, much better. Not only are we fixing the debt but also we are fixing the hospitals. In contrast to the Labor Party's \$45 million annual investment in the infrastructure of the hospitals, in our first four budgets the Liberal Government has committed \$80 million annually, nearly double the commitment of the Labor Party.

After a long and unfortunately futile wait under the Labor Party, hundreds of thousands of South Australians will have better health facilities because of the plans of this Government. A new hospital is being commissioned at Mount Gambier as we speak. As you would know, Sir, a new hospital at Port Augusta is to be opened later this year. A new private hospital wing at Flinders Medical Centre with a huge advantage to the public patient is currently under way. A major redevelopment is under way at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and the list goes on and on. The Labor Party starved South Australia's hospitals. This Government has undertaken the task of fixing them.

### STATE TAXATION

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** My question is again directed to the Premier. Given the national tax debate and his refusal to rule out new taxes, can he inform—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hart knows he is not allowed to comment. He can ask his question and explain it, and he will have no problems with Standing Orders. If he continues to comment, leave will be withdrawn.

**Mr FOLEY:** Can he inform the House whether his Government has a tax policy of its own and, if so, what is it, or has the Premier handed responsibility for determining tax policy for our State to the Prime Minister and his GST?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** I answered this question in some detail at the Estimates Committee. I simply invite the member for Hart to have a look at the transcripts.

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Mr OSWALD (Morphet):** Will the Minister for Industrial Affairs advise the House of the changes made by the Liberal Government to the workers compensation legislation resulting in lower costs to employers?

**Mr CLARKE:** On a point of order, Sir. All amendments to the Workers Compensation Act—

*Mr Becker interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Peake is out of order.

**Mr CLARKE:**—are already well known to this House, having been debated extensively over the past 3½ years, and are within the member's own knowledge, so he need not waste the time of the House by asking such a dorothea dixer.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is entirely up to the Minister whether he answers the question.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I will accept, Mr Speaker. Of course, it is a real embarrassment to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that he opposed the changes to WorkCover brought in by the Liberal Government. We all know the circus that went on and the way the Labor Party opposed every attempt by this Government to amend the Workers Compensation Act. Under the Labor Government's legislation, something like 4 600 workers were caught in the merry-go-round of WorkCover, where they just could not get out of the system. We introduced redemption payments. A total of 4 600 people have accepted them in an 18 month period, at a cost of \$160 million, and now there are 4 600 fewer people under WorkCover than there were 18 months earlier. That is a very significant improvement in the outcome for the system.

Although it has cost \$160 million to pay out under the redemption policy, the actuary has highlighted that the long-term debt of WorkCover has been reduced as a result of that. Under the Labor Party legislation, that debt was increasing by \$12 million a month; under our legislation, it is reducing by \$6 million a month. That is a turnaround of \$18 million a month under this Liberal Government. But, most important of all, 4 600 people will be able to get out and start a new life and get off the treadmill of WorkCover.

### WATER SUPPLY, MURRAY RIVER

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** My question is directed to the Minister for Infrastructure. Owing to the lack of winter rain, when will SA Water start pumping from the Murray River to reservoirs serving the metropolitan area, and in these dry conditions does South Australia—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr ATKINSON:**—have an entitlement to have water released from Lake Hume and Dartmouth Dam?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** This sounds like a Jack Slater question to me—it goes back a long time. Jack used to set it up over a period of months. One would ask, 'What is the level of the water in all of the reservoirs?' and then eventually one would get to the big king hit, 'We are now going to pump water.' The water level in all the reservoirs is much lower than we would like it to be at this time of the year. Clearly, the member opposite would realise that that is because of the current weather conditions. We expect that significant pumping from the Murray River will begin very shortly. As to the exact starting date, I will report back to the Parliament,

and I will advise the member as soon as I receive the information—which will be as soon as possible.

### LABOR PARTY, ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

**Ms GREIG (Reynell):** Will the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources inform the House whether the Government has any plans for an environmental audit of South Australia, as the Opposition has promised? On Monday 7 July, the *Advertiser* reported that the State Labor Opposition had launched a 10-year environmental strategy, including a proposed environmental audit of South Australia.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** No, he will not get 20 minutes.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** As the member for Reynell would appreciate, this Government very strongly supports recycling. But I would have to say that we are not as good as the Opposition when it comes to recycling statements. Labor's so-called new policy announced in a news release on Saturday 5 July was the same policy as announced on 13 March, and very similar to the policy announced on 27 January this year. That is not a bad effort for three recycled statements. Labor repeatedly recycles gimmicky statements about setting environmental targets, but the Opposition knows full well that talk is very cheap. Labor ignored environmental issues for 11 years.

In contrast, this Liberal Government has set targets and, more than that, has achieved them. We have set up the Urban Forest Biodiversity program, which has delivered tens of thousands of new trees across the Adelaide Plains; we are cleaning up the Patawalonga and the Torrens; we finally built the Mount Lofty summit, after 11 years of neglect; and we are addressing the Kangaroo Island koala overpopulation—to name just a few issues.

With respect to an audit, the comprehensive 1998 State of the Environment report has been underway for some time; and we have the EPA, with the toughest environmental powers in Australia, setting real targets for industry to achieve, with assistance from Government, with real environmental improvement programs. The Opposition can talk as much as it likes and it can recycle its statements as much as it likes: the fact is that we are getting on with the job, we are fixing up the environmental mess that it left, just as we are fixing up its economic mess.

### INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT

**Ms WHITE (Taylor):** Given the concern outlined in a document on a leaked computer disk containing briefings by her departmental senior adviser (Mr Bob Jackson), has the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education now received full fee payment for the 1996 return on investment in the International College of Hotel Management and, if not, what action has she taken to recover it?

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** The International College of Hotel Management (of which I know that all of the members in this House are aware) is another extremely good news story for South Australia. It has an international reputation, and it brings in international students who bring many millions of dollars into the economy of South Australia. I am happy to take that aspect of the honourable member's question on notice and identify any of the specifics of the question that the honourable member has asked.

### WATER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT BOARDS

**Mr BUCKBY (Light):** Will the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources advise what community interest there has been, if any, in response to proposed new water catchment management boards for the Murray, the Onkaparinga and the northern Adelaide-Barossa regions? On 10 May 1997, the Minister advertised for expressions of interest for community-minded people to fill positions on all water catchment management boards and also called for comments on the proposed boundaries of the new catchment areas.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I thank the member for Light for his question and for the ongoing interest that he shows in the improvement to water catchment management in South Australia. As members would know, two years ago we set up two catchment boards—the Torrens and the Patawalonga. Since then, they have been very active in protecting and managing our water resources. This task requires a great deal of work to be carried out, which means an acceleration of jobs in environmental management—and it is that part of this whole issue that I am very pleased with.

So far, the catchment boards' program has created up to 137 jobs, a combination of full-time, part-time and short-term consultancies or contracts. Overall, about \$5.4 million has been injected into the community for jobs related to the catchment management program in one way or another. I believe that is an excellent achievement. Now we are extending the same principles of community involvement in catchment management in other ways and in other waterways and water resources.

There has been a considerable amount of interest in this whole issue. Over 250—I believe it is now up to 270—notifications of interest have been received by the three catchment boards mentioned by the member for Light. Now that the Water Resources Act has been proclaimed, I am keen to get on with the job of setting up those catchment boards as a matter of priority. I have been delighted with the response from the community as it obviously supports the excellent work which is being carried out by this Government to clean up the water resources of this State.

### VELODROME

**Ms WHITE (Taylor):** Will the Minister for Recreation and Sport report to the House on the current financial situation of the cycling velodrome? The Opposition has been told that the Volley Ball Association has decided to move its operations elsewhere, thus withdrawing about \$50 000 per annum in revenue to the velodrome.

**The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN:** The velodrome is currently undertaking a number of considerations regarding its future use. I assure the honourable member that the Government is looking at a number of alternatives which will increase, not decrease, income to the velodrome.

### APPRENTICES

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** Will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education advise the House on the Government's achievements in relation to contracts for training commencements?

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** There has been a significant increase in the number of apprenticeships and traineeships since this Government came to power in 1994. Currently, more than 12 000 young South Australians are undergoing

training as either apprentices or trainees. In 1996, a staggering 7 098 young people began apprenticeships and traineeships, and the figure for this year is also impressive, with 3 100 people having commenced training in under six months. So, more than 10 000 new positions for our youth have been created in less than 18 months. When those figures are compared with the paltry efforts of the previous Labor Government, it will be seen that it was responsible for only 3 700 commencements during the whole of 1993 and an even smaller number in 1992.

The State Liberal Government is proud of its achievement in doubling the number of young South Australians in traineeships and apprenticeships. It is getting on with the job of fixing the mess, the responsibility for which was left to us by Labor, and providing jobs for our youth, which is a major outcome of what this Government is doing at present and will continue to do.

### CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, SOCIAL WORKER

**Ms HURLEY (Napier):** My question is directed to the Minister for Correctional Services. How often will Mrs Valma Ahg-ne, the social worker at Whyalla, be at Marla or the AP lands and for what purpose given that she does not speak Pitjantjatjara?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Chair is particularly interested in this question as I know a considerable amount about it.

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** It is nice to know that the Opposition is showing an interest in the duty of care of Correctional Services for Aborigines.

**An honourable member:** Just put it on notice, Dorothy.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is now put on notice.

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** No, this question is not about anything that is over-complicated. As I explained last week, the situation at Marla is that certain jurisdictional changes in operational methods are taking place, particularly the many ways in which we can bring into operation crime prevention programs specifically for Aborigines in the light of the disproportionate number of Aborigines whom we continue to have in our prison system. So, a change in operational methods is taking place in the Marla region to address in particular this problem which the Liberal Government considers to be very serious.

As far as the individual who was named by the member for Napier is concerned, I cannot stipulate—and I am sure that at this stage no-one can stipulate—on how many occasions that person will need to visit those lands. Obviously, that will depend on circumstances that arise. When the need arises, that person will make those visits. I also advise the honourable member that speaking Pitjantjatjara is not an absolute necessity for any member of Correctional Services to enable them to deal with these people, and they have handled this situation very well for some time. Many of the tribal elders in that area speak English and, if any of our operational members need to seek assistance from tribal elders, there are many people in the Marla area who will continue to provide an exceptional service, as they have in the past.

### SMALL BUSINESS

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** Will the Minister for Industrial Affairs outline some of the measures taken by the State Government to ensure that South Australian small businesses benefit from Government contracts? In the past, the Opposition has alleged that South Australian businesses would be frozen out of more than \$50 million of Government contract work and that that work would go to foreign firms.

**Mr CLARKE:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. The Minister answered a similar question during the Estimates Committee. I suggest that the honourable member read *Hansard*.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Again, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition seems to be extremely sensitive about this matter. This Government has a positive policy of putting more work out to small business. A number of key policy initiatives that the Government has taken have helped that process. I will cite some examples, because just before Christmas the Leader of the Opposition alleged that the Government was freezing all small businesses out of the maintenance work for Services SA. In fact, the position is just the opposite.

The first thing that the Government did was to say that country areas of South Australia would be completely removed from larger tenders and that, secondly, larger tenders in the metropolitan area would be for only the supervision of work, that the actual subcontractors would be the small companies, and that they would carry out the work as they have in the past. In fact, the Government expects that those small companies will get more work than they have had in the past.

This Government has made a 20 per cent increase in the amount of work that has been put out to capital works, and most of that work has gone to smaller South Australian companies in the construction industry. On top of that, the Government has reached a number of agreements in which specific preference has been given to local smaller companies to make sure that they are the suppliers, particularly in regional South Australia. Finally, this Government has worked closely with some of these smaller companies in the construction industry to help them to get jobs overseas in export markets. Previously, because of their size they could not do that.

I highlight in particular the heritage work that has been carried out by the State Government. Through that heritage work, the Government increasingly is getting jobs in Hong Kong, Malaysia and other markets in Asia to help smaller companies to get work of a significant level. I gave details of this during the Estimates Committee, and I invite members to look at those details, because they demonstrate the positive message that we must sell to the small business sector.

### MEDICARE, SEFTON PARK OFFICE

**Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Will the Minister for Health join me in demanding that the Federal Liberal Government reverse its decision to close the Sefton Park Medicare office from September this year? The Sefton Park Medicare office services 130 to 150 clients per day who seek a cash refund. The closure of that office will force the residents of my electorate, many of whom are elderly, and the residents of Prospect and Nailsworth, to travel to the nearest Medicare office in the city to claim a refund.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** I have already discussed this matter with the Federal Minister for Health.

### YOUNG OFFENDERS

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright):** My question is directed to the Minister for Family and Community Services. How successful has the State Government been in helping young offenders to get jobs and thereby make the transition to safe, responsible and law-abiding adulthood? Two years ago the Department for Family and Community Services was instructed to give strong emphasis to vocational training for young offenders at Cavan, to give them focus and direction and, hopefully, reduce the incidence of repeat reoffending.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am particularly pleased to be able to provide the answer as Minister for Family and Community Services. It is a good news story for this State and this Government and, in particular, a good news story for the young people to whom the member for Bright has referred. This Government has met its goal to ensure that more young people who have offended or who are troubled make the transition to safe, responsible and law-abiding adulthood. A key element in achieving this goal has been the provision of vocational education and training in the department's secure care centres. In other words, this is a real jobs policy.

Since 1995 at the secure Cavan Training Centre, young offenders have been able to gain vocational skills in horticulture, car mechanics, hospitality, fitness, leadership and bricklaying. The success of the program has been startling. In the past 12 months 78 young people have been released from detention at Cavan, and 23 of them, or 35 per cent, have entered employment as a direct result of this breakthrough program. Even more encouraging is that only two young persons placed in employment are now known to have reoffended.

The problem of getting work for young offenders was far too difficult for the previous Labor Government. In fact it ran away from it as fast as it could. In contrast this State Government has tackled the problem of young offenders. We are training them in valuable skills and seeing that those skills are put to use in real jobs to benefit both themselves and the community. I am absolutely delighted with the results of this program and commend all who are working through the Department of Family and Community Services and have been able to achieve these goals.

### GAWLER CRATON

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** Will the Treasurer in his capacity as Minister for Mines and Energy advise what assessment the Minister and the Government has undertaken into the impact on exploration for gold in the Gawler Craton by companies such as Helix, Equinox, Adelaide Resources, Goldstream and others, following the Reserve Bank's decision to significantly sell down Australia's gold reserve and the subsequent negative impact this decision has had on impact and on the world price of gold?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The issue of what will happen in the Gawler Craton is one of native title more than of gold prices. The Federal Labor Government created this native title legislation, which means that the exploration and development of this State is being severely impaired by the actions of the member for Hart's Federal colleagues. We do not have to make decisions about this. We know that the

exploration effort is continuing, which I assume means that nobody is getting worried about a short-term change in the gold price. Most people make decisions on what they believe will be the medium to long-term capacity to make a profit. Our immediate problem is native title, which was given to us by the Labor Government. The gold price will sort itself out, and those mines that are economical will get under way once that is sorted out.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I point out to the House that, with brief questions and precise answers, we have had 31 questions today.

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANTATION

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Health):** I move:

That the committee have leave to sit during the sittings of the House.

Motion carried.

### RETAIL SHOP LEASES LEGISLATION

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer):** I lay on the table a ministerial statement made by the Attorney-General today on the Retail Shop Leases Bill 1996.

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### GRIEVANCE DEBATE

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

**Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna):** One of the best news stories in this State is what has been done by the Liberal Government to repair our health system following years of Labor neglect. It is a story written not with promises or plans but with actual results and a story that has reached all across this State. Mount Gambier's new \$29 million hospital stands out as one of this Government's finest achievements. It is completed and is due to be officially opened soon, and services are being transferred from the old site to the sensationally designed new facility as we speak.

The shining example of Mount Gambier stands as a stark reminder to the South Australian public of what makes Liberal different from Labor. From one election campaign to the next the former Labor Government promised the people of Mount Gambier and those of the entire South-East that it would build them a new hospital. As we saw time and again, Mike Rann and his cohorts broke their promises no sooner than taking office.

**Mr FOLEY:** On a point of order, Sir, I ask the member for Kaurna to refer to the Leader of the Opposition by his title and not his name.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hart is correct. The member for Kaurna should refer to members by the accepted title or by their district.

**Mrs ROSENBERG:** They went ahead on their ruinous path of draining our finances through their reproachable handling of the State Bank. Labor offered very little but despair for South Australians and, from what we have heard so far of its flimsy plans and promises for this State, little has

changed over the past three years. Little has changed in the ranks of Labor's policy makers. What has changed dramatically is that in less than one term of office the Liberal Government and the people of South Australia have corrected the State's path and put it back on the road to recovery. In less than four years the Liberals have been able to line this road with the latest in medical technology and facilities, making this State's health system a national leader in efficiency and productivity.

Works are well under way for a new hospital at Port Augusta, and I am informed that completion of this project is expected before the end of the year. This massive \$18.9 million project came about through an arrangement involving the SA Health Commission, Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Services Inc., financiers BZW Australia and builders Boulderstone-Hornibrook Pty Ltd, to design and build a new hospital to be leased by the Port Augusta Hospital Board. The new hospital will be built on the existing hospital site and will provide 85 acute care beds and two palliative care beds.

On Eyre Peninsula, Port Lincoln's Hospital redevelopment project has moved into its third phase, valued at \$7.4 million. The overall project is worth \$16.5 million and is expected to be finished in May 1999. This final stage of work allows for all medical services to be located on one level and community services on another. This will increase service delivery to meet the different needs of clients and provides physiotherapy, mental health, paediatric, podiatry and domiciliary care services and assistance to families for palliative care patients, day surgery facilities and an upgrade to the existing operating theatres.

This massive redevelopment program has also seen established other country health units such as Wallaroo, Coober Pedy, Kangaroo Island, Millicent and Ceduna, while key health facilities such as the Port Pirie Environmental Health Centre are also receiving major upgrades. This great news story is not just unfolding in country South Australia: it is also being reflected in metropolitan Adelaide. Recently, the Premier announced the long-awaited and fully supported \$122 million redevelopment of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. This proud hospital has been in dire need of a massive overhaul of its facilities and structures for many years—a fact which was recognised during three terms of Labor. However, the Leader of the Opposition and his ALP mates chose to bury their heads in the sand and hope that the problem would go away.

That is not how the Liberal Government operates. The sum of \$5.8 million was committed for the Royal Adelaide Hospital's redevelopment in the recent budget handed down by the Treasurer. State Cabinet has fully approved \$60 million to be spent on the Royal Adelaide Hospital redevelopment's first two stages, with the first stage worth \$15.4 million to start immediately and the \$44.6 million stage 2 development flowing on from there. The total redevelopment will be carried out over seven years, transforming both North Terrace and Hampstead campuses to make the Royal Adelaide Hospital truly a hospital of the future. Patients will come first in the re-engineering of the delivery of patient services, the key future focus being increased day surgery and expanded low dependency care and hospital in the home services, all of which are aimed to reduce the length of time people spend in hospitals, which our chief surgeons and many others recognise as being the most appropriate means of caring for patients.

Construction is forging ahead in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on a brand new 40-bed psychiatric inpatient unit worth \$6.2 million. People with acute mental illnesses living in Adelaide's western suburbs will have on hand the latest in compassionate and appropriate inpatient services. In the south the major health facility, the Flinders Medical Centre, is a hive of activity, thanks to the construction of a new \$60 million private-public patient hospital. The Ramsay Health Care Group development will see 450 jobs created during the new hospital's construction.

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

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** I rise today to speak on an important issue, particularly as we are counting down to the next State election: the intent of a re-elected Liberal Government under this Premier to take on the issue of taxation. Over a number of weeks, in carefully calculated statements, the Premier has been laying the groundwork for significant taxation increase should his Government be re-elected at the forthcoming State election. As we know, a national tax debate is at present being foisted upon the nation by the Prime Minister, who has put down that a GST is his preferred option. By way of response from this Premier, in recent months we have seen a number of important and quite deliberate statements. First, he acknowledged that, from his point of view, the Government made a mistake in its decision not to increase taxation upon being elected in 1993. He is quite openly critical of his colleague the Minister for Industrial Affairs, for his decision not to increase taxation when he was Premier.

The Premier has broken through the first barrier, that is, to put on the record that this Government should have increased taxes as recently as the past couple of years, when it was elected. Since then, what else have we seen? On a number of occasions, we have heard the Premier say that he will not rule out taxation increases, new taxes or increases in charges if he is re-elected. The electorate has a stark choice, because the Labor Party is on record as saying—and as shadow Treasurer I will make this policy statement—there will be no new taxes and no increases in the rates of taxation by a Labor Government if elected.

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, member for Mawson.

**Mr FOLEY:** The choice is very simple. A re-elected Liberal Government means increased taxation—new taxes and increases in the rates of taxation. Under a Labor Government, there would be no new taxes. The double whammy would come into effect: we would have Government under John Howard bringing in a GST, coupled with a free-for-all by an elected Olsen Government to significantly reform taxation. The Premier has already said that it should have been done years ago and that the window of opportunity was there shortly after the last State election. One does not have to be a genius to work out when the next window will come for Premier Olsen—straight after the next election if the present Government is re-elected.

The choice is quite clear. We are getting to the differences between Labor and Liberal as we march towards the next State election. The first difference is that under Labor there will be no new taxes or increases in taxes, whereas re-electing a Liberal Government means new taxes and increases in the rates of taxation. If you are unemployed and are doing it hard, you will be taxed more under this Government. This is a very important difference. If I were the member for Reynell, Elder,

Hanson, Florey or any other marginal seat—perhaps Mawson (they have given up on the member for Lee; that one is out)—I would be worried about explaining to my electorate as I doorknock—and this applies to the member for Reynell—why I support new taxes and increases in taxes when my electorate and the community can least afford it.

The choices are becoming clear. As we move well into the phoney campaign and await the Premier's announcement of the election date, which we all expect in the course of the next month or two, there will be a number of key differences. A re-elected Liberal Government will mean more taxes, increased taxes and more money taken from the pockets of the people of South Australia who can least afford it. Not only has this Government driven down the economy, been incapable of reviving the economy and failed the jobless but it will tax them more.

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

**Ms GREIG (Reynell):** I have raised a number of issues over the past few years highlighting inequities and attacks on social justice, both at State level and at times international level, and today I want to highlight an issue that I see as an abuse of taxpayers' funds and which I believe is a corruption of our representative system. A few months ago a prominent member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union made a statement implying that he intended to put funding into Labor campaigns in preferred marginal seats, one of those seats being mine. I noted that the targeted seats are being contested by his factional friends, also known as members of the Bolkus left.

Union funded campaigns happen all the time—we know that—and most union donations are upfront donations to the ALP. However, this much publicised donation looks like a personal arrangement between Mr Mick Tumbers and his four factional candidate friends. If this is the case, clearly this would be a misuse of the union's funds, but that is the AMWU's problem. What I ask is how one division of this union can hoodwink its membership, decide where its power base lies and fund selected campaigns which, I might add, could be seen as a support base for this union's own upcoming election. Surely, this is corruption of the political process.

I am also concerned about whatever dirty handshake deal was done: what makes a candidate succumb to the temptation to prostitute herself to a union? Is it the money? Is it the extra help at election time, with the only cost possibly being the access to resources should the union win the seat? Is it an office, telephone, fax or photocopier? The answer to that is, 'Easy: who will care?' Well, I care, and so do 23 000 other people who give a damn about the union's right to abuse taxpayers' funds—people who voted for parliamentary representation and not for a puppet kowtowing to a union-led faction.

The AMWU has been riddled with problems; in fact, prominent members of the metals division are an embarrassment and treat the rank and file members with contempt. Members may recall that in May last year the State Secretary of the AMWU was asked to stand aside while an incident in which he was involved could be investigated. I do not know the man personally, but his reputation exceeds him. It is hard to accept that this man is in a position of protecting workers' rights, when the same man is involved in a vicious assault on one of his own kind—a union organiser who obviously disagreed with him. Charges were dropped, and I ask: why?

Is it acceptable in the AMWU to reach consensus through intimidation—

**Mr FOLEY:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Reynell has made a serious allegation purporting to be a criminal offence by a union official. I understand that that matter is no longer proceeding, and I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The honourable member has said that she understands the charges were dropped. She followed it immediately with that statement.

**Ms GREIG:** I did, Sir. Is it acceptable that the AMWU should reach consensus through intimidation, through bashing in a worker's head and sending the poor man to the Royal Adelaide Hospital to be treated for head injuries?

**Mr FOLEY:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Sir, your ruling was that the honourable member just said that those charges had been dropped. She is now choosing to patrol these through the Parliament. This is a disgraceful abuse of parliamentary privilege. She should make those statements outside.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. Members in this House are responsible for their own statements, as the honourable member would well know.

**Ms GREIG:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker; I was only asking a question. I am also asking whether bully-boy tactics are an acceptable way of life in this union sector. They are not in the real world, and I hope my community soon realises what alternative they are being offered. From what I have been told, the union delegate in question is seen as a has-been in many union quarters. Under his leadership, the AMWU has been riddled with problems, and the State division would be bankrupt if it were not for the national office. I am curious to know where or how a union that loses an average of \$1 million annually gets thousands of dollars to give to its hand-picked political candidates. What guarantee is there that the hand-picked candidate, if elected, will represent the constituency before the union bosses?

I want to know why this same union member is also promoting inflated wage claims in the car industry—mind you, this man has never had any part in wage negotiations in South Australia's car plants. Is he blocking the rights of workers at Holden's to vote on a wage proposal, and could his continued disruption threaten the new VT model planned for later this year? If the VT model and Mitsubishi export drive fail, it will not be tariff victories we have to worry about.

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

**Mr ANDREW (Chaffey):** In the limited five minutes available to me today, I want to pay tribute, and put on the public record, the high regard of Riverland residents for two prominent Riverlanders who have died in the past couple of weeks. The first is the late Lionel Sims MBE. Lionel, at the age of 87, died late last month on 28 June. However, he gave meritorious service to the Renmark Corporation, being elected to the corporation from 1958 to 1963. He served as Mayor for 23 years from 1966 to 1989 and served a further two years as councillor from 1989 to 1991. In other words, he gave a total of 30 years to local government—almost a third of his life. Lionel Sims represented the Riverland region in an exemplary manner during the numerous terms he served as President of the Riverland Local Government Association and as the region's delegate on the State Executive of the Local Government Association of SA in the many years he

served as Mayor of the Corporation of the Town of Renmark. People in other councils were completely confident in his ability and integrity to represent the Riverland region.

Lionel was always candid regarding Renmark's interests and was quoted as follows:

If you want something badly enough, you don't allow yourself to be given the run-around by anybody. We just jump in the car, travel to Adelaide and go right to the top.

Lionel was from the old school, with all its high standards, guidelines, dedication, commitment, accountability, courtesy and respect for others. He demonstrated all those qualities and demanded them in return from others. The people of Renmark were served so well for many years by a true ambassador. There was nothing he would not do for his beloved Renmark. Through all his service he was ably supported and encouraged by his wife Irene.

The service that Lionel gave to Renmark and its community is dear to the heart of many local residents. His efforts, commitment and integrity are visibly reflected in not just the physical developments and improvements in the Renmark district but also in the personal and community attitudes of the area. Lionel Sims will be remembered with respect and gratitude for continuing the pioneering spirit in Renmark and the Riverland region and he will be remembered as Renmark's statesman.

I also refer to Rocky (Dean) Page OAM who was well renowned as 'Mr Riverland country music legend'. Rocky died in mid-June after losing a long fight with motor neuron disease. Rocky will be best remembered as the founder of the annual Riverland Country Music Festival and the South Australian Country Music Awards. His illness forced him to miss this year's awards in Barmera on the June long weekend. However, his absence was the first since they began in 1979. Rocky's enthusiasm and promotion of country music continues strongly, with the awards night attended by nearly 800 and broadcast across South Australia. The festival began after the Riverland Country Music Club was launched in 1977 by Rocky, supported by nearly 100 from the local community. In the early years they held a talent quest in Berri in conjunction with the Berri Rodeo, of which Rocky was a founding member. The core of the festival moved to Barmera in 1993. This year Rocky was still involved as an adviser, working alongside his partner, Nan Harding, the current President of the Riverland Country Music Club.

Rocky dedicated his life to music, to fostering new talent and young people not just from the Riverland but throughout the State and the nation. He had presented a country music program on Sunday nights on Radio 5RM since 1957. This was the beginning of a long radio career, with his program attracting listeners from as far away as Queensland and Tasmania. Rocky's Hall of Fame was opened several years ago and was set up by his wife Viv. It is full of memorabilia collected by Rocky over the years from the many shows where Rocky performed, with photographs, autographs, posters, costumes, instruments, tapes and records. It is a monument to his achievements in Barmera. Rocky also served on both the Berri and Barmera District Councils where his love of the Riverland and his concern for young people was expressed. In recognition of his service to the Riverland and to charities he was awarded the inaugural Riverland Citizen of the Year in 1977. The Riverland indeed can be proud and honoured to have been served by these two very distinguished gentlemen.

**Ms HURLEY (Napier):** I want to deal briefly with the education of boys. There is new evidence that boys in school are slipping further behind girls in a number of areas of education, including traditional areas of maths and science. The *Age* today details a number of indicators in the Victorian system. In fact, the article covers theories about why this might be so. One theory includes the feminisation of the teaching service, that is, that overwhelmingly in the primary school sector teachers are female. There are few male teachers in primary schools and this is starting to happen as well in secondary schools. One of the consequences of that, it is proposed, is that in a number of subject areas those female teachers in the past in trying to get girls to catch up in traditional areas have phrased the curriculum in a way that is helpful to girls learning the subjects so that, for example, problems in maths and science might be phrased in a more anecdotal and ordinary everyday life way rather than as a straight problem couched in very technical terms that is supposed to favour boys.

As someone who studied science at school and did it at a time when, for example, in year 11 and 12 physics many of the examples given of problems in physics were to do with the working of car engines, and one needed to know quite a deal about the workings of the internal combustion engine to be able to understand the curriculum. I have a great feeling for boys if that is what they are going through at the moment. As a matter of fact, I was quite interested in cars and engines and did not have a great deal of problem with it but other girls doing the course were really handicapped from the beginning in that they did not understand the way the examples were put or they did not understand what was meant to explain the physical theories to them.

So, if that is what is occurring for boys in the education system, that they do not understand the way questions are phrased or they do not understand the explanations, I can see that they do have a great deal of handicap in their system. Therefore, I would like to highlight this matter to the House. A number of other members have done this. It seems that the problems facing girls in the education system—the sorts of problems that faced me—have been redressed and that perhaps they have gone too far at this stage and we once again need to look at the desperate problems that boys seem to be encountering in getting up to speed in literacy.

It is an interesting irony that this technological age seems to have resulted in a greater reliance on good literacy for people, which I do not suppose anyone would have expected. As things change quickly in our society and in our education system, it is apparent that in order to keep up with this students need a greater standard of comprehension and literacy than ever before and boys are obviously as a whole, and still in a minority, not keeping up in areas of literacy.

We have to address this early on in the education system, at kindergarten and reception years at school and make sure that we have the tools and equipment to encourage boys to read and read often at home and at school and that we provide them with interesting literature to ensure that they do read and that we look at the curriculum to make sure that there is an even-handed emphasis on both boys and girls training in our system. It is very important if we are to have well-trained flexible workers in the future, because if they do go into computing it is obvious that their literacy skills will need to be nearly as great as their computing skills. We must never forget, in our headlong rush to produce better scientists and technologists, that literacy is also important.

**Mr ROSSI (Lee):** Today, I would like to talk about some problems in the electorate of Lee. As members will know, the South Australian National Football League is based at West Lakes and that area becomes very congested when interstate matches are played both at night and during the day. The danger of crossing West Lakes Boulevard from north to south, or vice versa, after matches has caused the South Australian National Football League Executive Commissioner, Mr Lee Whicker, to approach both the police and transport authorities, and that has resulted in the speed limit along West Lakes Boulevard being reduced from 70 km/h to 40 km/h when football matches are played.

The residents of Delfin Island and Tennyson who travel along West Lakes Boulevard are used to travelling at 70 km/h and a lot of them are being caught speeding in excess of 60 km/h. They complain that the Government is using it as a tax revenue base. However, because the Government and the transport authority have been approached by the South Australian National Football League on safety issues, I find this not to be true. I have spoken to the Minister for Transport and representatives from the Department of Transport in relation to reducing the speed limit and indicating it by signs placed immediately underneath the traffic signals along that road.

When football matches are played an illuminated 'football' sign could be placed underneath the traffic signals, similar to a 'no right turn' sign along King William Road in Adelaide. If a 'football' sign is not placed, then I would suggest an actual speed limit sign be placed when football matches are played showing '40 km/h'. By so doing, there would be no reason why responsible drivers could not identify that feature on the road as a change from the normal situation. Under the present system, the speed signs are altered in the same location; it is the same configuration but the figure '70' is altered to '40'. I think that most drivers do not see this change in speed limit and, as a result, are caught.

Another problem is the speed limit near schools, in particular along Port Road at Woodville Primary School and along West Lakes Boulevard next to Hendon Primary School. For safety reasons I think that most drivers would recognise a change in the environment, and I would suggest to the department, the police and councils that all signs and all poles which are next to school crossings or near schools, generally, and which indicate a change in speed should be painted yellow. By so doing, drivers who travel along a particular road will notice a change in colour of the environment. They will recognise that yellow indicates a change in speed limit, that it is an area which is close to schools and that, therefore, more care should be taken.

It is not good enough to have signs indicating '30 km/h' placed two metres above the ground in a normal design and colour which can be missed. Once you miss one signpost, you no longer have the ability to identify a reduction in speed further on. Painting all ETSA poles, parking sign poles and light poles yellow, similar to the height and colour of bus stop poles, would mean that a person, when approaching a speed change, could identify it well before reaching that danger zone. I do not see how motorists can view this change as a tax-raising revenue. Those who do get caught under the new system, if implemented, have only themselves to blame and I invite the Minister to conduct a trial in the electorate I represent.

## RETAIL SHOP LEASES AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer):** I move:  
*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

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

Leave granted.

The Joint Parliamentary Select Committee on Retail Shop Leases investigated retail shop leasing issues and reported to the Parliament in August 1996.

The Committee heard evidence from 33 witnesses and received 47 written submissions from interested people and organisations.

The Government has already moved to implement the Select Committee's recommendations in relation to resolution of disputes. In September 1996, the new mediation scheme for retail shop leasing disputes was launched and, as recommended by the Committee, the Regulations were amended to bring Landlord and Tenant Act leases within the ambit of the mediation scheme.

This Bill responds to a number of pressing concerns identified by the Committee as requiring legislative change. The amendments are designed to improve the operation and effectiveness of the Retail Shop Leases Act and to ensure that lessees have as much information as possible prior to making a decision as to whether or not to enter into a lease and are then to be able to make an informed decision, knowing the consequences if a lease is entered into.

The key feature of this Bill is the new Part 4A dealing with the Term of Lease and Renewal.

In December 1996, the Retail Shop Leases Advisory Committee indicated to the Government that the industry was prepared to work towards the development of a legislative regime concerning end of lease issues. The new Part 4A was developed by industry parties meeting over an extended period of time from December 1996 until June 1997. Under the auspices of the Retail Shop Leases Advisory Committee, a small working group comprising Mr Max Baldock and Mr David Shetliffe representing the two principal retailers associations and Mr Stephen Lendrum representing the Property Council and Mr Stephen McCarthy representing Westfield Shopping Centre Management, undertook the task of working towards a set of principles which should govern the relationship between parties at the end of the term of a lease when there is no right or option to renew or extend. Considerable work was undertaken researching possible international models for legislation, in developing concepts for legislation and in refining areas of agreement and difference between landlords and tenants. The end result of the efforts of this group is the new Part 4A which has been agreed to by all members of the Retail Shop Leases Advisory Committee.

The process of achieving the amendments which are in Part 4A has of itself been valuable as it has seen industry parties work together and compromise long and strong held views with a view to achieving a workable solution to the problems at end of lease.

The new provision attempts to balance the needs of the landlord and the tenant.

The new Part begins by setting out some objects which acknowledge that conflicts arise between a lessor's expectation to deal with property only in terms of what the lease provides and a lessee's expectation for reasonable security of tenure. The objects are to achieve an appropriate balance between reasonable but conflicting expectations, and to ensure as far as practicable fair dealing between the lessor and the lessee in relation to the renewal or extension of a retail shop lease.

In respect of shopping centre leases the Part establishes a new right of preference in the existing lessee over other possible lessees of the same premises. There is also a recognition of a range of legitimate reasons for the lessor not to prefer the existing tenant.

Between 6 and 12 months before the end of a lease the lessor must begin negotiations with the existing lessee to renew or extend the lease and must, before entering into a lease with another prospective lessee, make a written offer to renew or extend the existing lessee on terms that are no less favourable to the lessee than those offered to another prospective lessee.

Provision is expressly made for the negotiations to be conducted in good faith.

In the event that there is no right of preference the lessee must be advised in writing why there is no right of preference.

In the event of failure to comply with the rules of conduct at the end of term resulting in prejudice to the lessee, provision is made for

the dispute to be mediated or for the Magistrates Court to make orders in respect of the matter. The power of the Court is wide and may extend to ordering a renewal or extension of the lease or ordering the payment of compensation not exceeding 6 months rent.

In addition to this matter, this Bill also deals with other matters which were the subject of recommendations of the Select Committee on which there was unanimous agreement.

A number of amendments relate to the information required to be disclosed to a potential lessee.

A feature of the Retail Shop Leases Act is that it contains a Disclosure Statement requiring certain matters to be disclosed to a potential lessee. The Select Committee recommended that it be mandatory for a statement of legal consequences to be provided to a lessee or assignee. The Committee considered that such a statement would alert potential lessees to the key features of a lease and the consequences of breach of the lease, warn that oral representations should be reduced to writing and warn a lessee to obtain independent financial and legal advice. This Bill requires the Disclosure Statement to contain this information and to comply with requirements in the Regulations about the form in which it is presented. Presentation of the information, particularly the statement of legal consequences, will be vital if that information is to be used for the warning purposes envisaged by the Select Committee.

The Bill requires the lessor to disclose in the disclosure statement if a margin is being added to the cost of supply of services or if the lessor is obtaining services at a price different from the price being charged to the lessee and if so the amount of the difference or the method used to calculate the difference.

Current tenancy mix will need to be disclosed as well as any proposed changes to that mix. The lessor will also be required to state whether the lessor is prepared to give an assurance that the tenant mix will not be altered.

Fit-out requirements will be required to be disclosed along with sufficient detail of the fit-out required to enable the lessee to obtain an estimate of the likely cost of that fit-out. If such disclosure is not made, any lease provisions requiring such expenditure will not be enforceable.

In addition, there are a number of technical amendments to the Act.

One minor but nevertheless significant amendment is that the name of the Act is changed to the Retail and Commercial Leases Act, a name which better reflects the ambit of the Act.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### *Clause 1: Short title*

##### *Clause 2: Commencement*

These clauses are formal.

##### *Clause 3: Substitution of s.1*

This clause changes the name of the principal Act to *Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995*.

##### *Clause 4: Amendment of s. 3—Interpretation*

This clause makes minor amendments to definitions consequential on other amendments contained in the Bill.

##### *Clause 5: Amendment of s.4—Application of Act*

This clause proposes an amendment excluding leases for a term of one month or less from the ambit of the legislation.

##### *Clause 6: Amendment of s.12—Lessee to be given disclosure statement*

New subsections (2) and (3) set out the matters that are to be dealt with in a disclosure statement (*i.e.* the statement that is to be given to the lessee before entering into the lease or a renewal of the lease). The form of the statement is currently included in the schedule to the Act. However, greater flexibility in the form of the statement is desirable and new subsection (3A) provides for the form of the statement to be prescribed by regulation.

##### *Clause 7: Substitution of s.13*

This clause proposes a new section 13 under which a provision of a lease or collateral agreement under which a lessee is required to make or reimburse a capital expenditure is void unless the obligation is of the following kinds:

- to make good damage caused to the premises;
- to fit or refit the shop, provided the disclosure statement contains sufficient details for the lessee to be able to estimate the cost involved;
- to contribute to a sinking fund for major repair items, provided reasonable details are included in the disclosure statement.

##### *Clause 8: Amendment of s.14—Lease preparation costs*

This amendment extends the definition of preparatory costs to cover the costs of a registered conveyancer acting for the lessor. Hence, the limitation in section 14 on the lessee's liability for preparatory costs

will apply also the fees of a registered conveyancer acting for the lessor.

##### *Clause 9: Repeal of s.17*

This clause repeals section 17. The Bill transfers this section to the proposed new Part 4A where it appears as new section 20A.

##### *Clause 10: Insertion of Part 4A*

This clause inserts new Part 4A (Term of lease and renewal) comprising sections 20A to 20N.

##### *Division 1—Preliminary*

New section 20A states the object of the new Part—to achieve an appropriate balance between the interests of lessors and lessees and to promote fair dealing.

##### *Division 2—Initial term of lease*

New section 20B reproduces current section 17. This provides (subject to certain exceptions) for a mandatory initial term of 5 years.

##### *Division 3—Renewal of shopping centre leases*

New section 20C limits the application of the Division to retail shop leases of premises in retail shopping centres. Certain short term and other leases are excluded from the Division.

New section 20D requires a lessor to give preference, in re-letting a shop, to the existing lessee except in the limited circumstances set out in subsection (3).

New section 20E sets out what the lessor must do in negotiations for re-letting to satisfy the requirement to give preference to the existing lessee.

New section 20F requires the lessor to give a lessee 6 to 12 months notice before the end of the lease if the lessor believes the lessee does not have a right of preference.

In general terms new section 20G provides that the lease is extended until the Division is complied with.

New section 20H provides lessees with 2 avenues for resolving disputes about renewal of leases in shopping centres—to ask for mediation through the Commissioner or to take the matter to the Magistrates Court.

##### *Division 4—Other cases*

New section 20I limits the application of the Division to retail shop leases not covered by Division 3. It excludes leases containing a right or option to renew or extend the lease.

New section 20J reproduces current section 47.

##### *Division 5—General provisions*

New section 20K authorises contracting out of the Part in certain circumstances on the certificate of a lawyer.

New section 20L prevents a lessor from charging a premium for renewal or extension of a retail shop lease. It corresponds to current section 49.

New section 20M makes it unlawful for a lessor or an agent acting for a lessor to make threats to dissuade a lessee from exercising a right or option to renew or extend a retail shop lease. It corresponds to current section 48.

New section 20N provides that there is no civil remedy for non-compliance with the Part except as expressly provided.

##### *Clause 11: Repeal of s. 25*

This clause repeals section 25 which provides that a retail shop lease may provide for the payment of a special rent to cover the costs of fitout. This section has now been supplanted by the new provisions dealing with the imposition of obligations to make capital expenditure on a lessee.

##### *Clause 12: Repeal of ss.27 and 28*

Sections 27 and 28 have also now been overtaken by the new provisions dealing with capital expenditure.

##### *Clause 13: Amendment of s.32—Lessor to provide auditor's report on outgoings*

This clause deals with the report to be given under the lease in relation to outgoings. The effect of the amendment is that the report need not be prepared by a registered company auditor in cases where the outgoings consist only of council rates, water and sewerage rates and charges, and insurance premiums provided that the report is accompanied by the relevant receipts.

##### *Clause 14: Repeal of s.42*

Section 42 is repealed. This section has now been overtaken by the new provisions dealing with capital expenditure.

##### *Clause 15: Repeal of ss.47, 48 and 49*

Sections 47, 48, and 49 are repealed. The substance of these sections has now been transferred to the proposed new Part 4A.

##### *Clause 16: Amendment of s. 60—Associations representing lessees*

Section 60 is amended to ensure that lessees may, in negotiations with lessors, be represented by a member or officer of an association representing the interests of lessees.

*Clause 17: Amendment of s. 81—Amendment of the Landlord and Tenant Act*

This clause amends a transitional provision to make it clear that leases entered into before the commencement of the principal Act which are renewed in pursuance of right or option of renewal granted before the commencement of the principal Act fall within the ambit of the transitional provision.

*Clause 18: Repeal of schedule*

This clause repeals the schedule setting out the form of the disclosure statement. As mentioned above, the form of the disclosure statement is now to be dealt with in the regulations.

**Mr CLARKE** secured the adjournment of the debate.

### WATER SUPPLY, MURRAY RIVER

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Deputy Premier):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** In response to a question from the member for Spence today I provide the following information to the House. In relation to the pumping program, South Australia is currently holding 38 per cent of the total storage (195 gigalitres); at the same time last year the storage was 43 per cent. At this time of the year the strategy is to maintain reservoirs low to make full use of winter rains to minimise pumping costs. We are currently pumping at a level to replace usage from reservoirs. This equates to a daily pumping of about 220 megalitres on the Murray Bridge-Onkaparinga and the Mannum-Adelaide pipelines. Mount Bold and Kangaroo Creek are currently down to minimum levels and other water storage is somewhat above their minimum levels.

In relation to the South Australian entitlement to water, the South Australian entitlement to flow from the Murray-Darling Basin is 1 850 gigalitres per annum. The Murray-Darling Basin Commission manages storages within the basin, including the Hume and the Dartmouth storages. It is up to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission whether water from these storages is used to supply South Australia.

### SUPERANNUATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 4 June. Page 1570.)

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** I rise today to speak briefly on the Bill. It is a minor Bill in nature but it makes a couple of important changes which, although small, are nevertheless important. The major purpose of the Bill is to allow for members of two of the State's superannuation schemes to be elected to the South Australian Superannuation Board. At the time of creation of the new scheme this anomaly was not picked up and it has been decided that it is appropriate that members from those schemes be allowed to be elected to the South Australian Superannuation Board, a principle that the Opposition supports.

The Bill also undertakes some technical adjustments, the most significant of those being to do with the administration of the Act relating to appropriate approved schemes for rollover in respect of defined benefit lump sum schemes and to bring our State legislation in line with Commonwealth legislation so that our legislation is consistent with the principle of the Federal legislation. So, the criteria for

approved schemes being those schemes and criteria as laid down by the insurance and superannuation commission seem to be eminently sensible. The Opposition supports the Bill, and we understand that the unions involved have given their support. We are happy for the Bill to proceed through to the third reading.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer):** I thank the member for Hart for his support and that of the Opposition. It is relatively minor in nature as the honourable member mentioned, but it is important. Given the changing nature of superannuation, I suspect we will see superannuation Bills coming in and out of this Parliament over the next few years. One or two important items are currently being debated at the Federal level in respect of superannuation.

This Bill deals with an anomaly that has existed for sometime in that those who would have qualified under the putative spouse provision but who do not qualify when they marry the person with whom they have been cohabiting for a period are now eligible to receive benefits. That has been fixed up, as has been the capacity for a wider membership to contribute to the election of particular board members. A number of other small technical amendments are made in what is a basic update of the legislation.

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

### ENFIELD GENERAL CEMETERY (ADMINISTRATION OF WEST TERRACE CEMETERY) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 28 May. Page 1445.)

**Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** I am not the lead speaker. I believe that the member for Napier is on her way to address the House—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** On this serious undertaking!

**Mr CLARKE:** This is a very serious undertaking. I might kick off by asking a question about the Enfield Pony Club. The Enfield Pony Club leases land from the Enfield cemetery. The Enfield cemetery has from time to time made noises that it might need some more of the land which the club occupies. I have written to the Minister previously—I do not know whether it was this Minister or the current Minister for Tourism when he was Minister for Local Government—trying to establish the long-term position of the Enfield Pony Club.

I note that new members will be appointed to the trust. Will any agreements entered into between the Enfield General Cemetery Trust and the Enfield Pony Club be made void by this new piece of legislation? Will this legislation override any agreements that have been entered into in the past? Some 30 families in my electorate make use of that land, and they would like a long-term secure lease on the land currently available to them. I know that at one stage the Minister for Local Government ordered the Enfield General Cemetery Trust not to proceed with a long-term lease with the pony club because that land may be needed for such things as—

**The Hon. S.J. Baker:** Burials!

**Mr CLARKE:** Not for burials. The land was set aside for the expansion of the Enfield General Cemetery Trust over many years, and the pony club understands that, but the Local Government Minister was looking to see whether he could

sell the land—land initially seen by him as surplus to the requirements of the cemetery. However, that action would take away the enjoyment of 30 families and their young children. The pony club has been operating in that location for many years. I would like a definitive answer from the Minister before I cast my vote in favour of the legislation.

**Ms HURLEY (Napier):** I thank the Deputy Leader for his contribution to the debate. Certainly there have been obvious problems with the West Terrace cemetery. I am sure we would all like to see the heritage listed graves in the area in general maintained to a better standard than seems to be possible at the present time. The Enfield General Cemetery certainly appears to be reasonably well run under its trust arrangements. If it has substantial funds available, which without damage to Enfield General Cemetery can be spent to assist the West Terrace cemetery, it seems to be a very sensible solution to allow the Enfield trust to take over the administrative operation of West Terrace cemetery.

In his second reading contribution, the Minister said this Bill has no effect on any matters of policy in respect of the disposal of human remains or the condition of operation of cemeteries: it is purely concerned with the rationalisation of the management of existing State cemeteries. I take the Minister's assurance on that matter because there have been proposals around that there may be substantial changes in the way cemeteries operate, and that is certainly a very sensitive issue. So, we take the Minister's assurance that this Bill will not have any effect on that and it is simply a matter of better administration of both cemeteries. Given that, and subject to the answer to the Deputy Leader's question, the Opposition will support the Bill.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer):** I thank both the Deputy Leader and the member for Napier for their support for the Bill. The honourable member has my assurance that this Bill is about achieving administrative and financial efficiencies—it is not about policy whatsoever. The only policy, as the honourable member would recognise, is to have some well run financially viable cemeteries in the metropolitan area.

The honourable member has pointed out that there is enormous capacity at Enfield. It is an extraordinarily well run cemetery. It is a great tribute to those responsible and I particularly commend the board for the way it has run the Enfield cemetery since its inception. I was there recently to unveil a plaque which represented the first burial at the cemetery. A picture on the wall depicted the scene at that time. It must have been a very hot summer's day, because it was bare dirt. People looked like they were suffering from heat exhaustion. I do not think the ceremony was very becoming. It almost looked like one of those American western movies when they were burying someone at Boot Hill!

That is no reflection on the ceremony, but it was a very stark area when the cemetery trust first commenced operations. Due to the skill and ingenuity of those who have managed the trust, what was formerly very bare and barren land has now been turned into a marvellous piece of open space, and it is also one of the most important burial sites in South Australia. So, it is a great tribute to the Enfield General Cemetery Trust in the way that it has managed the land and the burials on that site.

In terms of the future of cemeteries, we recognise that there are deficiencies. When cemeteries reach near capacity

they do not have an ongoing revenue capacity, and one cannot allow a part of the history of this State to deteriorate because insufficient finance is available to maintain the quality of the cemeteries that everyone in the State would desire. West Terrace Cemetery is South Australia's premier cemetery, because it contains much of the history of this State—

**Mr Brindal:** And many of the Premiers.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** And many of the Premiers of this State, as pointed out by the member for Unley. It has various sections dedicated to burials for particular groups including those of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths, returned services personnel and our early pioneers. It is full of history, and what we wish to see, and what everyone in South Australia would wish to see, is the opportunity for all of our cemeteries to be able to reach a standard, in terms of presentation, which is befitting them. West Terrace cemetery has not managed to achieve that, simply because it has not had sufficient revenue. There have been very few burials on that site and, therefore, it has generated no extra income.

*Mr Atkinson interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I was going to mention that. I thank the member for Spence for his interjection, in terms of the tours. I met someone in the street today who informed me that at the end of this month—about the 27th—the tours will commence. There will be an announcement on that day as to the tour program that will be available as a result of us calling tenders for submissions for those who wish to run tours through the West Terrace cemetery. So, it is all happening, and I believe that the changes we are putting in place through this Bill will give it a greater level of security than previously.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** In relation to the Enfield Pony Club, if the land is needed for burials or for ancillary cemetery purposes within a period of time, it is inappropriate to have any of that land tied up in any leasing arrangements that would cut across that management capacity. So, in answer to the honourable member's—

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** It is not for residential development, as the honourable member would clearly understand.

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I do not believe that was the case. If the honourable member wishes to put his question in writing, I will examine what territory is being set aside for the expansion of the Enfield cemetery and I will see whether any land is available for other purposes. I am happy to take the question on notice and, if the honourable member wishes to write to me with the details, I will pursue the matter with the trust. Generally, I do not approve of land which is to be used for particular purposes being alienated through leasing arrangements, and then the opportunity to make those plans work somehow being—

*Mr Atkinson interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Is that right? As I said, we would not wish to see the orderly development of Enfield cemetery being somehow inhibited by any leasing arrangement or alienation of that land. However, if the honourable member wishes to follow up his question in writing, I will pursue it with the trust. I thank members for their support.

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

**STATUTES AMENDMENT (COMMUNITY TITLES)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 4 June. Page 1572.)

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** Last year, the Opposition supported the Community Titles Bill, which introduced a successor scheme to the division of land under the Strata Titles Act. Speaking for myself, I wondered whether it was necessary to bar new strata titles from the date specified in the new Act. But the Opposition acquiesced in the Government's policy on this. Some developers continued with strata plans, despite the cut-off date of 4 November 1996. Although developers could seek approval for building and approval for strata division simultaneously, some obtained building approval intending to divide the lots according to the Strata Titles Act, and they then found that they were past the cut-off date for registering with the Lands Titles Office land division according to the Strata Titles Act.

The Government now proposes to show mercy to those developers. This Bill puts the cut-off date back to a point to be proclaimed by the Government and published in the gazette. Now that this Bill has been before Parliament for many weeks, can the Minister inform us what the cut-off date will be? The Opposition supports the Bill.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Minister for Housing and Urban Development):** I will take the matter of the cut-off date for strata titles on notice. I will certainly obtain the answer that the honourable member seeks. I am unsure as to when people who had plans for strata titling began building unaware that there was a change in the legislation, or had committed themselves to a particular path. I suspect that the honourable member would know that sometimes plans can take up to 12 or 24 months to reach fruition (and up to three years in some cases). Once that process starts, as to when it effectively starts and when it ends, and whether it falls under strata title or community title, I believe probably requires some deliberation. I am happy to take the matter of the start time on notice, and I assure the honourable member that whatever start time is declared will in fact be an appropriate start time to ensure that no developer has been affected by that change.

The Bill was assented to on 9 May 1996, so we are not dealing with a large number of people who at this stage would be out of kilter with either the previous Bill or the new Bill as it amends arrangements in this State. I thank the member for his support and I will provide him with the information which he seeks.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2.

**Ms HURLEY:** What will be the fate of the Strata Titles Act? There is a rumour within the industry that that Act might be repealed altogether leaving only the provision for community titles, so that people with strata titles will have to change them to community titles. Can the Minister rule that out?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I will take that question on notice. I have no briefing to say that the strata titles legislation will be altered in any way. The fact is that thousands of residential properties are registered under strata title. They have their own sets of rules and their own place in the law.

I will ask the Attorney whether any thought has been given to changing the strata title legislation, but I imagine that it will have to stay in place for a long time simply because it provides the legal basis upon which these residences, in particular, have been established.

*Mr Atkinson interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The member for Spence or one of his relatives may be affected. A large number of people have benefited from the strata title legislation for the past 20 or 30 years, going back to the 1960s. That legislation has aided a significant amount of medium and high density development in this State. I do not imagine that there will be any dramatic change to that legislation or that it will be overtaken by this community titles legislation. I will obtain a more considered response from the Attorney, but I do not expect that the strata titles legislation will be replaced by the community titles legislation.

Clause passed.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

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

*A quorum having been formed:*

**ELECTORAL (COMPUTER VOTE COUNTING)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer):** I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

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

Leave granted.

These amendments insert a new Division 3A into the *Electoral Act, 1985* which will allow a computer to be used in the scrutiny of votes in Legislative Council elections.

The Electoral Commissioner has been investigating the use of computer programs to carry out steps in the scrutiny of the votes in Legislative Council elections. Computers were used successfully in the scrutiny for the upper house in the December 1996 Western Australian election.

There are currently two products available which the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied will produce the same result as a manual scrutiny, but with more flexibility, speed and efficiencies. These products are Compu-Vote developed by Custom-Made Software and Easy Count developed by the Australian Electoral Commission.

The amendments provide that the Electoral Commissioner may approve a computer program to carry out steps involved in the scrutiny of votes in a Legislative Council election. The Commissioner can only approve a computer program after providing a demonstration to representatives of the registered political parties and if the proper use of the program would produce the same result in the scrutiny of the votes as would be obtained in the scrutiny conducted without a computer. New section 96E contains an important safeguard by providing that the votes can be re-counted manually.

Each ballot paper will continue to be checked and re-checked manually for formality and correct categorisation. The ballot papers identified as formal will be entered into the computer and the first preferences counted and a quota determined. The software that is available can be pre-programmed with the preferences for each party ticket, including split tickets. Thus ballot papers completed above the line can be entered into the program in bulk. Ballot papers completed below the line need to be manually keyed in. The Electoral Commissioner intends that the ballot papers will be keyed into the computer twice by different operators to ensure that there are no data entry or number errors. The computer programs can pick up informal ballot papers which have been missed in the manual scrutiny. A report identifying these informal ballot papers and the batch in which they were entered can be printed. Scrutineers can locate the ballot papers in the batch.

The manual scrutiny of Legislative Council ballot papers takes something like a period of 23 days. The Electoral Commissioner estimates that by using a computer in the scrutiny the process will take 16 days.

The other amendment in this bill is to section 95. Existing subsection (15) has been redrafted into two subsections and an error corrected. Subsection (15) deals with the way in which the last vacancy for a Legislative Council seat is determined. It is based on the assumption that there will only be 2 continuing candidates for the last vacancy. This cannot be assumed and the provision is changed to accommodate the fact that there may be any number of continuing candidates.

#### Explanation of Clauses

The provisions of the Bill are as follows:

*Clause 1: Short title*

*Clause 2: Commencement*

These clauses are formal.

*Clause 3: Amendment of s. 95—Scrutiny of votes in Legislative Council election*

The amendments to section 95 have been made to split the two processes dealt with in subsection (15) into two separate subsections. This arrangement meshes better with new section 96D (Use of approved computer program in election) as it will enable reference to the separate processes to be made by reference to the subsections. The redrafting also now allows for the possibility of more than 2 continuing candidates at the stage at which the last vacancy is to be filled.

The amendment to subsection (13) is a consequential change to the cross-reference contained in the subsection.

*Clause 4: Insertion of Part 10 Division 3A  
DIVISION 3A—COMPUTER VOTE COUNTING IN  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS*

*96A. Application of Division*

New section 96A provides that new Division 3A applies only in relation to a Legislative Council election.

*96B. Approval of computer program*

A computer program may be approved by the Electoral Commissioner to carry out steps involved in the scrutiny of votes in an election. Such an approval may also be revoked by the Commissioner.

A computer program may only be approved by the Electoral Commissioner—

- after the Commissioner has provided a demonstration of the use of the program for representatives of the registered political parties; and
- if the proper use of the program would produce the same result in the scrutiny of votes in an election as would be obtained if the scrutiny were conducted without computer assistance.

The Electoral Commissioner must also determine processes that must be followed in relation to the use of such an approved computer program.

*96C. Protection of approved computer program from interference*

The Electoral Commissioner must take steps to ensure that an approved computer program is kept secure from interference at all times.

*96D. Use of approved computer program in election*

If the Electoral Commissioner so determines, an approved computer program may be used in the scrutiny of votes in a Legislative Council election. With the exception of section 95, the provisions of the principal Act apply in the same way as they do to a scrutiny carried out without computer assistance. However, the provisions of section 95 apply only as follows:

- subsections (2) and (3) apply according to their terms, that is, the provisions relating to the preliminary scrutiny and the transmission to the returning officer.
- the processes described in subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) (that is, further scrutiny to determine informal ballot papers) are to be carried out in conjunction with the entry into the computer of the necessary data from the ballot papers and the operation of the computer to identify any other informal ballot papers.
- the computer must continue to be operated so as to carry out processes corresponding to all the remaining processes set out in section 95 other than those dealt with in subsections (16), (16a), (18) and (19).
- however, if, in carrying out processes corresponding to those referred to in subsection (21) or (23) (the transfer of surpluses

or the exclusion of candidates), there has not been a count or transfer at which the candidates had a different number of votes, the computer processes must pause while the returning officer makes a determination by lot and causes the result of the determination to be entered into the computer.

- continuing candidates shown in the scrutiny to have received a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota will be elected.
- subsections (16), (16a), (18) and (19) apply according to their terms, that is, the provisions relating to the filling of the last vacancy where the continuing candidates have equal numbers of votes, the handling of ballot papers on the completion of the count and the determination of the order in which candidates are to be taken to have been elected.

*96E. Manual counting of votes not prevented*

The making of a determination by the Electoral Commissioner to use an approved computer program in an election, or the use of an approved computer program in an election, is not to prevent counting or re-counting of votes in the election without computer assistance.

*Clause 5: Amendment of s. 139—Regulations*

Subsection (2) of section 139 has been rewritten without the provision relating to the use of machines or devices for the purpose of recording and counting votes. This specific regulation making provision is no longer appropriate in view of the amendments proposed in this measure.

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** Although the second reading explanation has just been inserted in *Hansard*, I am a speed reader and I can respond immediately on behalf of the parliamentary Labor Party. The Bill allows for the electronic counting of votes at the next general election for the Legislative Council only. The Bill seeks to allow a computer program to be used. It is a requirement of the Bill that the program be shown in operation to the registered officers of the registered political Parties in South Australia and that they acquiesce in its use. I would think that only a small number of registered officers would be interested: namely, those from the Parties represented in Parliament. I hardly think that the Government would hold up the introduction of this computer program merely because the registered officer of, for instance, the Over-taxed Motorists Party, objected to the program, but that is a matter for the Government.

The program will achieve a reduction in the time taken for the Legislative Council count from the 23 days that it took for the 1993 general election to 16 days. So, we will not have to hang around for as long to see whether the Government has an absolute majority in the other place. Votes for the other place that are cast below the line will continue to be counted manually. So, we are talking about a scanning program for votes cast above the line—that is, the number 1 placed in a box above the line for a Party group. As members would know, regarding votes made above the line, preferences are distributed according to a ticket registered by the political Party concerned. Nevertheless, the ability exists to recount those votes manually if that is required for some reason.

I am also told that this computer scanning will detect votes placed in the pile of a political Party that were cast for another Party or were informal for some reason. It is important to say that, although the Bill will reduce the time that it will take to count the vote from 23 days to 16 days, it did not take 23 days to count the ballot in the 1989 general election.

So, how long it takes to count a ballot for the other place really depends on how many candidates there are. I do not know whether you have noticed, Mr Speaker, but there do not seem to be many minor Parties shaping up for the ballot for the other place at the coming general election. I am surprised by that because the opinion polls are showing enormous support for minor Parties, for any Party other than the Liberal

Party or the Labor Party. But, funnily enough, the minor Parties are not coming forward to grab that vote and I cannot explain why that is so. Indeed, Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party had a meeting in the metropolitan area last week. Pauline Hanson is riding on the crest of a wave in the opinion polls and enjoying great publicity, but how many people turned up for the meeting? There were 27. As you know, Sir, 27 people do not go far when you are manning the polling booths for the Stuart district. They do not even go far when you are manning the polling booths in Spence, which has only about 12 pooling booths and is in the metropolitan area.

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**Mr ATKINSON:** For the information of the Deputy Leader, 'man' in this usage includes 'woman' and always has throughout the history of our language and did so going back to our Latin roots. I am sure that your knowledge, Sir, of the language that contributes so much to the making of the English language is as profound as that of the Treasurer.

**The Hon. R.B. Such:** They are on a par.

**Mr ATKINSON:** Yes, they are on a par, as the member for Fisher says. I am informed that the scanning system has been used in Western Australian State elections and I understand that the Australian Electoral Commission has developed a computer program for counting the votes in the Senate. With those comments, the Opposition supports the Bill. We have no objection to it. If it speeds up the count, so much the better. We would expect some progress in the not too distant future with computerising elections generally and that this modest method of scanning will lead to greater modernisation.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer):** I thank the honourable member for his contribution to the debate. I concur also with the comments about the English language as derived from Latin. In terms of scanning material, a method was availed of at least 16 years ago for the census, allowing documents to be scanned and material to be recorded on those documents simply by using a scanning device. The opportunity for this Parliament to use a scanning device for counting votes has been a long time coming. As the member for Spence points out, it will count only those on the top line: if there is a mark in one of the boxes it will record that mark and translate it accurately into a Party vote or in accordance with the recognised principles pertaining to the top line.

It is not overly difficult to design a form to meet the computer readable specifications to allow all votes to be counted by computer means. It requires some thought, but it is possible. However, the size of the paper would be a matter of some interest, as would be the instructions required for people to put the right marks in the right boxes. The application of extending it to all voting, including the case where people take the trouble to fully mark the voting form, will take somewhat longer to develop. We are a long way from the American system, which gives almost an instantaneous recording of the votes cast. We could look at software to change our poker machines. We could get people to file into pokies parlours or hotels and devise a new scheme of using the technology that goes with those machines to give a result. However, I do not think the people of South Australia would be amused to think that their vote was being treated in the same way as their bets were being treated.

Available technology around the world can make the counting of votes far more speedy and accurate than it is today. This is but one device that takes us a small step along that track towards enabling votes to be counted more speedily

and accurately than in the past. I thank the member for Spence for his support.

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

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON LIVING RESOURCES

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources):** I move:

That the final report of the Joint Committee on Living Resources be noted.

In keeping with the Liberal Party's environment and natural resources policy, the Joint Committee on Living Resources was established to facilitate the development of a strategy for the conservation and development of the State's living resources. I am very pleased with the outcome of this report. I say that, because all the different Parties represented in both Houses of this Parliament took part in this committee. I thank the members for Light and Torrens from this House and the Hon Caroline Schaefer, Terry Roberts and Mike Elliott from the Legislative Council for the significant contribution they all made.

The other thing about which I am delighted, in bringing down of this report, is that it was finalised as a result of consensus. Not one vote was taken in regard to this report, and that says a lot for the success of this committee and the commitment shown by its members.

The House of Assembly passed a resolution on 10 May 1994 for the appointment of a joint committee with the following terms of reference:

- to inquire into the future development and conservation of South Australia's living resources;
- to recommend broad strategic directions and policies for the conservation and development of South Australia's living resources from now and into the twenty-first century;
- to recommend how its report could be incorporated into a State conservation strategy;
- to give opportunity for the taking of evidence from a wide range of interests, including industry, commerce and conservation representatives as well as Government departments and statutory authorities in the formulation of its report;
- to report to Parliament with its findings and recommendations by December 1994.

Obviously we are well out in time as far as that date is concerned. When the committee got down to its job we all found that it was extremely difficult to limit the opportunities for people to make representations and provide evidence to this committee. It has taken much longer than originally intended.

For the purposes of its inquiry the term 'living resources' was taken to include indigenous terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, together with ecological conditions that are vital to the continued existence of flora and fauna. Therefore, issues relating to land, water and air, where they directly relate to integrating conservation and development of living resources, were included.

The Joint Committee considered written submissions and oral evidence from industry, Government agencies and key interest groups. During the taking of evidence, the committee conducted a public forum, 'The Future of South Australia's Living Resources', which was held here in the House of Assembly chamber on 31 March 1995. This was undertaken to foster informed debate on key issues and also to provide an opportunity for public involvement. The afternoon session was set aside for questions from the floor. Public involvement at this level widened the debate and provided members of the

committee with some insights to community sentiments in key areas.

The joint committee's second interim report, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 29 November 1995, was distributed widely amongst the community. Agencies most likely to be involved in implementing the report's findings were invited to comment. The committee received an encouraging number of responses, most of which were supportive of the recommendations contained in the report. The feedback, along with the submission of new evidence, contributed to the compilation of the joint committee's final report, which was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday 28 May this year.

The final report contains recommendations and actions addressing the conservation and development of South Australia's living resources in a manner consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the involvement of my Parliamentary colleagues from both Houses of Parliament and, in particular, the support of all parties for the recommendations contained in the report. I turn now to the report and to some of its key recommendations.

Six key issues relating to the conservation and development of living resources were identified from the material submitted. They included: sustainability; community participation in the decision making process; community education to effect the necessary social reform; biodiversity, conservation and management; integrated natural resource management; and the sustainable use of our native flora and fauna. These issues were addressed within the context of broadly-based strategic frameworks.

Much of the evidence presented to the joint committee expressed concern about over exploitation of natural resources. Our economy and our standard of living rely on our natural resources. Therefore, the use of these resources should be governed by the capacity of the environment, both to supply them and to disperse and absorb wastes. It is imperative that governments, industry and the general public adopt sustainable practices.

Economic management practices need to be broadened to include the environment through natural resource accounting. This would quantify the crucial role of the environment as a source of natural capital and as a sink for waste products. The use of natural resources and their pollution and degradation should be subject to full cost recovery. Business plans need to be based on longer time frames and give greater consideration to outcomes in environmental terms. Decision making that focuses on economic growth in the short to medium term cannot, by its very nature, take into account the long term and often cyclical nature of environmental trends.

The changes in lifestyle necessary to achieve ecologically sustainable development require extensive community participation. Information sharing, transparency and accountability are necessary to achieve effective participation. It would appear that the mechanisms to ensure community involvement are in an embryonic state, although the need for their urgent development is increasingly being recognised. The creation of more transparent decision making processes is needed to improve conservation and development outcomes. To this end, the joint committee recommended a review of all development approval processes to identify opportunities for early and effective community involvement.

An appreciation of the need for all resource uses to be ecologically sustainable requires extensive changes to attitudes, values and behaviours throughout the community.

This has to be achieved through education, because it is the most fundamental process for achieving behavioural change. The joint committee was advised the educative processes that build motivation, commitment and skills are fundamental to changing behaviour in the long term.

It has been acknowledged that biological diversity is best conserved *in situ*. However, rather than simply continuing to add to the reserve systems, the joint committee recognised that more broadly based approaches are needed to integrate conservation and development interests. Regional reserves have been one initiative in recent years; bioregional planning is another. Local planning frameworks such as catchment management boundaries offer opportunities to integrate conservation and development initiatives. Pest plants and animals are a major threat to biodiversity. Traditional approaches to control environmental weeds are essentially rearguard actions that are effective at best only on a local scale. There is a need for integrated approaches involving the three levels of government, key industry sectors and the community to address problems, species by species.

The issue of integration is fundamental to the sustainable use and management of living resources. There is a need to move away from narrow sectoral approaches to more broadly based approaches requiring changes in information gathering, management techniques and planning. The need for greater liaison and improved integration across national, State and local governments, industry, and the community is a recurring theme in ecologically sustainable development, bioregional planning and integrated natural resource management. However, while there was broadly based support for a greater degree of integration, any consensus as to how this might be achieved did not emerge from the evidence. There is a need to develop and implement strategies across all levels of government to achieve integrated natural resource management.

Locking up resources does not ensure their viability, because threatening processes—for example, the invasion by pest species, spread of exotic diseases and pathogens, and the insidious spread of soil salinisation—do not respect fences. A trend is emerging towards greater use of native flora and fauna. Industries which harvest or use living resources *in situ*—for example, fisheries, cut flowers, seed collecting, recreation and tourism—already generate considerable revenue for the State. Such is the revenue generating potential of our living resources that there is interest to farm a growing number of species. The removal of stock from the wild for cultivation or breeding purposes can reduce harvesting pressures on wild populations. A number of opportunities for new commercial ventures are emerging as follows:

- bush foods—recent developments with emu farming could be extended to include species such as Cape Barren geese, stubble quail and yabbies;
- cut flowers—establishment of crops of native species for cut flower production for the export market;
- development of new cultivars—improved species for the nursery market, for example, Sturt's Desert Pea;
- private sector involvement in conservation—establishment of wildlife sanctuaries; for example, Warrawong;
- ecotourism—the proposed wetlands water link in the South-East could provide a number of opportunities for local landholders to establish commercial ventures based around wetlands in the region. The use of native flora and fauna for new commercial enterprises is a high risk venture which requires assistance in the form of R and D expenditure and market development. The joint committee considered a

number of options to assist fledgling industries using the State's living resources.

Since the release of the second interim report, some of the findings contained in that report have already been adopted by Government agencies. The 'legislative lock up' of species through the permit system has not prevented a decline in the extent and abundance of native species due to overriding factors such as loss and fragmentation of their habitat. Since the release of the second interim report amendments have been made to the National Parks and Wildlife Act to encourage the keeping of animals with potential as food products.

The joint committee recommended that a system of marine protected areas (MPAs) be established as part of a nationally representative network and at a scale to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of our coastal and marine environments. In the past, MPAs have largely been declared to protect habitats of specific ecological or economic significance, rather than as multiple-use areas. Since the release of the second interim report, the Great Australian Bight Marine Park has been declared. It includes a whale sanctuary of 17 500 hectares in the area known as the Head of the Bight, and new sanctuaries around nine sea lion colonies to the west. Mining and commercial fishing activities are permitted at specified times during the year outside designated sanctuaries in the park.

The need for integrated approaches for the control of environmental weeds has been recognised in a recently completed draft report 'A Weed Strategy for South Australia'. The strategy aims to reduce the impact of weeds by coordinating and integrating existing programs and ensuring the adoption of integrated weed management techniques.

There is strong support for further integration of natural resource management, and work is progressing within Government agencies to develop the appropriate frameworks for achieving greater integration across all levels of government. The newly proclaimed Water Resources Act has gone a long way in achieving integrated natural resource management within the legislative framework.

Finally, let me say that the recently passed Water Resources Act 1997 is a significant example of this Government's achievement in the area of better integration in legislative frameworks. The new Act is an important step towards greater integration, providing many useful provisions and references to other natural resources management Acts. In this manner, the Water Resources Act complements the existing integration between the Environment Protection Act and the Development Act, but moves further to provide integration with other Acts including the Soil Conservation and Land Management Act, the Native Vegetation Act, and the Pastoral Land Management Act.

The new Act supports an integrated approach to water resources management at a practical level through explicit recognition of the roles of other pieces of legislation at the planning level and at the operational level, providing, where practicable, a one stop shop approach to approvals to carry out activities that may span the various pieces of legislation. The new Act also supports integration through a number of other provisions. The new Water Resources Act shows what can be done to integrate resource management without necessarily needing to embrace the full scale system-review which took place in New Zealand prior to developing the New Zealand Resource Management Act.

I thank everyone who gave evidence to the Living Resources Committee. I thank the committee members, the

member for Light and member for Torrens from this House and the Hon. Caroline Schaefer, the Hon. Terry Roberts and the Hon. Mike Elliott from the Legislative Council for their contribution. I would also like to acknowledge the significant commitment made by Dr Jackie Venning, Research Assistant, Mr Malcolm Lehman, Parliamentary Officer, and Mr Andrew Valentine, from the Bills and Papers Office, for their strong support. I commend the report to the House.

**Mr BUCKBY (Light):** I wish to make just a small contribution to the motion. I commend the Minister for his chairmanship of the committee. I also commend Dr Jackie Venning, who has given us excellent support in coming through with the report. The committee interviewed a wide range of people who discussed many aspects of the environment, particularly sustainable development of the environment. It was an interesting committee to serve on because it improved my knowledge and that of other members of the committee on particular aspects of the environment. There are three issues that arose out of the committee that were particularly important. The first concerns the biological survey, which has been ongoing by the Government for a number of years. Until now the Government has been putting \$150 000 towards the biological survey each year.

*The Hon. D.C. Wotton interjecting:*

**Mr BUCKBY:** As the Minister says, this year we have put \$300 000 towards it. The aim now is to complete that study by the year 2005. It is particularly important for South Australia to date. The biological survey has been conducted on the Flinders Ranges, the Murray-Mallee, the South-East and the Adelaide Hills. The survey has been completed in all those areas and it is the view of the Government and the Minister to accelerate it to ensure that we have completed the survey by the year 2005 and know exactly what the biological blueprint of the State is so that then, in terms of arguments raised about the extinction of particular species, we have a blueprint of the State and it can be rationally argued.

In relation to that, one of the areas that the committee looked at was the sale of native species. I refer to cockellas, which are particularly pertinent to my area of Cockatoo Valley. To say at the moment that they are in plague proportions would be an under-statement. Because of the 1982 drought in the north of the State they travelled down but, when the drought turned around and we had a good year in 1983, unfortunately the cockellas did not go back from where they came and so our area is stuck with them and the damage that they do. I see the cockellas as an example of a species in relation to which, when the biological survey is completed, we will have good information to hand and we will be able to look at possible export of that species if there is a demand for them overseas.

The second matter I raise is of particular importance not only to my area but to the whole State. I refer to environmental weeds. This matter was raised before the committee and I refer particularly to bridal creeper, which is a weed which has infiltrated particularly native vegetation areas in our State. It is a very vigorous grower basically spread by birds but it has the potential, once established—and it does so quickly—to smother all ground cover, shrub layers and prevents regeneration of native species. It can be controlled by chemicals but it is a difficult weed to control and, as a result, biological control would obviously be the most efficient way in the end of getting rid of this weed. Suitable control agents are being assessed in South Africa and they include a leaf hopper, a seed wasp and a rust fungus.

Applications are currently in train to import insects for testing in Australia and they have currently been submitted.

I cannot overstate the importance of control of this weed. I have numerous areas of native vegetation in the Sandy Creek Reserve and in Pengelly Scrub at Roseworthy that the District Council of Light and Kapunda own. The bridal creeper through those areas is getting very serious indeed and it has reached a stage where, to undertake a chemical spraying program, it would be too great to take on because of the hold that the bridal creeper has in the area. This matter was discussed by the committee. It is important that the Government addresses it and the Government will address this problem over time with a view to bringing in a biological control agent.

The third matter refers to the opportunities for sustainable utilisation of living resources, in particular, the sustainable utilisation of native flora and fauna. The owners of the Red Ochre Grill and other people gave evidence to the committee. They are producing bush tucker from native vegetation and introducing it into restaurants as a different alternative for people to partake at restaurants. One company that gave evidence was Australian Food and Flora. I was particularly impressed with them and the sorts of opportunities that are waiting for us in the marketplace so that overseas visitors can come and taste different types of ice cream and gourmet food; for example, wattle seed ice cream and a range of different items made out of bush tucker. While we are developing these foods now, they are nothing new to the Aborigines of the State who have been using this type of tucker for thousands of years. Nevertheless, this offers a completely different alternative to the international traveller. It offers something uniquely Australian and it is something that I believe the Government should get behind and encourage people in the industry to slowly develop, along supply and demand lines.

It was a successful committee and the report is worth reading. It came up with some particularly interesting outcomes on the economic side in terms of environmental accounting. I refer to countries which are looking at including the value of the environment in their gross domestic product figures. There is a chance that we, too, in time, will move towards that so that the whole economy can be valued rather than just the recurrent budget and items that are ongoing. Again, I congratulate the Minister on his chairing of the committee. It was a pleasure to serve on, along with the member for Torrens and members from another place. I commend the motion to the House.

**Ms HURLEY** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources):** I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** Today, I would like to talk about the efforts of South Australians who give up their time to do voluntary work. We should recognise South Australians who devote many hours of their time to helping the less fortunate. South Australian volunteers are the best in Australia in some ways. South Australia has the most community-minded people in the country, according to figures in a volunteer survey. In a February 1997 newsletter of the South Australian Centre of Economic Studies, South Australia was given the

'thumbs up' as having the highest rate of volunteers in Australia. A survey which measured the volunteer effort of each State was conducted from June 1994 to June 1995, and it showed that South Australia had the highest participation rate in the country with 22.5 per cent of the population involved in some volunteer effort during the survey period. South Australians with an average of 180 hours per person dedicated more time to being volunteers, and I think that should be acknowledged.

Negative things are often said about this State, but our record in this area is something of which we should all be proud. Those people who give up their time should be acknowledged, and I am sure that all members appreciate the work that they do. Regardless of which Party is in power, they save the State a considerable cost; if we had to pay wages and so on for their efforts, I do not think all the work could be done.

I am very impressed with what is happening in some of the church organisations and how they are helping the less fortunate. I would like to read from a letter that was sent to me on 30 June from Mrs Val White, the Coordinator of the Special Friday Seniors Group at the Uniting Church at Magill. The letter states:

Dear Joe, Thank you, once again, on behalf of the Chappel Street Seniors Group. I can assure you that your gift of \$100 will be wisely spent—

of course, that was a gift from taxpayers, but it is important to note how much it was appreciated—

because as you know we are a non-profit making group relying on grants from local councils or Government. Our group began in 1988 with members from Auldana and Carmel Court, Leahurst and a few from their own homes. We wanted to cater for those 'shut-ins' who had no family support or whose lack of skills barred them from senior citizens groups; by that I mean lack of transport, decent clothing and social skills.

After nine years with our group, most members now lift their head high knowing that they are accepted and loved. We meet each second and fourth Friday of the month and a group of five helpers produce a program for our members, also preparing a sumptuous afternoon tea for them.

The programs consist of board games, bingo, musical afternoons, bus trips within the area, games and simple craft making. Our members are aged between 23 and 95, and their physical and mental capabilities cover a wide range, many being brain damaged through excessive drinking, some are feeble and use walking frames, and, currently, one is a Downs Syndrome guy.

Subsequently, our program poses problems trying to cater for the differences in our members. Nevertheless, we try. We have our own bus trips as they cater for all, but, of course, we are restricted fairly severely because of our financial status. Burnside Community Civic Centre treats us very well. We pay 70¢ per kilometre per trip and keep our outings as short as possible.

Currently, we have 28 members on our books, but average only 20 at meetings and 15 helpers from two churches—Morialta Uniting and St Georges Anglican. This is Outreach for our churches and we combine very well. This year, so far, we have had two short bus trips, Don's Demo Dogs, Golden Girls, bingo, a barbecue at Thorndon Park, and musical afternoons.

We really enjoy and love our members and we are rewarded by their growing confidence and by the pleasure that they get and give to us. Sadly, both members and helpers are growing older, increasing difficulties for both groups, but by the grace of God we will be able to keep going for many more years. Thank you again, Sincerely, Val White (Coordinator Special Friday Seniors Group)

I was very touched when I attended that group because I saw both the Uniting Church and the Anglican Church at work. I would like to commend the church leaders in that group, the Reverend Nairn Kerr of the Uniting Church and Reverend Owers of the Magill Anglican Church. I know that the churches, including the Lutheran and Catholic Churches, do a lot of good work which is often overlooked, but when one

visits these special groups one sees the good work that they do.

Today, I want the House to acknowledge that work. As I said earlier, no Government can succeed in delivering all the essential services, especially to an ageing population and to special groups with disabilities and so on, without the help and goodwill of volunteers. As we saw from the survey, South Australia should be proud of its volunteers' efforts. Equally, I believe that Governments of whatever persuasion should acknowledge the work that volunteers do. Without that acknowledgment, we are not being fair to those people's daily efforts. If we were to take into account the number of telephone calls that volunteers make, the trips, and the money they spend from their own pockets for petrol and so on, many programs could not be funded by Governments.

It is important that we acknowledge the volunteers. As I said, I was very touched by the work being done by the Special Friday Seniors Group, and I thank Val and her five helpers, and especially the two churches which have combined to do this special work. As mentioned in the letter, the group has members aged from 23 to 95. I saw them playing bingo and I saw the expression on their faces when they were given afternoon tea. They know that someone cares and that someone is doing something out of the goodness of their heart and not because they are being paid.

We gave \$100 to help them and they were so appreciative. The group thanked me, on behalf of the Government, for the \$100. The appreciation that came from that group was enormous and should be recognised. In fact, I believe we should give more support to groups like that because it is money wisely spent. It does us all proud to have groups like that in the community.

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

#### **PARTNERSHIP (LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY- GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO) BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### **JURIES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### **COOPERATIVES BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council with a message drawing the attention of the House of Assembly to clause 448, printed in erased type, which clause, being a money clause, cannot originate in the Legislative Council but which is deemed necessary to the Bill. Read a first time.

#### **ASER (RESTRUCTURE) BILL**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

### **ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

Debate resumed.

**Mr CLARKE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** I rise with respect to the issue of the closure of the Sefton Park Medicare office which is situated in my electorate but which also borders the State electorate of Adelaide. I was interested in the reply by the Minister for Health, who is also the State member for Adelaide, to my simple question earlier today: will he join me in calling on the Federal Minister for Health to reverse the Federal Liberal Government's decision to close the Sefton Park Medicare office? As I said earlier, the Sefton Park office—

**The Hon. D.C. Wotton:** He said he has already done it.

**Mr CLARKE:** All he said was that he had spoken to the Federal Minister for Health. He did not tell the House whether he supported the closure or not. Publicly, he has been conspicuously silent, an issue which is of real concern to the literally hundreds of clients who use that office every week. Approximately 130 to 150 people per day use that office, the overwhelming majority of whom seek cash refunds. Many of the doctors in the area insist on cash payments from their clients, and they say, 'You can slip around the corner to the Medicare office and get your cash refund'.

A lot of that money is spent amongst the local traders at the North Park and Sefton Park shopping centres. They were equally as outraged as the clients at the loss of that facility because a lot of that money was spent in an area which has done it tough, like a lot of small businesses, in getting the passing dollar.

Indeed, I know of a bus company that brings clients from Yorketown to the North Park shopping centre every fortnight, not only to do their shopping at North Park because of cheaper groceries and the like but also because the Medicare office is at Sefton Park and those country clients can also attend to their Medicare requirements at that office. According to the 1991 Census statistics, over 25 per cent of my electorate are over the age of 60, with 15 per cent over the age of 70. Many single parents, most of whom have no access to private transport, live in my electorate. The nearest Medicare office is in the city, with the Liberal Government having closed the Rundle Mall Medicare office as well.

We have the problem of the elderly, the infirm and young parents with young children having now to go into the city, with the additional cost of public transport and the inconvenience of time, or the cost of car parking and fuel for their private car, to attend to their Medicare business if they want a cash refund or to wait for their cheque to be paid in whatever turnaround time applies.

It is not as if this office is small with little work. It has a great deal of work. To show the affection and regard the people of my electorate and those in the State seat of Adelaide have for that office, in a little over two weeks I received over 2 000 signatures to a petition protesting against the closure of the office. Every trader in the Sefton Park and North Park areas happily took my petition to display on their counters and to be signed by the public. That petition has been presented to Martyn Evans, the Federal member for Bonython (and a former State Minister for Health), who will table it in Federal Parliament when it resumes, protesting against the closure and asking for it to be reopened.

Further, I am seeking the support of the Prospect City Council and the City Council of Port Adelaide Enfield to join with me in asking the Federal Government to reverse this

decision. I simply ask the member for Adelaide (the State Minister for Health) to publicly declare his hand as to whether or not he supports the closure of that Medicare office. If he does not, he should make it known publicly—loud and clear. I trust I am not taking the support of those two city councils for granted, but I believe from the informal response so far that those two bodies will formally support my petition to the Federal Government.

The support of those councils and the State Minister would add considerable weight to the petition by the local residents to keep open that office if they joined me in a bipartisan approach to the Federal Government to say, 'Enough is enough! We are tired of the withdrawal of services from our northern suburbs'. We are tired, for example, of having organisations such as Hope Haven being forced to close because of the inactivity and procrastination of the Minister in terms of dealing with the report, dealing with refuges—

**The Hon. D.C. Wotton:** They were not forced to close.

**Mr CLARKE:** Of course Hope Haven was forced to close, because the staff could not possibly continue to keep waiting on a week-by-week, month-by-month basis wondering whether or not they would be granted funding for a staffed women's refuge after that report was issued and in the Minister's hands. It has been in the Minister's hands for 12 months, at the very least.

**The Hon. D.C. Wotton:** I was waiting for the Federal Minister to sign.

**Mr CLARKE:** Then the Federal Minister, a fellow Liberal, has also let down the side enormously in that area. Procrastination after procrastination forces a much needed service in my area to be withdrawn. That has consistently happened in these working-class areas, where they have been disadvantaged to a major extent by conservative Governments. The electorate of the State member for Adelaide borders on the Sefton Park Medicare office and contains the bulk of the residents of Prospect, all the residents of Nailsworth, Collinswood and Walkerville, all of whom use

the Medicare office at Sefton Park if they want cash refunds, because they go there as part of their normal shopping routine—maybe not the residents of Walkerville, who probably go to a more uppercrust shopping centre than North Park, Woolworths, Franklins or Coles. However, certainly the residents of Prospect, Nailsworth and even parts of Collinswood go to that shopping centre and use the Medicare office at Sefton Park. That is shown by the overwhelming support I have received for it from the local community.

I want to save that service, and one very important way of doing so would be to have the public support of the State member for Adelaide, who has been conspicuous in his silence, because the State member for Adelaide (who is also the State Minister for Health) does not give two figs about that Medicare office. He does not support Medicare in any event because, essentially, Liberal Party philosophy has always been opposed to Medicare, and his public inactivity is a condemnation of himself as the State member for that area. People in that district are crying out for a champion to support them in opposing the withdrawal of services, and they are not getting that support from their State member for Adelaide. It is about time that he stood up to his Federal colleagues, joined with me in a bipartisan approach to Federal Minister Wooldridge, put the pressure on the Federal member for Adelaide (Trish Worth) and used every other means possible to support his constituents in the electorate of Adelaide to save Medicare at Sefton Park.

Motion carried.

#### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (SEXUAL HARASSMENT) AMENDMENT BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday 9 July at 2 p.m.