

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday 19 November 1999

The SPEAKER (Hon. J.K.G. Oswald) took the chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: I wish to inform the House of the latest developments in relation to reports that South Australia is being considered as a site for medium to high level radioactive waste. The government has made no secret of the fact that it supports the establishment of a lower level radioactive waste site in this state. Low level radioactive waste is already prevalent in our community: for instance, the 'exit' signs in buildings, reflective road signs, luminous materials, industrial smoke detectors, slightly contaminated clothing, compasses and medical products used every day in our hospitals in the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

Mr Lewis interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Thank you, yes. It is only sensible that a safe storage site is found. The choice is to leave it where it is now—in all South Australians' cities and towns—or store it safely away. Having one national repository makes much better sense than having separate facilities in six states. We have merely followed on from previous state and federal Labor government plans on this issue. Sooner or later we have to make a decision and do what has to be done.

If we support the use of radioactive treatment in our hospitals to save the lives of cancer victims, then we are also obliged to store waste safely. However, the storage of long lived intermediate level waste, such as reprocessed fuel rods from Lucas Heights, is an entirely separate issue to the argument for a low level repository. That is completely different.

I wish to make it very clear that I am opposed to medium to high level radioactive waste being dumped in South Australia. On this issue there has been no consultation with the state government by our federal counterparts. Therefore, I have contacted Resources Minister Senator Minchin today and his office has confirmed to us that eventually Australia will have to have a site for medium to high level radioactive waste. I have been informed that the federal government is now looking at various issues surrounding that process and that the community will be widely consulted. I have written today to Senator Minchin requesting that the state government be fully consulted on each of these issues.

I repeat: I support a safe disposal site for lower level radioactive waste, but nuclear material is a completely separate matter. That debate is yet to be had. My understanding is that, if the federal government is looking for a place to locate high level waste, then it will have to undertake a very long and thorough investigation and consultation process across Australia for the best location. That process may take a number of years and, given that the Lucas Heights material will not return to Australia for another 15 years or so, there is ample time therefore for us to be consulted, for us to have some input and to make a judgment as to what is proposed.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. Dean Brown)—

Adelaide Festival of Arts—Report, 1 April—30 June 1999
Development Act—City of Tea Tree Gully Heritage Plan
Amendment—Report on the Interim Operation
Australian Dance Theatre—Report, 1998-99
South Australian Country Arts Trust—Report, 1998-99

By the Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training (Hon. M.R. Buckley)—

Response by Treasurer to Social Development Committee
Report on Gambling

By the Minister for Youth Affairs (Hon. M.K. Brindal)—

Report on the Review of the Youth Advisory Council of South Australia.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the annual reports just tabled, ordinarily printed, be published.

Motion carried.

QUESTION TIME

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The SPEAKER: Are there any questions? The Leader of the Opposition? No, the honourable member for Kaurna.

Mr HILL (Kaurna): Thank you, sir. Very good!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members on my right will come to order.

Mr HILL: Given the Premier's statement to the House just a few minutes ago and given that the federal government has stated that it is government policy that the site for a low level waste repository will also be considered for the collocation for the storage of long-lived, intermediate level radioactive waste, will the Premier take immediate action to end any cooperation with the federal government over taking low level waste until Canberra rules out such a collocation in South Australia? In answer to a question put on notice by Senator Bolkus in the federal parliament on 15 February 1999, Senator Hill, the federal Minister for the Environment said:

Once a preferred site has been identified for the national radioactive waste repository, it is government policy that the site will also be considered for the co-location of a purpose-built, above-ground national storage facility for the storage of Australia's small quantity of long-lived intermediate level radioactive waste.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): The member for Kaurna should have listened to the ministerial statement, because I thought it was fairly clear. As to lower level radioactive waste, we support a repository for that, but as to medium and high level waste that is a completely different matter. We would expect to be consulted—

Mr Hill interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: We would expect to be consulted. We have not been consulted at all by the federal government on this issue. Perhaps the member for Kaurna might like to take up this matter with his federal Labor colleagues because who pursued the initiative of storing low level radioactive waste? It was a federal Labor government and a state Labor government. We have since followed the

course set by your federal Labor colleagues and your predecessor, the Bannon-Arnold government. It was former Premier Lynn Arnold—and of course the Leader of the Opposition was a member of cabinet at that time.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call. I ask the House to come to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Government Enterprises will come to order.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The member for Kaurana might like to consult the former South Australian minister for health, Mr Evans, who in December 1992 presented a detailed summary to cabinet on all developments and advised that a preliminary study had been completed on the proposal to use the Olympic Dam site. The same Martyn Evans, federal member of the Labor Party, is quoted in this morning's paper as supporting medium level radioactive waste being put in a repository in South Australia. Get your own house in order, first.

The steps are clear and specific. South Australia will continue the thrust of the former Labor state government and former Labor federal government for things such as watches, compasses, exit signs, etc. being buried in one repository. That is taking it out of the broader community into one site—appropriately so. I have also said in the ministerial statement, as it relates to medium and high level waste, that is a different matter. But, importantly, let's keep it in perspective. These rods they talk about are going to France. They will not come back to Australia for 15 years and, in that 15 years, we can get this matter sorted out. It is on that basis that I have asked the commonwealth government for appropriate consultation with South Australia.

ELECTRICITY, PRIVATISATION

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen): Will the Premier advise the House of the sorts of risks involved if governments continue to own and operate electricity assets in the national electricity market? An article on the front page of today's Australian *Financial Review* highlights a Victorian Supreme Court ruling against New South Wales state-owned generator, Pacific Power, a decision expected to cost New South Wales taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): If we wanted further clear graphic evidence of why we should be moving down the path of privatisation or lease of our power utilities, it is the decision out of the Supreme Court of Victoria yesterday. As has been reported in the *Financial Review*, His Honour Justice Gillard's decision has exposed New South Wales taxpayers to losses in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars, on contracts running for over eight years. The massive damages claim is centred on hedging contracts between Pacific Power and Power Corp—contracts with a total value of \$619 million—and the judgment out of Victoria is against the state owned instrumentalities of New South Wales. We should remember that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Hart and others, as well as the Labor Party, wanted us to own and manage this risk. This is an example of the sort of risk that taxpayers can be exposed to.

Justice Gillard has ruled the contracts that were concluded were legally binding. That means that, on the evidence provided during this lengthy legal battle, the average contract between Pacific Power and Power Corp was around \$21 per megawatt hour. What has happened since then is that the

average price of electricity in New South Wales and Victoria has jumped to well over \$30 per megawatt hour. The result is that Pacific Power is losing \$9 per megawatt hour on its power contracts, contracts that will run for eight years. The *Financial Review* estimates that loss at between \$300 million and \$400 million to the taxpayers of New South Wales. What it all means is that Government owned utilities operating in a deregulated national electricity market can get it wrong. The price went up; they gambled on the price going down.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Yes, the member for Hart does have the *Financial Review* again today, but he has the front page covered up. In that instance, it was not their private money that they were playing with; it was taxpayers' money. It is a 300 page judgment by His Honour, and he describes the company's internal system as ad hoc and the behaviour of its trader as bizarre. This is the government instrumentality out of New South Wales. Ivor Riesin his column in the *Financial Review* says that the losses would have been reduced considerably if the New South Wales Treasurer had been more diligent and Treasury had been more robust in its supervision of the company. The amazing irony of all this is that Michael Egan wanted to sell, and the Labor Party would not let him sell. Now he has been caught and he has this up to \$619 million exposure on behalf of the New South Wales government.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Yes, absolutely.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hammond will come to order too.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: You are very right. Let me remind the House of the quote in the *Financial Review*. It states:

Pacific Power's loss is a rude reminder to state governments everywhere of the dangers of owning electricity generation and distribution companies once the market for electricity is deregulated and prices are set according to the laws of supply and demand.

That is, competition. We have sought to remove that risk. And if ever there was a graphic example of the merits of our policy it is, indeed, that judgment of the Supreme Court of Victoria only yesterday.

I was also interested in a debate in another place yesterday. We have seen, in particular, in this last eight to 10 days, major destabilising by the Labor Party of this policy initiative. We have clearly demonstrated the merit of the principle of leasing or privatising, and we have clearly demonstrated the example of exposure and risk of taxpayers' money. The parliament, after almost 500 days, passed the legislation but the Labor Party cannot accept it and is trying to destabilise it.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Let me quote to the member for Hart what one of his former colleagues has had to say in another place about the Labor Party's tactics—the tactics that underpin what opposition members have been on about in the last week or 10 days.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart will remain silent.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: This is the Hon. Terry Cameron, no less—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: —the man who put principle against party allegiance. He made some observations, and I ask honourable members to look at *Hansard*. The Hon. Terry Cameron made some observations about the tactics of the Labor Party, and he said—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The chair is having great difficulty in hearing the Premier.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. He said that when he was a member of the Labor Party he had some riding instructions on the water contract—riding instructions; strategy tactics from the Labor Party. I ask members to see if this has some familiarity to it. He said that his task was quite simply to convince the public of South Australia that we have privatised the entire SA Water, and ‘do whatever you can to destroy the bidding process, cast a cloud over it and destroy it. They were the riding instructions I received from the Leader of the Opposition.’ These are the riding instructions—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Goyder will remain silent.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Hon. Mr Cameron said this, as reported in *Hansard*—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: And the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Hon. Mr Cameron has really blown the whistle on the tactics of the Labor Party. He went on to say:

I submit to this Council that the Labor Party has already cost the people of South Australia—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will resume his seat. Can I have an assurance from the Premier that he is not quoting from the upper house?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! If the Premier is quoting from the upper house—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! —I must inform him that, under standing orders, members cannot quote from another place.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Let me paraphrase—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: I will not use undue licence on the words of Mr Cameron, Mr Speaker, but let me paraphrase. The honourable member said that you have already cost the taxpayers of South Australia between \$400 million and \$500 million. And you have gone even further—you are intent on now destroying this process.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Yes, you are; you are using the same tactics.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will resume his seat. Members have had a fair go this afternoon. I know that members are tired because they had a late night, but just come back to—

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the leader for interjecting while the Speaker is on his feet. I ask members to conduct this question time in an orderly manner. The Premier.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: We have a pattern emerging: the water contract, the EDS contract and the electricity deal. The pattern is that the Labor Party is intent on destroying

progress. The Labor Party is intent on ensuring that we cannot retire the debt. The Labor Party is playing with South Australia’s future. That is what you are doing. You are playing with this state’s future. It is about time the Labor Party in this state had one policy, one idea and one proposal for the future of South Australia rather than knocking, scaremongering, denigrating and destroying this state’s future.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Lee.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Mr WRIGHT (Lee): My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism. What impact will the development of a radioactive waste dump in South Australia have on the state’s tourism image and marketing efforts, and what studies has the minister undertaken to assess the damage?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): It is an absurd question from the member for Lee. However, the locations in South Australia about which we are talking have some spectacular scenery. I happen to have with me a range of magnificent brochures that outline many of the attractions. I know that you, Mr Speaker, do not like me to read brochures because that is against standing orders, so I will not do so. However, I will make sure that I send them to the member for Lee at the first possible opportunity following the conclusion of question time.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley.

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

Mr SCALZI: Can everyone see me? My question is directed to the Minister for Year 2000 Compliance.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr SCALZI: No, he is not a prophet of doom. Will the minister advise the House of the status of preparation of the state for the year 2000 and will he say whether South Australians will need to stockpile any items in preparation for any problems on or after 31 December?

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Year 2000 Compliance): I thank the member for Hartley for his question this afternoon and also for his ongoing interest in this issue, which, no doubt, is like many others that come before this House as far as the Labor Party is concerned. I am absolutely sure that some members of the Labor Party, as the clock ticks over from midnight, will be hoping that something of consequence goes wrong so that they can point the accusing finger at government. They will be there with their negative forces ready to point the finger of gloom. If that is what will make their new year, I am sorry, we will spoil it for them.

I am pleased to be able to report to the House that the state is well prepared for the year 2000. I have also been pleased that the government has conducted its preparation with an open-book policy. We have been up-front from the start to be open with our costs and to indicate publicly how much the rectification would cost and where the money would be spent. I indicated in January this year that it would cost government about \$104 million to achieve rectification.

I can now report to the House that that cost appears to be coming in at \$104.2 million, on target and where we said it would be. We have also published on the internet for all to

see our rate of progress so that people can see where we are at, where government departments had strengths and weaknesses and what remains to be addressed. Some might argue in the business of politics that it is risky to put statements of confidence on the record on an issue such as this where it is all too easy for the Labor Party and those who join it in a negative swipe at things that work to get the media footage from the cameras and throw back that footage. I am quite comfortable in taking that political risk in putting my statement of confidence on record, because that statement of confidence is based on three years of hard work, solid preparation and ensuring that the job is done.

At the government level, that preparation has involved three years of preparing inventory, of assessing the items on that inventory and, indeed, of checking thousands of items of equipment, of undertaking those checks, of carrying out the needed rectification and at the same time implementing and testing solutions to ensure that the government, particularly in its area of essential services, is ready for business as normal. In keeping with our consistent policy of taking absolutely no risk during that course, particularly for most of this year, we have been embarking upon the process of sensible contingency planning and implementing those contingency plans so that if anything did go wrong—and that is unlikely—it is something for which we are already prepared in any event and can also ensure that business continues as normal.

The long-term benefit to the state of that level of contingency planning is that government agencies are now better prepared than they probably ever have been before for any eventuality so that, God forbid, should there ever be an earthquake in this state or another Ash Wednesday, the level of contingency planning, particularly in our essential services, is such that those plans can be implemented at a moment's notice to cover any eventuality. I think that is something about which South Australians can be particularly comfortable.

With 42 days to go the government is there, it is ready. The last elusive pieces of technology are being repaired. The hard to get parts have been obtained, and those final parts are being put in place. We have methodically, logically and professionally worked through our essential services in particular to ensure that they are ready. That obviously includes not only government, because a number of our essential services are provided by the private sector. For example, our gas supply—and it is probably interesting to mention gas at a time when this parliament has been so preoccupied with electricity—is distributed by Boral Energy. I must say that Boral is one of the most professional companies I have dealt with on this issue. It has worked through the process methodically. It has included its important business partners in Santos and Epic Energy. Not content with knowing that it can supply, it wanted to make sure that its customers are prepared so that they, too, will continue to buy gas and, as such, face-to-face it met with its 1 000 top customers.

I think that it has demonstrated itself to be a responsible corporate citizen and, indeed, has perhaps reminded the Labor Party of some of the benefits that can occur through the outsourcing/privatisation/lease of assets. Members opposite may like to reflect on that and also their own role in ensuring that Boral had that opportunity.

Again, the private sector has carefully put in place contingency plans. In doing that, it is interesting to reflect that warehouse space in South Australia is now particularly

difficult to obtain, because many companies have ensured that those parts upon which they depend for their manufacturing process that may be hard to get have been imported and stored so their assembly lines are not disrupted next year. Those companies that produce non-perishable items have ensured that they actually have larger than the usual amounts of product on hand so that that product is ready.

That has a multifold advantage. If there is a problem in distribution of product—and it could be any item of product; it could be a supermarket item—and if there is a problem of manufacture, the manufacturers have their warehouses stocked. To answer the member for Hartley's question, there is no reason for panic by South Australians, because the supermarket industry in particular is well prepared through extra storage via the manufacturers. If nothing goes wrong, as we expect will be the case, but things go wrong off-shore it means that those companies are ready to export their product and take business opportunities. So South Australian businesses are not only ready but are also ready for opportunity—interstate, overseas, wherever—to take advantage of their good preparedness.

The last but certainly not least important area of preparation has been that of householders. The member for Hartley has certainly been a leader by example in that he has distributed to householders in his electorate important information through his electorate newsletter and recently distributed the *Ready for 2000* booklet that has gone to South Australian households. There has been a fair bit of bipartisanism here. I am pleased that members of the Labor Party—the member for Hart shortly, the members for Kurna and Peake and many other members of the Labor Party—with members of the government have been distributing this information to their constituents. Where Labor Party members for reasons of their own have decided not to do that, to ensure that their constituents do not miss out we will do it for them over the next few days, so the constituents of those members who did not participate will also be covered.

Within South Australia there is no need to stockpile, panic, take extra cash out of the bank or stock up on household items, candles or water. Those areas are covered. The only precaution South Australians need to take is the same precaution they would take for any long weekend. It is important that as part of this process the ultimate level of risk is managed and that last area of risk management is that of public panic. It is here that the media has a particularly important role to play. To date the media has been responsible and effective in its reporting and it is important that that continues through to the night.

The question I ask members of parliament—including opposition members, who are poised ready to jump—and the media is that, if a suburb has an electricity blackout just after midnight, they first make sure that the cause of the blackout is not a Stobie pole that has been hit by a car. To help them out, the government will have a website in place to give details of any problems, which we doubt will occur. I thank the member for Hartley for his question. The state is well prepared and I am sorry that the opposition is unlikely to have its chance at negativity.

HINDMARSH STADIUM

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism. Given the decision by the minister's Liberal Party colleague in the Legislative Council, the Hon. Julian Stefani, to cross the floor

to support a motion to establish an inquiry by the Auditor-General into a range of matters concerning the redevelopment of the Hindmarsh stadium, including possible conflicts of interest or improprieties, will the minister herself agree to be interviewed by the Auditor-General and will she guarantee that all the files relating to the Hindmarsh stadium redevelopment will be released for the Auditor-General's scrutiny and that no files are missing or incomplete?

The Hon. J. HALL: The answer to the first three or four is yes, and I think—

The SPEAKER: Order! The chair is having difficulty in relating the question to the actual tourism portfolio. The minister has answered some questions on this matter before, which indicates that she is prepared to address it, but I will leave entirely in her hands the matter of addressing this question in relation to her ministerial responsibility.

The Hon. J. HALL: The answer to the questions addressed by the wrecker, the leader of the wreckers, is: yes, I am going to be interviewed by the Auditor-General, but the destructive nature that you lot have portrayed over the soccer stadium will come back and bite you.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Goyder.

AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

Mr MEIER (Goyder): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

Mr MEIER: When the turkey gobbler stops, I will direct my question to the Minister for Industry and Trade. Given that thousands of international visitors will visit Sydney next year for the Olympic Games, has the government considered showcasing innovative South Australian technologies as part of a marketing campaign to advance the interests of local industry in the new millennium? Recently one of my constituents who owns the company Adelford indicated that he had sold considerable quantities of the stone mines called Harlequin to an interstate company, which indicated that it hopes to use that material as paving on part of the Sydney complex.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Industry and Trade): Earlier in the year I received an invitation from Senator Nick Minchin, the federal Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, to consider South Australia's becoming involved in what is being called the Australian Technology Showcase (ATS). It is really an initiative of the Olympic business round table, which is a group organising a lot of business functions in relation to the Sydney Olympics, and obviously trying to promote as many Australian and South Australian businesses in particular through the Sydney Olympics.

The Australian Technology Showcase is now being organised by Austrade. Part of that showcase involves having a web site which will be used specifically to showcase and promote Australian and South Australian technologies internationally in conjunction with the Olympics. This will provide the opportunity for about 42 South Australian companies to be on the web site and to display their innovative technologies and show them to the world.

A number of conferences and forums are being organised in conjunction with the Olympics, and having this particular web site in place displaying the technologies of South Australian, and indeed Australian, companies, will no doubt be a big advantage to the companies concerned. Of course, the companies have to go through selection criteria to get

their technology on the web site. Clearly they need to be innovative and demonstrate a clear step forward in the technology itself.

These companies have to be scientifically credible to stand up to the scrutiny which will be placed on them when they are on the web. Also they need to possess a significant amount of local content, which will be very important for South Australian companies. They also need to be able to demonstrate that they have a marketable product so that, when they are on the web site, they can be picked up and taken to the world markets, if they can access things such as venture capital.

They also have to be commercially attractive and appeal to international investors, or indeed offer opportunities for joint venturing. These companies also need to be socially and environmentally beneficial and meet community needs and community standards. They also need to be readily exportable; that is, have world-class technology with significant global potential. They also need to be backed by some very skilled and committed stakeholders who are willing to make a firm commitment to the concept of the technology showcase, or indeed a sound track record of commercialisation of technology or innovative products. For that reason, they will probably come from a group of industry sectors that are already South Australian or Australian strengths.

This technology showcase provides a great opportunity for some South Australian companies to display their innovation and their technologies world wide and we are pleased to be able to be involved. They will be able to be used by South Australian companies to seek joint venture partners or to seek venture capital, which is always one of the difficulties in trying to take innovative products and new technologies to world markets; that is, accessing venture capital or joint venture partners.

Our overseas officers, of course, will be able to use the web site to promote South Australian companies, and that can only be to the State's advantage. I would certainly commend to the House the concept of the technology showcase, and we look forward to displaying at least 40-odd South Australian companies to the world.

HINDMARSH STADIUM

Mr WRIGHT (Lee): My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism. Are any of the files relating to the Hindmarsh stadium redevelopment missing or stolen?

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the Minister for Tourism under the same reference as I made in calling her previously.

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I have answered a number of questions relating to this. I am curious as to why the leader did not have the guts to ask it. Are you referring to the files that were stolen from my car?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I make the observation to the House that in selecting—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I make the observation to the House that, in calling on ministers to answer questions, as a minister is probably responsible for an area, it is up to the questioner to identify the right minister.

PILCHARD FISHERY

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Can the Deputy Premier advise the House whether he supports the call for a royal commission into the pilchard deaths issue?

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development): I thank the member for Flinders for her question because I know her keen awareness of the ongoing problems in the pilchard fishery. I do not support the calls that were made over the ABC last week for a royal commission. Over the last three to four years a lot has been said about pilchards, and the pilchard kills which were a very serious issue and worthy of scrutiny and comment. However, other pilchard issues have received a level of comment which has been highly unfortunate and not always correct.

Questions and statements in this parliament and in the media have not only lacked credibility but have resulted in the standards of the parliament in some cases being seriously compromised. The basis for all this is somewhat confusing. I have no doubt that the questions and information have been supplied by certain people to be asked in this parliament. Not only have these questions been played with and the context of statements altered but a new level of impropriety has been reached. *Hansard* records show that previous *Hansard* records have been altered when quoted. That has significantly altered their meaning, and the resulting statements have been peddled to the media with some glee. Those responsible should be condemned for behaviour which is very much a Keystone cops conspiracy.

Whilst the Hon. Paul Holloway in another place has apologised in that chamber, the resulting and totally incorrect slurs on my honesty and that of others has not been corrected. The lesson for all members of parliament from this debacle is that members should ensure the propriety of information handed to them by others. This issue has seen many instances of misleading and incorrect statements. I take it that the opposition has learnt from this embarrassing gaffe. It was significant that last week the most unnecessary and nasty attack on the member for Flinders was delivered by the Hon. Sandra Kanck of the Democrats, not by the opposition, and perhaps from that we can see that the opposition has learnt something.

I found that attack particularly nasty, tasteless and totally unnecessary and I think that the Hon. Sandra Kanck should question the motives of those who put her up to asking that question. Not only is the member for Flinders an extraordinarily hard worker for her large electorate but she is passionate to see development and jobs occur in her area. That area is fortunate to have a member with such dedication to the interests of her electorate.

The pilchard debate surfaced again in the last week, once more with totally incorrect statements being made. The major statement that was made on ABC radio said that, as minister, all the advice I received was that only 14 fishers should be allowed in the pilchard fishery. That is just is not true. Those statements were made by Peter Blacker, who is working as a consultant to the pilchard fishers.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will to come order.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Yet the same Peter Blacker has been a signatory to letters advising me that an allocation of 2 500 tonnes should be made to the Tuna Boat Owners Association and insisting that, in the event of a change in quota, pro rata adjustments be made to the allocations of all

participants. In fact, Peter Blacker was a signatory to a letter objecting to my trying to quarantine the first 3 500 tonnes from reductions to look after the 14 members of his fishery. That situation has been extremely contrary to their interests. Yet, clear claims have been made which are totally at odds with the history of the issue, and they seem to be continuing to be made. There has been a significant level of inappropriate behaviour over this issue. Indeed, some of the evidence given to the ERD Committee was seriously questionable, and statements in both houses have seriously contaminated what should be an open and constructive management of the pilchard fishery.

It is for this reason that I flag the appointment of an independent allocation committee to set allocations in the pilchard fishery. The time has come for fishermen and managers to concentrate on the resource and catching the fish, and all other agenda should be put aside. That message needs to get back to a few people. If there was an inquiry, a lesson that would be learnt by many MPs is to be careful of the information given and people's motives when giving you such information. However, suggestions of a royal commission are ridiculous and just part of a continuous attempt to play games with this fishery—games that are at odds with the future of the pilchard fishery and its participants.

HINDMARSH STADIUM

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism. What documents relating to the Hindmarsh stadium redevelopment were allegedly stolen from the minister's car; under what circumstances were they stolen; and were the police informed of this alleged theft?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I am very happy to answer parts of this, because I am sure the police investigating the matter will be very interested in the leader's interest in the documents. I am surprised he knew they had been stolen.

MUNDULLA YELLOWS

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): Will the Minister for Environment and Heritage outline to the House what the government is doing to find a cure for the mysterious tree disease known as Mundulla yellows? Mundulla yellows is apparently a disease afflicting native vegetation, and it is so named after the town of Mundulla, which is near Bordertown in my electorate, where it was identified some 20 years ago by an apiarist, Geoff Cotton, who has ever since been endeavouring to get funding for research into this disease.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Minister for Environment and Heritage): I thank the honourable member for his question, which is, indeed, a very serious one. Coming into the environment portfolio initially, I must admit that I had not heard of this disease, Mundulla yellows. It was not until an occasion when I was travelling towards Keith that I noticed a stand of trees that looked lifeless and had yellowing leaves. That led me to ask questions about what was happening to these trees, which are identified as eucalypts. The information I received was that I should speak to a man named Geoff Cotton in the South-East. As the member for MacKillop has rightly informed the House, the disease Mundulla yellows was identified by Geoff Cotton in about 1979.

When I received this information from Mr Cotton, I must admit that I was greatly surprised that a disease that appears

to be as lethal as Mundulla yellows had been let lie without any great information being put about the community; nor, in fact, had there been any attempt in any area to gain funds for research over a period of 20 years. So, it was with this knowledge that I asked the department at the time to conduct a seminar in the South-East and to invite all interested parties to talk about and to raise the awareness of Mundulla yellows—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart will remain silent.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Goyder.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: I have already said that this disease was identified over 20 years ago. It is probably quite obvious now that members on the other side recognise that, during the majority of that period of time, Labor governments were in power. They obviously were uninterested in that period of time, and they are certainly uninterested in a very serious issue at the present time. I hope that the people throughout this state recognise the total ignorance of the members of the opposition when it comes to something that could destroy the Australian landscape because of this disease through a native species, fundamentally, eucalypts.

After the department had convened the seminar and the awareness and the information was sought, in August and September 1998 the state government supported the establishment of a working group that came out of that initial seminar to investigate the potential causes of this disease as a foundation for the eventual management and control of this threat. The group included representatives from the Department of Environment, the University of Adelaide, the South Australian Research and Development Institute, Transport SA, Forestry SA, Primary Industries, local government and the Conservation Council. This gives an indication of the seriousness with which this issue was considered by all these groups.

To date, the working group has been granted some \$5 000 from the State Revegetation Committee, \$23 000 from the Native Vegetation Council and \$10 000 directly from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs. In seeking further funds, we have been successful in gaining some \$10 000 from the Australian Research Council and, as recently as October, a further \$40 000 from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. To its great credit, the Tatiara council wrote to me, offering a donation of some \$5 000 towards this research effort—which indicates that it also had taken on board the seriousness of this issue and was prepared to put dollars into a particular fund.

I asked the department to set up a specific research fund for this disease, and I am pleased to announce to the House that the Mundulla Yellows Foundation is currently being established by the University of Adelaide. I can advise all members of this House that the South Australian research is leading the field into investigation on Mundulla yellows disease—because I must also point out that, while the disease has been identified in various sites throughout South Australia, including the South-East, the Adelaide Hills and the Barossa Valley, it is not confined to South Australia alone. There have been sightings in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and, indeed, New Zealand. So, the working group that was established to put together

baseline data on the distribution and spread of the disease in South Australia is currently combining with interstate groups and gaining data, and it is investigating preliminary evidence that points to phytoplasmas as a possible cause of this disease.

Because of the obvious need for national support for research into the cause of this disease, I first raised the matter at the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council in December 1998. As well as the New Zealand Minister for Conservation, South Australia provided briefing notes to all state and federal environment ministers in order to raise the awareness of this potentially devastating disease. It is also pleasing to note now that, when I travel to different areas of our state, everyone is talking about Mundulla yellows, which means that South Australians now understand and appreciate the importance of this issue. I was therefore delighted to hear the announcement made by the federal environment minister, Senator Robert Hill, in August this year that a further \$150 000 would be allocated to Mundulla yellow research through the bush care program.

However, I must admit a certain concern because this money has not yet been allocated. The state government has certainly lobbied long and hard for federal funding for Mundulla yellows and I am very keen to see that this money is targeted towards assisting the research efforts in South Australia. South Australia is leading the country in the research work and we are the logical target for any further research funds. I wrote to Senator Hill on 14 September, recommending that the bush care funds be directed to South Australia's research, and I am awaiting his response. Mundulla yellows does have the potential to completely alter the Australian landscape.

Research into this cause and possible cures is becoming more urgent. The South Australian government is well aware of the threat that this disease poses. We will continue to support Mundulla yellow research and we will continue to pursue the federal government to have the bush care funds allocated to this state and to South Australia's research team, which is leading the nation in its efforts to find the cause of Mundulla yellow. This is a national project. We have the experts and the research capability and, I hope, that the federal government will give us an answer that will direct those funds to enable South Australians to take the lead in this project.

HINDMARSH STADIUM

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism. Will the absence of documents allegedly stolen from the minister's car prejudice the Auditor-General's inquiry into possible conflicts of interest and impropriety involved in the Hindmarsh stadium redevelopment, and what was the nature of those documents allegedly stolen?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): The date on which the documents were stolen was Monday 8 November. The reason that I put that fact on the record is to prevent any grubby inference, such as that which the leader has just made.

Mr Foley interjecting:

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

The Hon. J. HALL: I have not given this House any details about the documents that were stolen, and I am a little surprised that the opposition seems so intent on inquiring

about which documents relating to the soccer stadium are missing, if any.

TOURISM

Mr VENNING (Schubert): Will the Minister for Tourism advise the House how important tourism, as a growing global industry, is to South Australia's future, and will she further inform the House about what steps the government is taking to capitalise on our potential for tourism growth?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I do thank the member for Schubert for his question because, of course, the honourable member has such a stunning electorate which is so important to the tourism industry.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J. HALL: I am sure the House knows that the tourism industry is the world's fastest growing industry sector. In 1998 the estimated worth of the industry internationally is recorded at \$4.4 trillion; and it is estimated that that equates to 231 million jobs. Truly, that is quite exceptional and I maintain that South Australia must be a part of that growth and success. Throughout 1998, the tourism industry sector contributed \$2.7 billion worth of economic activity to our state, and it is estimated that employment figures are now between 32 000 and 40 000 which, of course, is pretty impressive. This government is utterly committed to growing this important industry. We certainly want to make sure that we take all the available benefits of the international growth.

There are four key community benefits of a vibrant and growing tourism industry that will certainly be felt in South Australia; that is, no doubt, increased economic activity but, in particular, very great employment opportunities, particularly for young people. Another one is the potential to revitalise so many of our regional areas. I guess that one of the most important points is that it gives South Australians complete justification for being confident and proud of their state. Unquestionably, they are vital goals for our state to be involved in achieving in the growth of the tourism industry over the next four or five years.

This year the tourism budget has increased, and it is designed to implement a very specific four-pronged approach to grow the industry; firstly, through a very coordinated and targeted marketing campaign at the intrastate level through the *Shorts* campaign, at the interstate level through our *Secrets* campaign and particularly at the international level through our 'Adelaide, Australia' activities and our material that is now printed in five languages.

The second most important area to be considered is that we believe we have the nation's best major events strategy, which is very important overall to the tourism industry and its growth in our state. New events such as the Tour Down Under, Tasting Australia and Classic Adelaide (taking place at the moment) are all great examples of ongoing events. Of course, we had the huge success of the one-off events such as the Masters Games and the Golden Oldies.

Mr Venning: Barossa under the Stars sold out.

The Hon. J. HALL: The member for Schubert quite rightly points out that Barossa under the Stars in February next year, with the international entertainer Michael Crawford performing, sold out in about seven days, and I think that augurs well for great growth in our tourism industry.

The third area, which is particularly important, is investing and supporting future tourism infrastructure. That includes such things as air strips, roads and accommodation developments—and we know about the magnificent National Wine Centre project that is proceeding and also the Convention Centre. Of course, all these activities are absolutely critical to the ongoing growth and employment opportunities that this brings to our state.

The last of the four-pronged attacks in the tourism industry is the ongoing development of the industry itself and the attributes needed for those people to work in it. Members can see that we are very aggressively developing our wine tourism, cultural tourism and nature-based tourism opportunities. Through these activities we are unashamedly investing in the future of South Australia, and that means unashamedly investing in our economic growth and in the successful provision of many employment opportunities that come from that growth in the tourism industry. We know that South Australia is the best place in the world to live, work and play: it is important for us to make sure that we can add 'and visit' at the end of that line.

The *Australian's* education supplement recently wrote about the many opportunities and the outstanding career paths available in the tourism and hospitality industry, particularly as it relates to young people. For those members who did not see that, I strongly suggest that they read page 40 of the *Australian* of 10 November, which contains a very impressive article entitled, 'Clear path to glamour jobs'.

An honourable member: Who wrote it?

The Hon. J. HALL: It was written by Dean Ashenden and Sandra Milligan, and it makes for very interesting reading. Mr Speaker, here in South Australia, as you know, we boast the Flinders University cultural tourism course, the Adelaide College of TAFE tourism courses, Regency Park's hospitality courses and the International College of Hotel Management. In fact, in another boost to our tourism industry, the International College of Hotel Management at Regency Park was recently successful in presenting a bid to Barcelona to host the 2001 EUHOFA Congress, the biannual congress of the International Association of Hotel Schools, and it is extremely impressive that they have won this for South Australia. I would have thought that members opposite would be fairly impressed with the victory that that group had in bringing that to South Australia because it adds to our success in attracting conferences, and it is particularly important—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

The Hon. J. HALL: The many conferences and conventions that we are attracting to South Australia are very impressive, and all members of this House know about the—

Mr Hanna interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Mitchell.

The Hon. J. HALL: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. I am sure all members of the House know about the International Winegrowers and Vignerons Conference to be held here in Adelaide in September 2001. The member for Schubert is particularly interested and proud of that fact, as would be all members with south-eastern electorates and the member for Mawson in his area of the Fleurieu Peninsula. We all know that the wine industry is so important to this state. Also of note—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I hope anyone does not want the dubious honour of being the last person suspended this millennium, but they are heading in the right direction.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a point of order.

Ms HURLEY: Sir, I wish to move a motion that question time be—

The SPEAKER: No, the deputy leader cannot do so. The minister is on her feet answering the question.

The Hon. J. HALL: I will summarise, as I can see that the opposition is getting stirry. They do that because they hate the success of this government. The success of the tourism industry in providing great economic activity and employment gets right up their noses. They hate success. All they are good at is destroying and being wreckers.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I move:

That question time be extended by 15 minutes.

The House divided on the motion:

AYES (20)

Bedford, F. E.	Breuer, L. R.
Ciccarello, V.	Clarke, R. D.
Conlon, P. F.	De Laine, M. R.
Foley, K. O.	Geraghty, R. K.
Hanna, K.	Hill, J. D.
Hurley, A. K. (teller)	Key, S. W.
Koutsantonis, T.	Rankine, J. M.
Rann, M. D.	Snelling, J. J.
Stevens, L.	Thompson, M. G.
White, P. L.	Wright, M. J.

NOES (24)

Armitage, M. H.	Brindal, M. K.
Brokenshire, R. L.	Brown, D. C.
Buckby, M. R.	Condous, S. G.
Evans, I. F.	Gunn, G. M.
Hall, J. L.	Hamilton-Smith, M. L.
Ingerson, G. A.	Kerin, R. G. (teller)
Kotz, D. C.	Lewis, I. P.
Matthew, W. A.	Maywald, K. A.
McEwen, R. J.	Meier, E. J.
Olsen, J. W.	Penfold, E. M.
Scalzi, G.	Venning, I. H.
Williams, M. R.	Wotton, D. C.

PAIR(S)

Atkinson, M. J.	Such, R. B.
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Majority of 4 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

The SPEAKER: The House will now move back to reports of committees.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr CONDOUS: I bring up the 10th report of the committee and move:

That the report be received and read.

Motion carried.

Mr CONDOUS: I bring up the 11th report of the committee and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MURRAY RIVER

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): By leave, I move:

That the number of members to form a quorum for the meetings of the select committee be four.

Motion carried.

PALLIATIVE CARE

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I again table the annual report to parliament on the care of people who are dying in South Australia. This is the sixth such report, which, as members may recall, is prepared each year as a result of a resolution passed by both Houses in 1993 in pursuance of a recommendation of the Select Committee on the Law and Practice Relating to Death and Dying. The report this year takes the opportunity to look at the progress made since the select committee's report. It is indeed pleasing to note that all the recommendations of the committee have been implemented or are in progress.

One of the most significant initiatives for the recognition and continued advancement of palliative care, which was also highlighted in last year's report, has been the development of a strategic plan for palliative care services 1998-2006. The plan provides guidelines and priorities for the further development and enhancement of palliative care services in South Australia.

It is therefore recommended that future annual reports will move on from the select committee's recommendations and will focus on reporting progress in the implementation of the strategic plan. Reports will be prepared by March rather than August to take account of progress during the previous calendar year. This will ensure that palliative care remains firmly on the agenda—it is very firmly on the government's agenda.

It is a tribute to the many dedicated professionals and volunteers, organisations such as the Palliative Care Council, members of the clergy, carers and others who provide palliative care, support and compassion, that so much progress has been made since the select committee's report. I place on record the government's sincere appreciation for their work and dedication. Their contribution goes far beyond service provision: it is a contribution to the social fabric and the social values of this state. I commend the report to the House.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

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

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Today in question time I have asked a series of questions of the Minister for Tourism who seems, I have to say, unusually sensitive and defensive. Perhaps to give the question some perspective, I point out that today I received information that

in fact the Auditor-General's inquiry into possible conflicts of interest and possible improprieties in the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium redevelopment saga might be prejudiced by the fact that some of the documents may be missing.

So it is very legitimate, given that there has been a decision by a Liberal member of parliament in the upper house to cross the floor and vote with Labor and independents to secure an Auditor-General's independent inquiry. We saw a member of the government's team sufficiently concerned about probity and propriety and conflict of interest issues cross the floor to vote with Labor to set up an Auditor-General's inquiry.

I was told today by telephone call that some of the key documents were missing. So I have asked legitimate questions. I have asked whether or not the minister will appear before the Auditor-General and give evidence, a legitimate question to ask of any minister, given her role in soccer, given her role as a minister of the Crown, given her role as a parliamentary secretary, and given the highlighted aspects of a previous Auditor-General's Report in terms of conflicts of interest.

Today there has been an extraordinary response. We have been told not only that documents may be missing but that they may be stolen, and that they may have been stolen from the minister's car. If that is the case, why did she not inform the parliament beforehand? I want to know what was the nature of those documents. I want to know whether those documents or the absence of those documents is likely to prejudice the inquiry by the Auditor-General of this state. I want to know from which government department, if any, those documents that have been allegedly stolen were sourced. I would like to know, if it is true that they were stolen from the minister's car, why they were in the minister's car. I would like to know also about the timing issue.

After we asked legitimate questions, the minister said that there was an inference because, after all, the Auditor-General's inquiry had been set up after the alleged theft on 8 November, which was a Monday night. The simple fact is that the member for Lee, the shadow minister for tourism, recreation and sport, placed on the *Notice Paper* on Thursday 28 October an indication of his intention to move for an Auditor-General's inquiry into probity issues and conflicts of interest issues connected with the Hindmarsh stadium redevelopment. This Mrs Nixon-like response in parliament today is extraordinary.

It is legitimate for us to ask, when there is an Auditor-General's independent inquiry into conflicts of interest, whether key documents are missing. It is also important to ask, and get a decent, respectful, honest answer, whether or not those documents were sourced from the minister's department. It is also important for the Auditor-General to know and for this parliament to know what was the nature of those documents and why the minister had them.

The parliament has just resolved on party lines to prevent any further questions on this issue in the very last parliamentary question time of this century and prior to the Auditor-General's inquiry getting under way. It is very interesting that the government, with the support of the Independents, gagged 15 minutes of extra question time. We saw the minister try to talk out question time to prevent getting the last question. Why? What has she got to hide? If it is aboveboard, if her car has been broken into and documents stolen, why is she not on the front foot? Why is she not prepared to tell the House and answer questions about it? I hope that the Premier will act with the support of the Attorney-General to seize all the

documents, compound and impound, and make sure that the Auditor-General gets them forthwith.

Time expired.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): The leader has had his last hurrah for this parliamentary session. As is his wont, he engaged in rather extravagant language with little substance, purely for the purpose of getting a 30-second grab on the news, and then he will move on to the next witch-hunt.

Ms Breuer: More than you've ever got, Gunny.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: The honourable member, who is out of her seat, is not only ill-informed but also out of order. I could be more uncharitable, but I will not be. However, on this occasion I want to alert the House to the very difficult situation that many people in the marginal grain-growing areas of South Australia will face in the next few months. Production this year in many cases has not only been very poor but in some cases it has virtually been non-existent. During the next few weeks many of those people will be preparing themselves and planning for the next sowing of crops.

It has been put to me in the last few hours, and I have been aware of it through other contacts, that the government of South Australia and the federal government need to be very aware of these difficult circumstances and consider whether some of these people should be helped to trade their way out of their difficulties. The government can do a certain amount. Bureaucracy and environmentalists never help in many of these cases, so we need to ensure that the bureaucracy and red tape is kept to a minimum and that these people are not the unwitting victims of procedures which make life even more difficult for them.

It is clear to me that there must be a prompt recognition of the difficult situation of which the member for Schubert and I are very aware. Today it is a very expensive undertaking to sow a hectare of crop, and it could vary from \$50 to \$70 or \$80 per hectare.

Mr Venning: Over \$100.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: It just depends. I am always a very conservative person so I am erring on the conservative side. I wanted to draw that to the attention of the House because, as we approach a new year, many of these people will have to deal with their finances, whether it involves the banking situation or the stock firms, and they will need some support and assistance both from rural counsellors and others.

The great thing that concerns me in this country is that, unlike Europe and other parts of the world where people are very supportive of and have a great respect for their rural communities and people who live in country areas, during the time of the Whitlam era, the academic socialists infiltrated and took over—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: They did. They inflicted their odd views and it permeated through society and they built up a dislike for people in rural areas and endeavoured to inflict upon them policies and decisions that were not only unfair and unreasonable but implied that rural people are not important, should not be supported, should be pushed aside and that we should do everything possible to make life difficult for them with unrealistic planning laws and impose a bureaucracy in which academics who have no practical understanding or experience are involved in decision making.

One of their interesting decisions was not to let the wheat growers elect people to the wheat board. The whole thing has turned around and that decision did not make any sense. What

I am saying to this government and to this House is that we are facing a difficult situation. It is difficult enough anyway for rural people to educate their children and live through the tyranny of distance. Many of them have to supply their own power (which is unnecessary and in many cases the government should help them) and their own water, and they have to travel long distances to have any social interaction. I therefore believe that the time has come to divert more resources into these isolated and rural communities, not just the big cities. A new strategy has been put forward.

Time expired.

Mr WRIGHT (Lee): Did we not see the greatest charade of all time today? The opposition asked a series of legitimate questions about key documents that have gone missing, allegedly stolen from the minister's car. Did we not see the greatest shambles in question time today, where minister after minister padded and talked out time so that no more questions could be asked with respect to the cover-up that has occurred in relation to these alleged stolen documents? In addition to the legitimate questions that were raised by the opposition today, some other unanswered questions need to be answered. Would it not be nice to know from the minister when she requested these documents? Why did she request these documents? She is not the Minister for Recreation and Sport; she is the Minister for Tourism. What was the nature of these documents? Why has the minister got these documents?

For many months, the minister has refused to answer a whole range of questions about the Hindmarsh stadium, because she says she is not the minister. But here we have, out of the blue, all of a sudden, the minister with these documents, which are not her responsibility. A lot of questions remain unanswered here. Of course, the minister says that these documents were allegedly stolen on 9 November—as if that dated will clear her. That does just the opposite.

Given the motion on the Notice Paper relating to possible conflicts of interest, impropriety and a whole range of matters that will now come out as a result of the Auditor-General's inquiry, was not the minister so clever to tell us that they were stolen on 9 November? This was on the Notice Paper on 28 October. On that date, I gave notice of motion about this inquiry with respect to the Auditor-General. We can go even further back—to 5 October, when I wrote to the Hon. Graham Gunn in his capacity as Chairman of the Economic and Finance Committee, asking him to undertake an inquiry into the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium. It was very appropriate for the Minister to inform us of that date of 9 November.

We have a lot of unanswered questions. We have a minister and a government that are running for cover. We have a minister who is ducking for cover. All of a sudden the minister has actually requested from the department documents that are not in her ministerial responsibility. When did she do that? Why did she do that? What was the nature of the documents? Why were they in her ministerial car when these documents belong to the Minister for Recreation and Sport? Isn't it very cute? Ain't it very quaint? All of a sudden, out of the blue, key documents are allegedly stolen. Is it not very cute that these documents have gone missing at a very appropriate time? Why did this government run for cover today? Why did this government refuse to take questions? Why did ministers pad out question after question? Because they refused. If there was nothing to hide here, why did the minister not stand up today and clear the air? Why did the minister not stand up and answer legitimate questions that

were raised by the opposition about this whole saga? Why did the minister not clear the air today and answer legitimate questions that were raised by the opposition? She had nowhere to go. She is running for cover. What is this minister hiding? Why did this minister refuse to answer questions today? Why did this government pad out Question Time? Why did this government refuse to extend Question Time by 15 minutes? We know the reason: for the same reason that this government wants to close down the parliament. We now know why they did not want another week of sitting, despite the backlog of business.

Time expired.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Bragg): Mr Deputy Speaker—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bragg has the floor.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I rise to make a few comments in relation to some of the grubbiness that has gone on regarding Hindmarsh. As member for Bragg, I would like to put on record a couple of important issues as they relate to statements that have been made publicly. Some time ago I remember saying to a then very junior member of the opposition that, when you libel people publicly, you ought to be careful about it and you should get some advice. We had a very amicable discussion about that, and clearly it was agreed that we would go on and politics would be politics, and that has been the case.

I also had that same discussion yesterday with another junior member of the government on the same sort of issue, namely, what was said publicly in a libellous manner. I said yesterday that it was my intention to do nothing about it until I received today a statement of a transcript from a radio station in which there is a direct accusation that deliberate lies have been told about Hindmarsh stadium. As that clearly infers that I was the minister, since it was stated several days before that I was the brainchild, it is my intention, for the first time in this place, to do something about what I think is one of the lowest things that I have seen done for a long time in this place. I have been the victim, and I deserve to get a kick in the backside for things that I did personally in this place. Members have all heard previously my view about the process. Before I leave this place, I intend to introduce into this place a bill to try to get that process sorted out.

When I stood here and listened to some of the grubby questions that were asked today and the clear inference that documents relating to an issue before this House were stolen deliberately, that is pretty grubby and deserves to be commented on. The Auditor-General will carry out his action, and he has my support totally, because I want, once and for all, to clear not only my name but also the government's name in relation to stage 2.

If the member for Lee has a look at the public documents involving the Public Works Committee and does a little research, he will find the answer to the question. I know that he is very good at doing research, and I suggest he does it. The answer to the question is already on the public record. In this issue, we need to realise that base politics have been played. I remember the blow-out in costs for the velodrome, the Entertainment Centre—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Yes, and I remember what I did about it—and the swimming centre; and I also know what the net cost to the government today is because none of

those stadia can break even. It would do the opposition well to check the net cost to revenue on a year by year basis for all the developments that they undertook during that time. I support every one of them, but it is worth doing the maths, because it is a very interesting story.

What happened today was a most unfortunate occurrence for this parliament. It was a grubby exhibition as far as I was concerned. The questions had all the right to be asked; there is no argument about that. However, the inferences were beyond what this parliament ought to be all about. I can say that as the only person in this parliament with any experience to be able to say it, because I have been through some processes that I hope none of you ever have to go through.

Time expired.

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): I want to share with the House some letters that I have received from constituents. The first letter that I want to read, in part, is about radioactive waste. It was written by June of Para Hills. June lives just outside my electorate but I know this lady well, and she has expressed her concerns to me. In the letter she says:

I wish to express my concerns regarding the proposed waste dump.

She goes on to say:

Traditional owners and the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement oppose the dump proposal but are being forced to conduct site specific cultural assessments and clearances.

Concurrently, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources [Senator Minchin's department], as the proponent of the national dump, are preparing a draft EIS under the commonwealth law to cover both the burial repository and intended above ground store for long lived wastes, with release of the draft EIS in late 1999 to early 2000. SA Deputy Premier Kerin supports the burial repository as a 'national responsibility'.

June is incredibly concerned about this. She is also concerned about transport issues, which remain unaddressed by the government, for either low level or long lived wastes, regarding the methods and routes of transportation and the associated risks—which I raised in this House some time ago. She also is concerned about the resiting of the reprocessed nuclear waste under contract in exchange for spent fuel rods. At the end of her letter, she basically says that governments have sought to exclude the public from decision-making, and there are many people who feel that way.

The member for Giles has shared with me a letter that she has received from Father Tony Redden from Saints Peter and Paul parish. In his letter Father Redden says:

I am writing on behalf of the priests of the northern vicariate of the Port Pirie diocese.

This vicariate serves the communities of Whyalla, Port Augusta, Quorn, Hawker, Leigh Creek, Woomera, Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy, which also covers the inland mission across the top of South Australia. The letter continues:

We wish to express our opposition to the proposed nuclear waste dumps in the northern part of South Australia. The consultation with local people to date has been selective and ineffective. Local communities, Aboriginal people, pastoralists and business people alike feel left out of the process. We are particularly concerned that the original low level waste proposal has already escalated to include long lived intermediate waste level. As a result of this escalation we feel unable to trust assurances by the federal government that further developments in the nature of the dump, even to include high level waste, will not occur.

The letter continues:

In faith, we are called to be stewards of the earth, particularly for future generations, and we believe that the storage of low and

medium level waste will adversely affect this area. In general, the waste should be stored where it is produced.

I absolutely agree with the sentiments expressed in both letters.

I have also received a letter from Michael of Klemzig, who has written to me expressing his anger that the emergency services levy does not fund our ambulance service. He says:

I have been advised, through talking to friends [and other people] that the emergency services levy does not fund the SA Ambulance Service at all.

However, the '000' emergency number is owned or controlled by Telstra who have no emergency '000' operator within the state of South Australia. This situation is unbelievable, even more so since I and many others are now paying for the establishment and maintenance of the emergency services through a levy on our homes and cars.

He says that he is most irate about this situation and he cannot understand, when people's lives are in danger, how the government could not look at the ambulance service—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is too much discussion in the chamber. I ask that the private meetings cease.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I want to ask the police minister a question: why were the police unable to attend disturbances at York Terrace, Northfield and the Hampstead Centre last Wednesday night—

Time expired.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I wish to speak today on a matter of injustice. I refer to a matter concerning a constituent of mine, Mr Hartley Klau of Kapunda, formerly of Ceduna. This matter dates back over 30 years and it involves Mr Klau's fishing licence. At that time, the then Labor government wanted to alter fishing licences and have new applications completed by the current holders. Mr Klau, being a commercial fisherman and a fishing licence holder, dutifully and truthfully completed the new application form and, on answering all the questions, stated that he did derive the majority of his income from fishing. However, for only two to six weeks of the year, over the harvest period, he worked in the silo office, as a favour of the manager of the silo. He worked in the weighbridge, weighing the trucks—and we know that that is not a very highly paid position. For the other 46 weeks of the year he was fishing.

The impression was that, to qualify for an A-class licence, one had to earn the majority of one's income from fishing, and Hartley certainly did that. When the final decision by the then government agency was made, Mr Klau did not receive approval for an A-class licence but, instead, was given a B-class licence, which is quite restrictive in terms of operation and is obviously worth a lot less money as a negotiable, tradeable instrument—in fact, it had no monetary value.

Many members of the local community, including the then fishing inspector, were stunned by this unjust treatment from the government towards one of the most honest, trustworthy and respected pillars of the community, because they believed that a great injustice had taken place. Other fishermen, the majority of whose incomes were sourced from activities other than fishing, were granted A-class licences.

As is my usual practice (and, no doubt, that of most other members in this House) I conducted some of my own investigations. I was quite shocked at the level of knowledge of Mr Klau's plight and the support for him, even after 30 years, by fishing inspectors, professional fishermen, the Fishermen's Association and also Ceduna citizens. Just this

week, a prominent businessman and community leader in Ceduna rang me. He had heard of my inquiries (it must have spread around the town), and he told me that all those who were in the know and by association were rewarded, and those who were not in the know missed out. At the initial meetings held to introduce these changes they were misled and, when the new licences were issued, those who were unsuccessful in obtaining A-class licences were told that there was no sense in appealing, that it would not make a scrap of difference and that there was no difference in the licences. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This really caused a lot of ill feeling in the town. I was told that approximately 40 fishermen missed out and that, of those 40 fishermen, Hartley Klau was the most deserving of an A-class licence. He missed out because he was too honest and completed the application form accordingly, as some others may not have done.

Mr Klau is asking for some form of compensation for the wrong done to him. He is talking of only a fraction of the money that he has forgone. I believe that his request should be given favourable consideration. A licence today costs approximately \$25 000, and one has to buy two to be able to operate. I know that this all goes back many years, but it does not mean that we cannot right an injustice now. I do not care if it happened 30 years ago or 30 days ago: when a good citizen gets done for being honest, I am a crusader. Hartley Klau is a decent, honest man, as honest as I have met. There is no reason why he could not be granted an A-class licence now. It would not cost the government or anyone anything, and it would right a wrong. I have raised this matter with the member for Flinders and the member for Eyre. Both fully support Mr Klau and both are fully aware of this injustice. I have made 13 inquiries with respect to this issue, and all my contacts reinforce this position.

When Mr Klau walked into my office four to five weeks ago, I was pleased to see him after so many years, and I was pleased also to know that he now lives in my electorate in Kapunda. This incident may have happened 30 years ago but I believe that this now older, but just as honest and even more respected man should have this injustice corrected.

HINDMARSH ISLAND BRIDGE BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the amendment made by the House of Assembly without any amendment.

YUMBARRA CONSERVATION PARK

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. D.C. Kotz:

That this House requests His Excellency the Governor to make a proclamation under section 43(2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 that declares that rights of entry, prospecting, exploration and mining under the Mining Act 1971 may be acquired and exercised in respect of that proportion of the Yumbarra Conservation Park being section 457, north out of Hundreds, county of Way (Fowler) and that a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting its concurrence thereto.

(Continued from 18 November. Page 585.)

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): I support this motion, which will initiate, hopefully, some serious investigation of the anomaly in the Yumbarra Conservation Park, which is

situated some distance north of Ceduna. The department of mines and energy has been aware of this anomaly for some time—it was picked up as a result of some aerial magnetic survey work. I will give a free kick to the opposition here because it is my understanding that the opposition, when in government some years ago, commenced an aerial magnetic survey of South Australia, which has been a wonderful initiative and which has led to a much greater amount of geological survey and mineral exploration—and hopefully, into the future, mining activity in South Australia.

I am very happy that this has happened because my eldest daughter is a geologist and I lament the fact that she has had to move interstate to find employment. It is my sincere hope and, indeed, that of her mother's that she will be able to return and find gainful employment in South Australia in the industry of her choosing. Of course, the reasons why I am supporting this motion are much more involved. This matter was first brought to my attention over 12 months ago when I was offered a briefing from the department of mines and energy on the anomaly that had been found in the Yumbarra Conservation Park and what that may mean to South Australia in the future; and particularly what it may mean in light of other prospects in that part of South Australia, the Gawler Craton, which extends over a large part of western South Australia.

I took the opportunity to visit the Yumbarra Conservation Park in early December last year. I had the pleasure of visiting the park with mostly members of the upper house but, certainly, the shadow minister was also present. I think that three members from the other place were part of that group. We flew to Ceduna and met with the local council, local business people and local Aborigines. We travelled out to Yumbarra, after flying over the area where the anomaly occurs, which is in the northern part of the park. We made an aerial inspection of the park and then drove out to the southern boundary of the park.

Because of the sensitivity of the park and the desire not to disturb the park any more than was necessary, we ventured on foot only a matter of metres into the park; and we had a luncheon there with the local people whom I have just mentioned. We discussed issues relating to the park that were pertinent to them and the possibilities exploration may have for that area. The people of Ceduna, not just those people who have been in Ceduna for only a relatively short time but the indigenous people of that area, are very excited at the prospect that a major mineralisation might be found in Yumbarra and that it might lead to a viable mine, which will provide much needed employment and an economic boost to their community.

That is one reason why I believe we should be supporting this motion and endeavouring to prove up, or otherwise, the anomaly to see exactly what is there. I myself have had some concerns about the environmental effects that might ensue from exploration activities in that area, and I wrote to the Deputy Premier, the minister responsible for mines in this state, some months ago on that very issue. I said in that letter that I would be able to support a motion of this type provided I was satisfied that the appropriate environmental safeguards were in hand and that the appropriate measures were taken to ensure that initial and any subsequent activity took place with appropriate sensitivity to the environment in that area.

I realise that it is a fragile environment and we have heard in recent times in the media from those people who, I think, it would be fair to call the broad green movement in this state suggesting that this is the last large remnant of mallee

vegetation left anywhere in the world, and that is correct. That does not, in my opinion, mean that we should stay right away from it, leave it to its own devices and not care for it at all. There are remnant parts of our state and our environment that have been left in relatively pristine condition. I suggest that this is one area that, because of the few numbers of people who go out there, would be in relatively pristine condition and that it would not be much different to what it would have been if white man had never discovered this continent.

Even if we did nothing there, if we kept right away from it, over a period of years it would be invaded by feral species, both of the plant and animal variety. It would be wrong to suggest that there are not a great number of rabbits in the area at this very time, as well as foxes, possibly feral cats and certainly feral weed species. I have said previously in this place, particularly in a debate some time ago on the Coongie Lakes, that the way to conserve our natural environment, particularly these parts of our natural environment that are very remote from our population centres, is to have a win-win situation. There must be some means whereby we can raise funds, because it will indeed take funds.

It will take dollars to not only remediate but keep out these vectors which will introduce weeds and bring destruction to the native flora and fauna in those areas. We need dollars. At the moment, Yumbarra, the area to the north (the Yellabinna region) and right across to the Western Australian border, including the Unnamed Conservation Park—a vast part of our state—has had very little money spent on it. I contend that, if we continue in that vein, the area will only deteriorate, albeit at a slow rate, into the future.

The best hope for retaining the environmental integrity of that area is to find some way of putting some dollars into it, and one of the only few ways in which we can do that is if there is an economic imperative to do so. Of course, there would be a great fillip to the amount of dollars that would be available and to the desire to use those dollars in an appropriate manner if it was discovered that, through the geological survey, there was a viable ore deposit of one sort or another in that area. I have spoken to a range of people on this issue, and it was interesting to note that only a few weeks ago the national parks and wilderness consultative committees of South Australia held a forum in Naracoorte which, of course, is where my electorate office is based—in the heart of my electorate.

It was my pleasure to attend at least part of that forum. I participated in some of the debate but mainly I listened to the debate that occurred between those delegates who had come from all over South Australia. It was very interesting, because of course Yumbarra was one of the lead topics for debate at that forum. I will admit that there was a diversity of opinion, but it is worth noting that the two consultative committees from that part of the world (I think they are the Eyre Peninsula Consultative Committee and the Far West Consultative Committee; I hope that is their correct titles) supported further on-ground investigation of the anomaly in the Yumbarra Conservation Park. It would be a great pity if this forum decided to take contrary action to what the consultative committees on the ground in that area recommended.

The member for Giles has expressed her support for this move—and it is unfortunate that she has not been able to convince her colleagues in this respect—because she does indeed recognise the economic imperatives that could be associated with this research. Along with others, I support the

stand she has taken—and it is a rather brave stand—against the might of the party machine.

Having said that, I believe that the whole of the West Coast is behind this move for further on-ground investigation of the anomaly in the hope that a viable and economic mine might be established. I am sure we all remember the ‘gestation’ which occurred in relation to Roxby Downs. If it were not for one brave sole in the Labor Party doing the right thing for South Australia way back then, we might not have had a Roxby Downs. In those days, members of the Labor Party used to refer to Roxby Downs as the ‘mirage in the desert’. If my memory serves me correctly, at the very next election then Premier John Bannon was very willing to use photographs of the Roxby Downs mine as backdrops to parts of his election campaign.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: Yes, it did turn from a mirage into an oasis. I do not think too many people in South Australia today would bemoan the fact that Roxby Downs exists, because it provides substantial economic benefit to the state and to that particular area. I am well aware that a lot of those people who went to Roxby Downs in the early days, who have continued to go to Roxby Downs and who have remained there did come from farming communities on the West Coast. Those farming communities suffered greatly from the demise of the wool industry in 1979 which ripped the heart and soul out of a lot of regional South Australia. That has provided a huge economic boost to those people who were able to shift their families from those communities to Roxby Downs. I understand that the postcode of Roxby Downs is the one whose residents have the highest level of income of any other in the state.

There is a hope—and it is only a hope—that we may see something similar on the Far West Coast north of Ceduna. It is also the hope that if that does come to pass the environmental integrity will be retained. That is why, after writing to the Deputy Premier with my concerns, I am gratified to note that the proclamation to which this motion refers has been modified slightly to address some of the concerns I raised with the Deputy Premier in the letter to which I alluded earlier.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: I, like a lot of people, would like to see a situation where parts of our native ecosystems are completely untouched so that they are there for future generations. The difference between the shadow minister, who is interjecting, and me is that I have enough practical knowledge to know that if we just leave it alone it will continue to deteriorate and in a couple of hundred years it will be a very different environment from what it is now. It is absolute nonsense to suggest that we can retain it for future generations by doing nothing—by staying away from it. As I said earlier, our only possible chance of retaining the native ecosystems and the natural biodiversity that was here when white settlers came to this country is to put dollars into this place, into research establishments and into training young scientists who are eager and keen to study biodiversity, biology and microbiology and for those people to manage the natural environment. It is my hope that we do find a viable ore body in that area and that it will contribute to the South Australian economy in the future.

In conclusion, I must say that the best chance of maintaining the environmental integrity of the area is by finding and putting into train some mineral or mining activity. I commend the motion to the House.

Mrs MAYWALD (Chaffey): It is with interest that I have listened to this debate, which seems to me to be about a balance between civilisation and the environment. We live in a civilised society and, as a result, we need to address economic imperatives with how we manage our environment. These economic imperatives must also be considered. The potential of this magnetic anomaly that has been identified in Yumbarra is significant. To leave it there without any further exploration or understanding of what that magnetic anomaly may contain would be to neglect our responsibilities as a state to the economic development of regional areas.

At the same time, I recognise the importance and significance of areas such as Yumbarra to the environment. However, the positions in this debate have been polarised and have been based on a win-lose negotiation base; it is all or nothing, particularly from the conservation groups' perspective. I believe that it is a totally different debate and that a win-win situation is achievable.

I respect the view of the conservation groups that, whilst the two week survey undertaken in March 1995 provided some insight into the ecology, it was not a detailed insight and certainly was not sufficient enough to determine the significance of the biodiversity of the region. I am pleased that, as a result of negotiations between myself, the two Independents and the government, the government has taken on board our recommendations and has amended the proclamation to include more specific biological survey requirements. In fact, it defines more clearly the extent of the biological work that must be undertaken. In particular, I am pleased that the process will include a before and after control and impact methodology which will ensure a more accurate assessment of the impacts of exploration and of mining, if it is undertaken.

In this day and age we must be more aware of the impact on our environment of any kind of development. By undertaking these kinds of studies I believe that we will have the opportunity to minimise the impacts while maximising the benefits both to the economy and the environment. By that—maximising the benefits to the environment—I mean that we will have corporate involvement in what is happening out there. Anyone who says that corporate involvement in the environment is bad needs to look at what is happening at Banrock Station to see where it can work side by side and can have very positive impacts on the environment, whilst providing extremely good development opportunities from not only an industry but also a tourism perspective.

Corporate sponsorship of environmental issues is the way forward. The conservation groups have admitted throughout this debate that one of the problems they faced with Yumbarra is the fact that we do not have enough baseline data to make an accurate assessment of what is out there. This is correct. Nor does this state have the resources to be able to pour millions of dollars into undertaking that kind of study right across the state. To leave these areas virgin and untouched in my view is an incorrect statement as we have introduced so many feral animal, pest and plant species that that place is not how it was 100 years ago and in fact the natural environment determines that things will change over time anyway.

I understand that the conservation groups are concerned that this may be a major step backwards, but it can be a major step forward for the environment and for the development of the region. It can also be a very good example of how government, the corporate sector and conservation groups could be working together to get a win/win situation. This has

not happened because the views have been polarised again, but I would encourage those conservation groups to take heed of the work the minister has undertaken and has guaranteed by the amendments to this proclamation that will be undertaken by the exploration company to carefully assess what is out there before any exploration is undertaken in not only the site where the impact will be happening but also in a control site and to undertake significant biological work during and after. In this way we can minimise the impact of mining, and we can see a win/win situation and therefore I commend the motion.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Minister for Environment and Heritage): I thank all members who have contributed to this debate. It is an important issue not only because of the many economic and social benefits which may flow from possible mining activity within the anomaly area but also because it gives us an opportunity to demonstrate our ability to put in place sufficient safety mechanisms and conditions, which will also provide for the protection of the environment. The reproclamation of Yumbarra Conservation Park will not change the principal purpose for its dedication, namely, biodiversity conservation.

A number of conditions are outlined in the draft proclamation that ensure that any exploration will be managed to minimise environmental impacts, and in giving consideration to this issue I am pleased to note that a number of members have taken the time to travel to this area of the state at Yumbarra and also taken the opportunity to consult with local people. I thank the members for Gordon and MacKillop and the Hons. Terry Cameron and Trevor Crothers in another place for their interest in this whole proposal and certainly their contribution to the proposal.

Because of the representation to government by these honourable members and the concerns expressed relating to the need for further information on biodiversity values in a control area, I advise the House that an amendment has been made to what is now the final draft proclamation. Copies of this amendment and the final draft proclamation have been distributed to all members in this place. The amendment has been inserted as item 2 under clause 6 and reads:

6. A person (the miner) who exercises rights under an exploration authority must comply with the following requirements:

The new amendment insertion is under (ii), which reads:

(ii) to conduct during the low impact stage of exploration a baseline biodiversity study in a control area identified by the miner for future environmental reference purposes;

This further study will add to the already substantial information we have on the biodiversity values within Yumbarra.

In conclusion, the conduct of mining exploration within Yumbarra will be subject to strict environmental safety conditions. Ongoing monitoring of the environment will occur during the exploration phase by the explorer and by the government. In addition, the conditions will ensure the exploration company carries out Aboriginal heritage surveys and native title negotiations before exploration can commence. Any exploration or mining that occurs in Yumbarra Conservation Park as a result of reproclamation will be intensively managed to minimise any impact on the ecological values of the park and surrounding regions.

As a result of the proclamation of Yumbarra other areas of the state will be protected from any mining activity, and I have already outlined those areas in previous statements. The additional areas that this government will prohibit from mining will amount to approximately 137 600 hectares, while

the part of Yumbarra Conservation Park being reproclaimed to allow mineral exploration and mining is approximately some 105 000 hectares.

There has been overwhelming support for the reproclamation of Yumbarra Conservation Park by the local communities of the Eyre Peninsula and West Coast, as demonstrated by literally hundreds of letters members have been receiving in support of reproclamation. Their support for their local community is certainly to be commended. I urge all members to demonstrate their support for the Eyre Peninsula and West Coast communities, and to the cause of sustainable mining and best practice conservation management by supporting the motion.

Motion carried.

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

A quorum having been formed:

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 28 March 2000 at 2 p.m.

I would like to take the opportunity, while we await some work from the other place, to thank all members for their cooperation during the current sittings of the House. There are always a few tense moments in this place and some difficult issues that need to be resolved, but it is a good thing that, at the end of the day, most of us still have a smile on our face and are able to speak with each other and get on with the work of the House and the work that the people of South Australia expect us to do. I thank all members on both sides for a high level of cooperation during the current session.

Certainly, Mr Speaker, there have been a few rowdy days during the session, but you have done an excellent job keeping control. You and your Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees do an excellent job, and I sincerely thank you both for the way in which you have counselled my colleagues—some of the noisier ones requiring more counselling than others! You have done a fine job and I know that all members share my view on that.

To the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I concede that we both have unruly people to control from time to time. I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition very much for the amount of cooperation I have received from her. There have been a few things happen, a few surprises from time to time, and we have been able to work through those. I thank her very much and also her colleagues on that side and the staff members whom we have had to contact on various occasions over the period. That level of cooperation is very much appreciated.

To the clerks, the attendants and all the staff of the House of Assembly, I say thank you. Sometimes those officers have to perform quite thankless tasks, but they do guide the members in the right direction and I thank them all very much for their efforts in that regard. We rely on many other staff on a daily basis, whether they be parliamentary counsel officers, committee staff, library staff, those who look after security, our friendly policeman—a very important man—or all those other people who help us out in so many ways. They all do a terrific job.

I make special mention of the catering and bar staff. They are very understanding people who also do a great job. Looking at some of the waist lines around here, I can only say

that they continue to excel in the task they perform, and we are very appreciative of that. They are understanding and look after our health, even to the extent of making it possible for us to order egg and chips and other little special treats from time to time. They certainly make sure that we are looked after.

I do not like to single people out, but I make special mention here of Bridie, who worked in this place for many years. She was always a smiling face in the Blue Room. Bridie has done a terrific job, and I am afraid that I will now have to find an alternative source for those rather sick Irish jokes. Bridie has been a great friend to many of us for a long time. While it is sad to see her go, we certainly wish her all the best with whatever she chooses to do in the future.

To all members and staff involved here on North Terrace, I hope that everyone has the opportunity during the recess to have a relaxing break and to come back refreshed and ready for the new year. To everyone and their families, I extend a very merry Christmas and hope that they make the most of it. Certainly, as we head towards the new millennium, I hope that everyone has a happy new year, that Y2K does not get any of us, and that everyone celebrates the start of the new century in an appropriate manner. Thinking back to what we were talking about earlier this year, I ask the member for Chaffey to pass on to Tilly Rose our wishes for a happy first birthday when that comes around in a few weeks' time.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the way in which you have chaired the House. I wish all members well.

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I would like to echo the Deputy Premier's thanks to you, Mr Speaker. Certainly, it is the view of members on this side of the House that you at all times have been fair and generous in your advice and explanations, and we have appreciated your guidance from time to time. I am very sure that you will enjoy the long break we will now have from the House, and will bounce back next year in March greatly refreshed and on the ball. Indeed, the Deputy Premier and I have managed to run the business with quite a degree of equanimity between ourselves in dealing with, as he said, unexpected changes in legislative programs and bills that have had to be put through quickly. Although we have had our disagreements as might be expected on how the House is run, they have always been approached with good humour and a willingness on the Deputy Premier's part to listen.

We have also relied very heavily on the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and their advice in the chamber. I have been here six years now, which I know is a short time in some people's career, but I always keep expecting to get to know the arcane details of the House and I never do—something always takes me by surprise. I thank the clerks and all the chamber staff for their assistance with those matters. Indeed, the chamber staff are always very helpful in dealing with questions and queries while at the same time doing their job.

The Hansard staff, of course, always deserves a special thanks because they lend such fluidity to our ramblings and I have sometimes, along with other members, been quite surprised at the way in which my grammar gets corrected on the way through and how, when I have lost my way in mid sentence, it somehow seems to come together the next morning. We would like to thank very much the Hansard staff in this place.

Parliamentary counsel are invaluable and we in opposition probably rely more heavily on parliamentary counsel than do members of the government. Their unfailing good advice,

patience and tolerance in working their way through proposed amendments is very useful and we are very grateful for their help.

We also use the committee structure quite well, and we are very grateful to all the committee staff too—the secretaries and the research staff—for their assistance. Many of us often think that a lot more valuable work comes out of the standing and select committees than from this chamber. The committee staff are well qualified and very hard working, and they help us to produce good results. Indeed, in talking about research, there is always the library staff. The service they provide is something which opposition members probably use more than the government members and on which we rely quite heavily. I know when I have dealt with the library staff and asked for research information that they have been very prompt in responding.

The addition of up-to-date information technology in the library has assisted that process greatly. It is indeed good to see that we are updating our own information technology, the MAPICS staff having helped us in that process. Finally, we are all getting networked and the public papers for the parliament are on the internet. This parliament will soon be linked to the intranet and we will be able to operate much more efficiently and effectively than we have operated in the past and, hopefully, we will be more transparent and accountable to the public.

Along with the Deputy Premier, I thank the catering staff and mention in particular, Bridie, who retired in the last couple of weeks. She was here a long time, she was given a rousing send off by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other people, and I do not need to elaborate except to say that people have already started to miss her. However, the catering staff who remain to pick up where Bridie left off are unfailingly polite and friendly, even on late nights in this place when everyone gets a bit tetchy.

Although it has not been a long year in many respects, given that we often sit a couple of weeks later than this, quite a few people have made the observation that it feels like the end of a long, hard year, and a lot has happened this year. I hope that all members, staff and their families have a good break, that they do as the Deputy Premier said and find time to have a rest, have a holiday and forget about the workings of politics and parliament for some time. I hope that they have a happy and healthy Christmas and new year and I look forward to seeing everyone back in March next year.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): It gives me a great deal of pleasure on behalf of my colleagues on the crossbenches, the member for Gordon and the member for Chaffey, to join in this motion of thanks and congratulations to those who have helped us over the last 12 months to get through another parliamentary year. I also wish everyone all the best for the festive season and the new year.

I join the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier in congratulating and thanking you, sir, on the role that you have played in this place over the last 12 months and, indeed, since I have been here, which is just over two years. You have shown to all of us a fair and reasonable hand in the heat of the moment. I am sure that some members would not use exactly those words but, by and large, sir, I think that you have handled the business of the day well, taken the moment into consideration at the appropriate time and seen that we have all behaved reasonably well. I also point out that you, sir, the Chairman of Committees and the table staff, particularly the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, have

always been most helpful and, even though you encouraged full and frank debate, you made sure that things did not get out of hand.

There are a lot of people who make the workings of this place pleasurable most of the time, apart from the late hours, and I think that we inflict that on ourselves. In particular, other members have been very helpful to those of us who are new in this place and, as Independents and, in the member for Chaffey's case, the only member of the National Party, we have at time found things most daunting, particularly when we have no idea what is going on. It is always gratifying to approach members on both sides of the chamber to get the degree of help that we have enjoyed over the last period. I single out the two whips from both parties for the help that they have given us whenever we have approached them for information about the proceedings in the House and what to expect in the future. We have been most grateful for all the help that we have been given by all members, but particularly by the whips and the two deputies.

A lot of the staff here make life bearable in this place. The three of us on the crossbenches are country members and, like other country members, we rely on the chamber staff and other staff in the building to make our stay here in sitting weeks a pleasurable one. There are all the House staff, and I have mentioned the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk.

I must also mention the Hansard staff, and on behalf of my colleagues I extend my thanks and congratulations to them for making sense out of my contributions. Indeed, when I was talking to a friend in the last few days, I mentioned a contribution that I made this week for which I was totally unprepared, and my delivery was much less than I would have liked, so it was delightful to pick up the *Hansard* next morning and see that it made reasonable sense. So I thank the Hansard staff for the work that they do.

Mr Venning interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: I am sure that a lot of members would claim that they have worked in the training of the Hansard staff. I was talking to one of the Hansard people only today and, when I suggested that he slip in a little change to one of my contributions, he said that I could not do so because of a floating participle that I had used only a couple of words before—and there I was not even knowing that I could use floating participles when I had been using them all the time! I thank them and I know that their work is always very demanding.

I must also mention the library staff, as the deputy leader did. Some of us rely on them very heavily, and it is fantastic that, when we say that we are in a hurry for something, that we need it straightaway and that we need more information than we usually expect to get at very short notice, they are always obliging and seem to be able to dig up everything that we are after. I do not know how they find their way around the volumes, but they do it with grace and always with a smile. It is a pleasure to go into the library.

The same thing applies to parliamentary counsel and, as an Independent member, without having the advice of other party members, it is much more difficult to know where to go and how to go about things, and I find that parliamentary counsel staff are always very helpful, and it is a pleasure to work with them through an issue that I want to introduce into the House. All the chamber attendants are always ready and willing to help with a smile, and I find it a pleasure to walk into the building any time, sitting time or not, and to be met with a cheery smile and a welcome from all the attendants around the place.

I also mention the committee secretaries and research staff. Serving as I do on the Public Works Committee, I appreciate how hard they work, and I know that the staff of the Public Works Committee have a huge volume of work and, again, they do it without complaint. I am sure that the research staff and secretaries of all the parliamentary committees handle their work in the same manner.

As a country member, and speaking on behalf of my country colleagues who sit beside me, I must say that the one group of staff in this building whom we appreciate as much as any other is the catering staff. I manage to spend a fair bit of time in the parliamentary dining room and the other eating places around this building. Being fairly keen on making sure that I am well fed, I can say that the catering staff do a magnificent job. We were advised when we came here to treat this place like our second home, and it is certainly like that. In fact, with my wife not being in the gallery, I would say that the best eating I ever get is when I come into this place! So I thank the catering staff and congratulate them on the job that they do and the way in which they look after all members, particularly country members, who spend so much time in this place.

I hope I have covered everyone; if not, I hope those I have not covered will accept my apologies. It has been a most enjoyable time for me and I am sure for my colleagues. I hope it has been a successful year for all members—and I do not mean just politically but in another year of their life. To all the staff and everybody in the House, I extend the compliments of the ensuing festive season and wish them all the best for the new year.

Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith): I would like to extend my best wishes, too, to everyone working in this place and their families for the Christmas and New Year festivities. As far as I can tell, they have all been mentioned by either the Deputy Premier, the deputy leader or the member for MacKillop, so I will not read them all out. The only person who may have been missed is the telephonist, who keeps this place in touch with the outside world. Unfortunately, constituents can still find us in this place from time to time through phone calls. I pay particular tribute to members of Parliamentary Counsel. I have had some need to use them during the course of this year. I must say that they are the only legally trained people I have used this year that have not cost me an arm and a leg. It has been an absolute privilege to discuss legal issues without having somebody's hand in my back pocket.

Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your stewardship as Speaker of the House. We have had some disagreements. Of course, as is the nature of this place, your word finally prevails in the ordinary course of events. I am pleased to know that I will not be the last person named in this parliament for the millennium, because that does not occur in reality until next year. I trust that somebody will have that honour, other than me. Mr Speaker, you have sought to show fairness in the exercise of your powers, as has the Deputy Speaker. It is not your fault that you suffer a slight hearing affliction with respect to those members on your right, and I can understand how they could be overlooked from time to time, as you will perhaps keep your ears more keenly attuned to those sitting on your left.

I wish members and their families of this and another place in particular the very best for Christmas and the new year. Whilst we are thanking everybody who makes this parliament tick, the fact is that it is here only because we are

here not because we are anything particularly outstanding. The members of this parliament genuinely seek to do their best for the people of South Australia. We may have very significant differences of opinion as to how we achieve that end, but I genuinely believe that all members in both Chambers conscientiously strive to do their best for the people of South Australia. It is unfortunate that there is a general perception amongst the public that politicians rank lower than just about any other profession in Australia—or anywhere else, for that matter.

That is dangerous for the body politic, generally within this community if there is such a level of disrespect or loathing for the government—and by government I mean parliamentarians across the board. If the institutions of parliamentary democracy are held somewhat in less than high regard, that poses dangers in the long run for an open democratic society. Nonetheless, I am sure we will all strive in the year 2000 to burnish the image of politicians generally, and I know we will strive to enhance the general welfare of the state. To you, Mr Speaker, to all the parliamentary staff, and to members of parliament and their families, I extend my very best wishes. 1999 has been a hell of a year for me. I dare not think what the year 2000 will bring—no doubt a lot more surprises, but I think I am ready for it.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Bragg): I find it a privilege to be able to speak to the House after my friend, the previous deputy leader. I remember that on many times we worked together over a whole range of issues in the House in some pretty heated debates, as well as making sure that this House worked the way it had to work. Only he, the current deputy leader and I know that a hell of a lot of things go on behind the scenes which make this place work and on which both parties sometimes do not wish to agree. It is interesting to be able to speak after the member. I thank the staff for the support they have given to me over the past 12 months, because it has been a very different 12 months for me, too, of course. Now, for the first time in six years, I can look upon this place as a government backbencher. I can assure those in opposition who believe that the role of a backbencher in opposition is difficult that it is more difficult in government.

Having a bit more available time, I have also had the privilege of using the facilities and being involved with the staff in helping me to get a lot of information together, particularly in relation to the two select committees on which I have served. The staff of the library and of the parliament—the people who helped us put together those reports—are really the stars of those reports, not the members who eventually sign off on them and make the actual debates. I cannot compliment highly enough the Hansard staff and the parliamentary officers who helped us in both those select committees.

Because I have had a bit more time, I have spent more time in the dining room and have been quite surprised at how good the meals are. They are superb. I hope the policy we have had of encouraging young people to spend their time in Parliament House traineeship continues, because clearly that program is working well and the support we get from those trainees is quite fantastic.

I pick up a point that was previously made about the role of politicians in this place. There is no point in our walking out into the street and saying, 'It is a pity that the perception of politicians is that they are the lowest of low.' That they—whether they be Liberal, Labor or Independent—are not seen as reputable people is our own fault; it is not anyone else's

fault. Whilst this place obviously must have the cut and thrust of politics and the toing and froing between governments and oppositions on matters of policy and other political issues, the general personal attacks that occur within and outside this place, as I mentioned in my grievance, is the prime and principal reason why we are seen in the light we are. It is not what happens in the political process. However, when we get out and treat each other badly—and I am referring to both sides of politics and within our own parties—that is what creates the bad perception amongst the public that only we can do something about. It does not matter whether Liberal or Labor members are involved, it is up to the individuals. Unfortunately, until most of us go and the whole place changes, the general attitude, which is the worst it has ever been in the 17 years I have been in here—the personal denigration that occurs—will not change. That is a tragedy. As I said, that is entirely up to us.

One of the prime reasons for my speaking today is that in the past two days I have received some phone calls from the media advising me that I will make my last speech today. So, I thought I might take the opportunity to make a few comments about yesterday and today, because I will put on the record right now that, to the surprise of everyone, it is not my intention to retire.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: It is not my intention. I think that that is a bit of a concern for people on both sides. I know that there are people who would like it if I were not in the place, whether on the other side or within my own party. I am not necessarily—

Mr Clarke: Surely not. Vicki hasn't said that, has she?

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I am not necessarily naming people outside this House. Since the media has been so interested over the past two days in whether I was to make my last speech today, I thought that I ought to clear up the matter. I do intend to come back in March and I hope that, if I am lucky, I might have quite a long and successful political career in front of me, even though that might upset a whole lot of people. But I thought it important, because of the media interest (I understand encouraged by a few people in the Labor Party who have heard these rumours), that I ought to put this matter on the public record.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: I understand; I said I know that there are others. I pass on to all members my best wishes for Christmas and the new year. I look forward to being back here towards the end of March to be part of the process of government. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the job that you have done in attempting to run this place in a reasonably orderly manner. I also thank you for some of the personal support and advice that you have given me over the last two or three months.

I think probably the most important thing that has happened in this parliament—for which I congratulate the government—is the introduction of the MAPICS system. I think that, for the first time in probably a long time, the parliament now has an opportunity to be up to date with the IT area. We are supposed to be the IT state, and now it has been introduced—albeit far too slowly. I think that has been one of the most important changes that have occurred in the last 12 months. Mr Speaker, merry Christmas to you and good luck and best wishes to all members of the House.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): Sir, I particularly want to thank you and congratulate you and your deputy on a very

fine year. It has not been easy for you, and I certainly do not envy you your job. We know what sort of character you are in every day life, and you have brought that to the position of this chair. I want to congratulate you, sir, on being generally pretty successful—in fact, I would say the most successful Speaker I have seen in the chair since I have been a member, and that is nine years. I know that, if you are looking for a token member to warn, it is usually me, and I am quite happy to take the rap, in the interests of fairness. Usually if the cap fits I will wear it, and I am quite happy to do that, usually with a smile. So, sir, I congratulate you and your deputy on a fine year. I think you have earned a rest, because the last few days have been fairly torrid. I know that you and Carol will probably take a couple of weeks of leave, and I certainly hope that you enjoy that.

I also wish my leader, the Premier, all the best, because he has had a fairly torrid year, albeit a very successful one. I will remember this year with great fondness for being the year that we got the railway under way and, hopefully, sorted out the ETSA lease once and for all. With respect to what the Premier has said about the ETSA lease situation since the election, the New South Wales-Victorian effort today has proven to most people that what he was saying was dead right. I hope that John and Julie get a good rest over the break, because I certainly think they deserve it. Hopefully, I may have a red or two with them at Morgan during the break.

I also thank my ministerial colleagues for their help, not only to me but to all members (including members of the opposition), because they have done a pretty diligent job. The mail that they must receive, when I consider the number of letters that I write to them, must be incredible—and most of them sign off and date them personally. It is a pretty big job. I do not envy them either, and I thank them and wish them well.

I particularly want to thank and congratulate our two whips in the House, because I believe that we are blessed with two very good whips. John and Murray are two genuinely nice people. They get on well, which has made it a lot easier for us in this House, because not only do they trust each other but we trust both of them. They are both men of substance, and I congratulate them on their efforts.

I acknowledge my colleagues on both sides of this House. As members opposite know, I have as many friends over there as I have over here—maybe I have more enemies over there, but not many, I am sure. There are one or two I have difficulty understanding. There is even one on my own side with whom I have the same problem. It is the professional thing to do to acknowledge one's colleagues, whether they be on one's own side or on the other side, because the parliament needs to work and we need to get on with each other most of the time—and we do. I have appreciated the rise and fall of all colleagues: they have good and bad days, good and bad weeks. I note the comments of the member for Ross Smith. It has probably been an annus horribilus for him, and I only hope that next year is a better year for him. He has hung in there, and I say all strength to him. He has certainly been through a tough time and I think that, if he hangs in, he can survive.

I thank the clerks of the House for their advice. I am often the person who sits in the chair as Acting Speaker or Chairman, and I certainly thank them for the advice they give. They could lead one down the garden path very nicely and say, 'We're leaving you now,' and leave one sitting there and having to get the decisions of the House right. So, certainly, we appreciate our clerks.

I also acknowledge Hansard. The member for MacKillop earlier mentioned that it is amazing how his speech polishes up the next day. I think that they learnt it on me, because I have dished up some rippers over the years. I do try to speak more slowly than I used to, but I am amazed at some of the speeches that are attributed to me in this place. I do not envy the Hansard reporters, because some of us can talk like machine guns and they have to take it all down. Certainly, I appreciate the personalities they are: they are not machines that spit out words but people who have to listen to what we say and, what is worse, have to write it down. They are also very welcome in committees. They do a magnificent job. I hope that the Hansard people enjoy their break and that they will be willing to take us on again in March.

Much has already been said about the catering staff. I want particularly to congratulate and thank Elaine and Liz the catering manager and her assistant. They are two lovely ladies who get on well with us all. They do a magnificent job and they try always to please us—a lot more than many of us think. I thank them both, as well as all the catering staff, who do a magnificent job. It is part of the camaraderie of this place that we choose to stay here and eat together in the dining room, and the standard is excellent. Bridie also has been mentioned. Certainly, she has been here since I have been here. Bridie was a—

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr VENNING: She's the same age, yes, or similar age. Bridie was a great personality. She often did not say too much—but she did not have to say too much: a look would tell you that she was either pleased or displeased. Generally, she bit her tongue and was always civil and polite. She will be missed and I hope that she comes back to see us from time to time.

Our attendants, who are always with us here in this place, do a great job for us: no job is too big or too small. They are very efficient, and I certainly owe them a debt of gratitude, because I usually have them running around for me a lot.

I also acknowledge our caretakers, who are here all hours of the night—and it is usually me and maybe the member for MacKillop who are still here late at night. These people are forever on the move just making sure that what we have left is safe and secure, that doors are closed and making sure that everything else is done. I certainly appreciate those people. They are here and they are as important as anyone else. They are a vital part of this place. If they do not do their job it certainly makes it difficult for everyone else. Congratulations to those people.

I also thank our car parking stewards. I do not go down to the car park very much now and, hopefully, I will not for a while, but they are a fine group of people. I always had time to talk to them. I always go to their Christmas shows, and I will do so again this year. They make it easy for us. One privilege of this place is being able to park your car. We never have any grizzles or complaints at all. Those people do a lot for us to ensure that our cars are secure and that we always have a space available.

If we come to this place on a night on which a show is occurring at the Festival Theatre and we have not booked a space for our cars, the attendants might mention that we could have booked but they always find a space for us. Those people also need to be mentioned. I thank all those people who keep this place going.

Particular mention was made of the MAPICS trainers. MAPICS has a real job with me because they are starting with very raw material. I am making progress—albeit slow

progress! I say all power to them. If they can teach me computing they can teach anyone! I appreciate their patience and I am sure that, over the next two or three months, they will bring us all up to some reasonable standard so that we can use the marvellous facilities that are now available to us.

The library people provide a great service to us, particularly in the distribution of bulletins that tell us what is available. We simply need to tick and sign a piece of paper and the papers are delivered in our letterboxes. The library staff do a lot for us.

I also mention the receptionists, who are always there. They do a great job taking telephone calls when we are not here. Often they either take a message, find out where you are or give the caller your office telephone number. They are very valuable people. I thank them and I wish them the best of luck.

It has been very difficult this year for many parts of our community, particularly some of our farmers. Those in the Upper North of our state have had another poor year. As I said yesterday, people in the Orroroo district have had four bad years out of five. Taking into account prices and the weather I do not know how they get by. I wish those farmers and all those who have had difficult financial times well. I hope that their luck is about to change and that they will see fit to continue.

Members opposite would know people in their community who will not have a joyous Christmas because of problems they may be experiencing with families, friends, lost family and lost children. Often, many of us who are lucky will have a good and happy Christmas, but for others it will be a time for some sorrow. We think of those people, too, and wish them well.

I wish all here a merry Christmas and I hope that the year 2000, the start of the new millennium, will be a good one for us all and particularly for the best state in Australia, that is, our fine State of South Australia.

The SPEAKER: In supporting this motion I would like to thank members for their cooperation during the last year. I cannot say that this has been the easiest job I have had in my long career in public life, but it is one that I have enjoyed thoroughly. At the end of the day, the business and the conduct of the House is really in the hands of the members, and I can only try to steer it down certain paths. I do sincerely thank all members for their cooperation during the year.

We have had a roll call this afternoon of the various people around the building and it is only proper that I give some significant recognition to it. We have such an efficient parliament because of the efficiency and willingness of our staff to cooperate and to help us. One thing I have learnt as a Presiding Officer, and certainly when I was chair of the JPSC, is the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes in this place, and without it we would not have such an efficient parliament.

I start by thanking the table officers down to our messengers who work in the chamber and those who work without. They certainly support us well and we appreciate it. I thank the staff of the library, MAPICS, and the Catering Division. We have had the personalities such as Bridie, who has moved on. They do wonderful work which we all certainly appreciate.

I thank the bar staff, Hansard, the caretakers and the committee—the list goes on. Members did not make mention of one small group which I would like to put on the public record, that is, the accounts division, a small group who

operate over the road and who are responsible every month for an envelope which arrives in members' pigeonholes. Without them, of course, some of us would have a little difficulty.

I put all staff into one very large package and say that, on behalf of all members, I thank you for your support; we certainly appreciate it.

I ask members to pass on to your families my best wishes for the festive season and, to you all personally, I hope that you go away and have a very restful break and that you have a happy and rewarding time. Make the most of it so that we can all come back here fired up next year for a very successful year for the state. A merry Christmas to you all.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTRICITY BUSINESSES DISPOSAL PROCESS

The Legislative Council concurs with the resolution of the House of Assembly contained in message number 27 for the appointment of a joint committee to address concerns of the Auditor-General re electricity businesses disposal process and will be represented on the committee by two members, of whom one shall form the quorum necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee. The members of the joint committee to represent the Legislative Council will be the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas) and the Hon. P. Holloway.

The Legislative Council has also resolved to suspend joint standing order No. 6 so as to entitle the chairperson to a vote on every question, but when the votes are equal the chairperson shall also have a casting vote.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the members of this House on the joint committee be Mr Foley and the Hon. G.M. Gunn.

Motion carried.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

A quorum having been formed:

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Industry and Trade): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

This Bill amends the *Legal Practitioners Act 1981* (the Act) for three distinct purposes.

Firstly, the Bill will amend the Act to effectively exclude, from the Guarantee Fund, claims for losses incurred as a result of a legal practitioner's mortgage investment activities.

Section 60 of the *Legal Practitioner's Act* (the Act) provides that, where a person suffers loss as a result of fiduciary or professional default and there is no reasonable prospect of recovering the full amount of that loss, the person can claim compensation from the Guarantee Fund.

The question of whether a defalcation is covered by the Guarantee Fund will depend on whether the defalcation occurred in the course of the practitioner's legal practice, which, in turn, will depend on the circumstances of each individual case. If a legal practitioner is conducting a legal practice and a mortgage investment service, it is likely that, without a clear separation between the two distinct

services, a defalcation in relation to a mortgage investment service would be considered to have occurred in the course of the practitioner's legal practice.

However, mortgage investment broking is not a general part of legal practice. There are no restrictions on the classes of persons who may offer or give such advice. In fact, in South Australia, most mortgage investment activities are conducted by people who are not legal practitioners. It also should be pointed out that, if the practitioner has not clearly separated his or her mortgage investment activities from his or her legal practice, the practitioner would have contravened the Law Society's practice rules. The practice rules dictate that a legal practitioner carrying on another business apart from a legal practice must ensure that the conduct of that business is kept entirely separate from the legal practice. Currently, the Law Society takes steps to ensure that the few practitioners who are engaged in mortgage investment activities respect this practice rule.

As such, the Government believes that there is no justification for providing greater protection to a person who accepts mortgage investment services from a person who is a legal practitioner. By excluding claims related to mortgage investment broking from the Guarantee Fund, all clients accepting mortgage investment services will be in the same position in relation to indemnity for losses, regardless of the profession of the person facilitating the mortgage investment scheme.

Secondly, this Bill addresses the problem of the employment in legal practices of legal practitioners who have been suspended from legal practice, and former legal practitioners whose names have been stricken from the roll of practitioners.

These sanctions are among those which may be imposed by the Supreme Court, and in the case of suspension, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, for misconduct. They are not imposed lightly, but flow from a finding that the practitioner has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. The sanctions are intended to punish the practitioner for the conduct, and at the same time to protect the public from possible harm that might flow from dealings with the practitioner in his or her professional capacity. They prevent the practitioner or former practitioner from practising the profession of law during the period of suspension, or until readmitted. To do so is an offence under s.22 of the Act.

A difficulty which has arisen in practice, however, is that although prohibited from practising the profession of law, such persons may nevertheless be able to secure employment in legal practices as law clerks or paralegals, or in like roles. In this capacity, it may occur that they, in reality, carry out duties very similar to the duties they would have carried out if engaged as legal practitioners. For example, they may interview and take statements from clients of the firm, give legal advice, prepare legal documents, and the like. It is argued that this does not amount to the practice of the profession of law, and is lawful. This form of employment has been used, therefore, to avoid the real effect of the disciplinary sanction.

Hitherto, although it has been an offence to aid an unqualified person to practise the profession of law, it has not been an offence for a legal practitioner employer, or contractor, to employ or engage in a legal practice a suspended or struck-off practitioner. While the suspended or struck-off practitioner commits an offence if he or she practises the profession of law, the mere fact of employment in a law firm has not hitherto been an offence.

This is to be contrasted with the position in other States, where the employment in and of itself constitutes an offence, or in some cases, unprofessional conduct by the employer. For example, the Victorian *Legal Practice Act 1996* creates an offence of knowingly employing or engaging such a person in connection with the legal practice. Likewise, the Western Australian *Legal Practitioners Act 1893* by s.79 creates a similar offence, unless special permission is given by the Legal Practice Board. Similar provisions exist in New South Wales under the *Legal Profession Act*, although there the behaviour constitutes professional misconduct rather than a criminal offence.

This Bill would make it an offence for a legal practitioner to employ or engage in his or her legal practice a person who is suspended from practice or has been struck off the roll. This would prevent employment even in the capacity of a law clerk or a paralegal. In this way, the punitive and consumer protective aims of the disciplinary provisions would be carried into effect.

However, the Government also accepts that employment in a legal practice may be proper in circumstances where it does not entail the practice of the profession of law by the disqualified person and where the public is protected. Hence, the Bill also permits the disqualified person or the practitioner proposing to employ or engage

him or her, to apply to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal for permission for such employment.

The Tribunal may not grant permission for the employment or engagement unless satisfied that the disqualified person will not practise the profession of law, and that the public can be properly protected from harm. However, the Tribunal is not obliged to grant permission even if satisfied as to those matters. It has a discretion. It must decide whether the proposed employment is or is not appropriate, considering the facts and circumstances of the particular case. If it decides to grant permission, the Tribunal can attach to its permission such conditions as it may see fit.

There is to be an appeal from the decision of the Tribunal to the Supreme Court. The disqualified person will be able to challenge a refusal of permission. Equally, the Legal Practitioners Conduct Board is able to challenge a grant.

By this mechanism, persons disqualified from legal practice will be prevented, under this Bill, from practising the law de facto whilst calling themselves law clerks. At the same time, genuine employment which is not legal practice and which poses no risk to the public may be permitted.

Finally, the Bill will clarify the interaction between section 66 of the Act and the other provisions of the Act dealing with claims against the Guarantee Fund, and also make a minor amendment to the scope of claims by legal practitioners against the Guarantee Fund.

Section 60 of the *Legal Practitioners Act* provides that where a person suffers loss as a result of a fiduciary or professional default, and there is no reasonable prospect of recovering the full amount of that loss, the person may claim indemnity from the Guarantee Fund. The claim will be paid if the Law Society determines that it is a 'valid claim'. Section 66 aims to set some criteria for when the Law Society may accept a claim from a legal practitioner as a 'valid claim'. These criteria include, that the legal practitioner has paid compensation to a person for pecuniary loss suffered as a result of the professional or fiduciary default, that the legal practitioner acted honestly and reasonably in the circumstances of the case, and that the Law Society is satisfied that it is just and reasonable to accept the claim.

The link between section 66 and the provisions generally relating to establishing a valid claim is not entirely clear. New section 66 will clarify the interaction of section 66 with the remainder of Part 5. It will be clear that a claim made by a practitioner is a claim made under section 60, and, in determining whether the legal practitioner's claim is a 'valid claim', the Law Society must have regard to the criteria set out in section 66.

The substance of new section 66 is essentially the same as the existing provision. However, there has been one minor change. Legal practitioners will not have a valid claim if the loss is a result of the negligence of the legal practitioner's partner. There appears to be little justification for recognising a claim by a legal practitioner against a Fund established to provide protection to members of the public when the loss has been caused by another legal practitioner's negligence and where the legal practitioner has a claim against that negligent practitioner.

I commend this bill to honourable members.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1: Short title

Clause 2: Commencement

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal.

Clause 3: Amendment of s. 5—Interpretation

Clause 3 amends section 5 to include a definition of mortgage financing.

Clause 4: Insertion of s.23AA

This clause inserts a section into the Act to regulate the employment of a person whose practising certificate is under suspension or whose name has been struck off a role of legal practitioners. If a legal practitioner knowingly employs such a person, in a legal practice, the legal practitioner is guilty of an offence unless the Tribunal has authorised the employment of the person. The Tribunal may grant such an authorisation in its discretion but only if satisfied that the person to be employed or engaged will not practise the profession of the law, and that granting the authorisation on the specified conditions is not likely to create a risk to the public. A legal practitioner must comply with any conditions imposed on an authorisation by the Tribunal or the Supreme Court.

A legal practitioner is not guilty of an offence against this section in relation to an agreement or arrangement to which the practitioner is a party at the commencement of this section if the agreement or arrangement is authorised under this section on an application made

within 12 months after that commencement, and the legal practitioner complies with any conditions imposed on the authorisation.

Clause 5: Substitution of s. 66

Section 66 of the principal Act deals with claims by legal practitioners against the guarantee fund. The proposed substituted section provides that a practitioner may claim against the fund where the practitioner has paid compensation for pecuniary loss suffered in consequence of a fiduciary or professional default by a partner, clerk or employee of the practitioner provided that, in the case of a fiduciary or professional default by a partner, the default consisted of a defalcation, misappropriation or misapplication of trust money or dishonest conduct. However, the practitioner can only claim against the Fund if the Society is satisfied that all claims in respect of the default have been satisfied and the practitioner acted honestly and without negligence.

Clause 6: Insertion of s. 95BA

Clause 6 inserts a section into the principal Act to provide that mortgage financing is not to be regarded as part of the profession of the law. It provides that a legal practitioner who engages in mortgage financing must inform each prospective lender and borrower that any loss suffered as a result of mortgage financing will not be compensated by the guarantee fund or covered by professional indemnity insurance. The clause proposes a maximum penalty of \$10 000. The clause declares that it is not the intention of the Parliament that any implication be drawn that mortgage financing when engaged in by a legal practitioner before the commencement of this provision was part of the practice of the profession of the law.

Clause 7: Transitional

The transitional provisions provide that the provisions of this Act that deal with mortgage financing operations only apply to mortgage financing for which instructions were received after the commencement of this Act.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Industry and Trade): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable this bill to pass through all stages without delay.

Motion carried.

Mr CONLON (Elder): I have the carriage of this bill since the member for Spence is on his sick bed. I wish him a speedy recovery, although he does enjoy a very handsome margin in that seat. The opposition will support the government's bill—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CONLON: The opposition will support the bill, but we do have reservations about some aspects of it. I should confess an interest in the bill, formally being a legal practitioner and a person who may have to take up that profession again if the electoral winds blow the wrong way. It is of obvious benefit to legal practitioners that the issue of payments out of the guarantee fund is cleared up, particularly payments in regard to legal practitioners who operate a mortgage business separate from a legal practice. As we see it, that is a wise amendment, as are the other amendments, as we understand them, to claims against the guarantee fund. We note that all these provisions have met with the approval of the Law Society.

However, we do have some reservations in regard to provisions concerning legal practitioners who have been struck off the roll of practitioners and in regard to the limitations upon their work. To a degree, it did seem to us to be a little over-onerous and, in particular, did not seem to be addressed in terms of any identified mischief, which I find a little hard to understand. However, we note that in the other place some amendments moved by the Hon. Nick Xenophon were accepted by the government, and they have gone some way to addressing some of our concerns. As there is no enormous opposition in the legal community to this, we will accept the government's position.

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): Of course, I concur with my learned colleague's contribution. As a legal practitioner, I also declare an interest in the matter. I particularly support the remarks that there is a consensus in the profession in relation to the treatment of mortgage financing and in relation to the amendments the government brings to the parliament in that regard. However, when the matter was debated in the other place the Hon. Angus Redford asked some questions so astute and perplexing that not even the Attorney could answer them. I hope that the minister representing the Attorney in this place can now answer the Hon. Angus Redford's questions, particularly regarding the protection consumers might receive should they obtain mortgage financing through a solicitor. In fact, are they covered by any regulatory regime or, in the terms used by the Hon. Angus Redford, is there some kind of hiatus in some sense—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot quote from the other place. The honourable member can paraphrase what was said but cannot quote directly.

Mr HANNA: I was just going to use one word, sir.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot do so.

Mr HANNA: I hope that in dealing with the bill the minister will pick up that point and make it very clear to us—

Mr Conlon interjecting:

Mr HANNA: That's right. Can the minister make it very clear to us, because we would like to be reassured on that point?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Industry and Trade): I thank members for their contributions. In relation to the matter about legal practitioners offering clients mortgage services and the protection offered to them, my advice is that the mortgage investments and the scheme as a whole will still be covered under the corporations law. The legal practitioners are required to advise their clients of the risks involved. That would include the option of insurance for covering them for the risk involved.

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

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I seek leave to make a very brief ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Since my ministerial statement earlier today, and after a request for a search of all files, it has come to my attention that in a letter to me from the Prime Minister on a variety of issues at the beginning of last year, that is, early 1998, the Prime Minister advised that the Commonwealth-State Consultative Committee on Radioactive Waste Management had recently supported collocation of a store for long-lived intermediate level waste with a repository as a first siting option. I just mention that to clarify the record: that there was a letter two years ago that made reference to the matter.

BARLEY MARKETING (MISCELLANEOUS No. 2) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

WOMEN'S STATEMENT

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services): I table a ministerial statement made in another place by the Minister for the Status of Women concerning the Women's Statement 1999-2000.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (UNIVERSITIES) BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

LAND TAX (INTENSIVE AGISTMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.40 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 28 March 2000 at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 16 November 1999

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

POLICE VEHICLES

4. **The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** What steps are police in unmarked vehicles taking to indicate to the public they wish to stop a vehicle and how many unmarked vehicles are currently patrolling highways?

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE: I have been advised by the Police of the following information:

1. A portable 'POLICE' sign and red/blue flashing lights are carried in all unmarked police vehicles.

In an interception situation, the illuminated 'POLICE' sign or red/blue flashing lights are always displayed. It would become clearly apparent that it is a police vehicle requiring the motorist to stop.

2. The SAPOL fleet has a total of 347 unmarked vehicles, any of which can be deployed to patrol our highways. However, there are currently 16 unmarked dedicated traffic vehicles which regularly patrol the highways.

CRIMINAL INJURIES LITIGATION

8. **Mr ATKINSON:**

1. Why are the recoverable costs of an applicant in a litigated criminal injuries compensation case capped at \$500 and Crown costs not capped?

2. Will the Government meet respondent Trevor Gale's cost in a Crown appeal against his criminal injuries compensation and if not, why not?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The Attorney-General has provided the following response:

1. The Governor has prescribed a scale of costs by regulation. The recoverable costs of an applicant in a litigated criminal injuries compensation case are not capped at \$500. Costs in a particular matter are calculated in accordance with the scale of costs. The costs on appeal are set at \$500.

Mr Gale will be treated in exactly the same way as any other person involved in litigation with the Crown. The usual rule in relation to costs is that costs follow the event. If the Crown succeeds it will seek an award of costs against another unsuccessful party. If a party is successful against the Crown, the Crown will be ordered to pay costs. The Crown always seeks an order for costs in matters where the Crown is successful.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

11. **Mr ATKINSON:** How much spending money did the Department of Family and Youth Services give each of the young offenders who attended the Royal Show this year on gratis tickets awarded for compliance with community service orders, how many received this money and did these visits count towards community service?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: In the case of those young people with Community Service, their efforts to complete their service was an additional consideration when deciding which young people received an entry ticket. However, tickets were not awarded for compliance with Community Service, they were provided on the basis of disadvantage.

The young people concerned received \$21.50 each.

Attendance did not count toward their Community Service Order.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES TRIBUNAL

12. **Mr ATKINSON:** Why does the Residential Tenancies Tribunal prevent landlords charging a one-off \$10 fee to a tenant for the purpose of establishing a bank debit arrangement for the payment of rent as one of a range of rent payment options and will the Government amend the Residential Tenancies Act 1995 to permit this arrangement provided other options are offered?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The Minister for Consumer Affairs has provided the following response:

This question relates to Section 53 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1995, (the Act), which provides:

Permissible consideration for residential tenancy

53. (1) A person must not require or receive from a tenant or prospective tenant a payment, other than rent or security (or both), for a residential tenancy or the renewal or extension of a residential tenancy.

Maximum penalty: \$500.

(2) However—

(a) the landlord may lawfully require or receive consideration for an option to enter into a residential tenancy agreement but, in that case, the following condition applies:

(i) if the prospective tenant enters into the residential tenancy agreement, the landlord must apply the consideration towards rent payable under the agreement;

(ii) if the prospective tenant does not exercise the option to enter into the residential tenancy agreement, the landlord may retain the consideration; and

(b) the landlord may require the tenant to reimburse the landlord for rates and charges for water supply that are to be borne by the tenant under the residential tenancy agreement or a collateral agreement; and

(c) the landlord may lawfully require or receive a payment of a class the landlord is authorised to require or receive by another provision of this Act or under the regulations.

The section is quite prescriptive, clear and unambiguous; it prescribes what charges can be passed on to tenants.

Recent decisions of the Residential Tenancies Tribunal demonstrate how the Tribunal is interpreting and applying Section 53. These decisions are unequivocal. A landlord cannot pass on to a tenant any costs incurred from financial institutions in the processing of rent monies.

The tribunal is an independent judicial body which has exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine any matter that is the subject of an application under the Act. It cannot be directed on its procedures, practices or decisions. It most certainly cannot be directed on how to interpret and apply the legislation.

While charges by financial institutions are a significant issue for agents/landlords, they are simply another operating cost and there are other avenues available to recoup them. An agent could absorb them, increase the management fee, or pass them on to the landlord. The landlord can either absorb these costs, or pass them on to the tenant by increasing the rent, subject to the relevant legislative provisions.

It is not considered there is a need to change the current position with respect to bank charges.

CROYDON PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE

15. **Mr ATKINSON:**

1. To whom has the Government sold the former Croydon Primary School site and for how much?

2. Will Allenby Gardens Primary School be able to share in the proceeds from the sale for the purpose of building a dedicated computer room and an indoor assembly hall to accommodate the new enrolments from Croydon?

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:

1. I approved the sale of the site to the Islamic College of South Australia Ltd for \$850 000 and a contract of sale was signed on 6 October 1999. Settlement will occur on 28 January 2000. In the meantime permission has been granted for the Islamic Community to go on site to do some preliminary work. These works will not interfere with the time capsule still on site. The capsule will be raised in January 2000.

2. Provision of a computer room has been included in the 1999-2000 Programmed Maintenance and Minor Works Program for Allenby Gardens Primary School. At this stage no consideration has been given for the provision of an indoor assembly hall, however an application for such a hall through the Capital Works Assistance Scheme would be considered.

MARBLE HILL

18. **Mr HILL:** What is the status of the conservation and dilapidation plans (Project No. 98775) prepared for the Heritage Unit in relation to Marble Hill?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The Minister for Environment and Heritage has provided the following information to the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning:

Marble Hill falls under the Minister for Environment and Heritage's jurisdiction as Minister responsible for the administration of the Crown Lands Act 1929.

The general day to day management of the property is undertaken on the Minister for Environment and Heritage's behalf by Heritage South Australia, in conjunction with National Parks and Wildlife South Australia and the Friends of Marble Hill. National Parks and Wildlife South Australia provide vegetation and land care services. The Friends of Marble Hill, a volunteer organisation set up in 1993 by Heritage South Australia, manages public access, open days and functions.

The conservation of the Marble Hill ruins, as a Crown heritage asset, is managed by the Heritage Unit of the Department for Administrative and Information Services.

The Conservation Plan and Dilapidation Report for Marble Hill was commissioned by the Heritage Unit of the Department for Administrative and Information Services. The report was funded through their Historic Buildings Conservation Program, and has now been completed.

Documentation and implementation of conservation works arising from the report will proceed subject to the availability of further funding.

WINGFIELD DUMP

20. **Mr HILL:** Are the claims made to the EPA that up to 5 000 very large neon signs have been dumped at Wingfield correct and if so, is the mercury contained in the signs at risk of leaking into the Port River?

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: I am advised that the Environment Protection Agency can find no evidence that any neon signs were dumped at Wingfield.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT COMMISSION

25. **Mr HILL:** What are the credentials and qualifications of the person on the Development Assessment Commission with practical knowledge of, and experience in, environmental conservation or management, or the management of natural resources?

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

The Development Assessment Commission membership criteria is determined in the Development Act 1993—Section 10, and appointments are made by the Governor. There are six members appointed with expertise and practical knowledge in a variety of fields, these being:

(1) a Presiding Member and a Deputy Presiding Member who are required to have planning or planning related expertise. The members are currently Mr Doug Wallace and Mr Michael Llewellyn-Smith;

(2) local Government, chosen from a panel of three such persons submitted to the Minister by the Local Government Association of South Australia, currently Ms Margot Vowles;

(3) urban or regional development, commerce, industry, building safety or landscape design, currently Mr Howard Young;

(4) environmental conservation or management, or the management of natural resources, currently Ms Elizabeth Vines; and

(5) the provision of facilities for the benefit of the community, currently Ms Anne Skipper.

In relation to the Member for Kaurna's specific inquiry, Ms Elizabeth Vines was appointed in 1998 for a two-year term as 'a person with practical knowledge of and experience in environmental conservation or management, or the management of natural resources'.

Ms Vines holds a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours), specialising in heritage conservation and townscape improvement. Ms Vines has extensive experience in the conservation of the built environment and urban rejuvenation programs throughout Australia and Asia. Recent projects include:

- the conservation and redevelopment of Leigh Street, Adelaide;
- preparation of Conservation Management Plans for heritage places including Tourmont (Fintona Girl's School, Melbourne);
- Braemar House (Mount Macedon, Victoria);
- Broken Hill Cemetery (New South Wales);
- Bray House (Adelaide); and
- Old Government House (Belair).

Ms Vines has undertaken Heritage Reviews for Brighton, Payneham, Port Adelaide, Thebarton West Torrens and Willunga areas, as well as ongoing consultant Advisory Services for the Port Adelaide, Glenelg, Kensington & Norwood and Broken Hill Councils.

Ms Vines is well qualified in environmental conservation and management, with particular emphasis on built heritage.

SOUTH ROAD UPGRADE

26. **Mr HILL:** What plans and timelines exist for upgrading South Road?

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

Transport SA's plans for the upgrading of South Road are to provide at least four clear travelling lanes, plus a wide median with sheltered right turn bays along the whole length of this road from Dry Creek to Darlington. Such a road standard has already been progressively provided over the length of this road, except for the section between Port Road and Torrens Road. At present, funds are expected to be available within the next three years to commence the upgrading of this latter section.

To ensure that South Road continues to adequately fulfil its important role, consideration is also being given to the longer term possibility of providing overpasses or underpasses at key intersections.

POLICE VEHICLES

40. **Ms RANKINE:** Are further police vehicles likely to be withdrawn from service in 1999-2000 and, if so, how many and from what areas?

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHERE: I have been advised by the Police that they are currently undertaking a review of motor vehicles involving the mix of fleets assigned to operational and non operational areas. Part of this review involves the potential for some vehicles currently assigned to non-operational areas being reallocated to operational areas. The final outcome of this review is not known at this time, but it is expected to take some months to complete.

FOCUS 21 PROGRAM

42. **Ms RANKINE:** Which police stations and patrol bases have been closed down or disbanded since the implementation of the Focus 21 program?

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHERE: I have been advised by the Police of the following information:

In 1997, as a result of the Redeployment of Police Resources Project, managed by Focus 21, the following changes occurred:

- Plympton Patrol personnel were relocated to Glenelg Patrol Base. The Plympton Police Station attached to the Patrol Base remained open.
- Payneham Patrol personnel were relocated to Norwood Patrol Base. The Payneham Police Station service was relocated to a new Police Station at Firlie.
- Para Hills Patrol personnel were relocated to Salisbury Patrol Base. The Para Hills Police Station attached to the Patrol Base remained open.
- Unley Patrol personnel were relocated to Sturt Patrol Base. The Unley Police Station service was relocated to a new Police Station at Malvern.
- Tea Tree Gully Patrol personnel were relocated to the Para Hills Patrol Base. The St Agnes Police Station attached to the Tea Tree Gully Patrol Base remained open.
- Lobethal and Summertown Police Stations were closed and the personnel were relocated to Woodside Police Station to provide an enhanced 24 hour service to the Lobethal, Woodside and Summertown communities.
- Clarendon Police Station was closed and the Officer relocated to Sturt Patrol Base.
- Willunga Police Station was closed and the Officer relocated to Aldinga Police Station to provide an enhanced Police service to the Willunga community.
- Permanent Police services were established at Tea Tree Plaza and Colonnades regional shopping complexes.

During 1997-1998, coinciding with the Redeployment of Resources Project, an additional 100 sworn Police and 25 non-sworn personnel were recruited and the majority were placed into Police Stations and Patrol Bases in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

The Redeployment of Resources Project, combined with the recruitment of additional personnel, resulted in 24 additional Police personnel posted to Tea Tree Gully and 27 to Elizabeth (which now includes the Salisbury Police area). This made a total increase of 47 Police Officers and 4 Public Service Staff in the northern and north-eastern suburbs.

The Focus 21 program has completed to date 53 major reform reviews and projects. With the exception of the outcome of the Redeployment of Resources Project, none of the other Focus 21 projects to date have resulted in the closing down or disbandment of Police Stations or Patrol Bases.

RACING CLUB GRANTS

50. **Mr WRIGHT:** When were operating grants taken away from racing clubs, which clubs received them, how much did each club receive in the last year of operation and what specific replacement funding have these clubs received?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: I have been advised as follows:

Operating grants ceased at the completion of the 1996-97 financial year. They were only ever paid to greyhound racing clubs. The greyhound code was given twelve months notice by RIDA that operating grants would cease in 1996-97.

Harness racing clubs received subsidies for track maintenance, which were also abolished at the completion of the 1996-97 financial year.

The following greyhound clubs received operating grants in the 1996-97 financial year:

	\$
Angle Park	53 000
Gawler	27 000
Mount Gambier	11 000
Lincoln & Districts	10 000
Northern Yorke Peninsula	10 000
Port Augusta	11 000
Port Pirie	11 000
Riverland	10 000
Southern (Strathalbyn)	10 000
Whyalla	10 000
Total	163 000

RIDA provides funding direct to the respective controlling authorities with allocations to respective clubs determined by the controlling authorities in consultation with clubs.

No specific funding has been created to replace operating grants, but, as can be seen from Table 1, total funding from RIDA to the racing industry has increased substantially, by some 9.8 per cent, over the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 (excluding the extraordinary distribution of profit from SATAB to RIDA).

For greyhounds specifically, see Table 2, excluding capital works funded from the extraordinary profit distribution from SATAB to RIDA, the increase has been 8.3 per cent over the period 1996-97 to 1998-99.

Operating grants were seen as an inappropriate use of funds, effectively providing funds to clubs who could not earn a profit on operations. This created negative incentives for clubs and did not address the underlying financial stability of clubs.

Table 1 Racing Industry Grants

Grants to Controlling Authorities	1996-97 \$'000	1997-98 \$'000	1998-99 \$'000
Operating Subsidies	163	0	0
Capital and Minor Works	1717	3463	582
Breeder Incentive Scheme	100	393	1359
Stakemonies	2751	3073	3485
Industry Restructuring	148	280	249
SA TAB Profit distribution	24248	26526	26304
	29127	33735*	31979
Less: SATAB's \$2.810m extraordinary profit distribution	N/A	(2810)	N/A
	29127	30925	31979

* Note: This includes capital works funded from the SATAB's \$2.8m extraordinary distribution.

Table 2 Greyhound Racing Industry Grants

Grants to Controlling Authorities	1996-97 \$'000	1997-98 \$'000	1998-99 \$'000
Operating Subsidies	163	0	0
Capital and Minor Works	31	847	86
Breeder Incentive Scheme	N/A	18	59
Stakemonies	151	214	224
Industry Restructuring	N/A	N/A	N/A
SA TAB Profit distribution	2182	2388	2367
	2527	3467	2736
Less: Funded from SATAB extraordinary profit distribution	N/A	(657)	N/A
	2527	2810	2736