

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 31 May 2001

The **SPEAKER (Hon. J.K.G. Oswald)** took the chair at 10.30 a.m. and read prayers.

### PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL

The **Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart)** introduced a bill for an act to impose criminal liability on parents for offences committed by their children; to give the police power to remove children from public places; to amend the Young Offenders Act 1993; and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The **Hon. G.M. GUNN**: I move:

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

This is an important measure because many of my constituents—and constituents in other electorates—are sick and tired of uncontrollable elements who have no regard for the property or privacy of others. Unfortunately, a small hard-core group has set out to terrorise sections of the community, and their parents seem either unwilling or unable to control them. Therefore, it is time that parliament took firm action to protect average, law-abiding citizens who are living peacefully in their homes and who do not want to be and should not be affected by this sort of behaviour. Parliament should afford them the protection to which they are entitled.

*Mr De Laine interjecting:*

The **Hon. G.M. GUNN**: All good things come to those who wait. Further, this measure gives police the ability to remove young people from the streets if they wander at large in the evening, and it will require the government to provide sufficient funds for safe houses so that they can be looked after. It is not acceptable to have five, six, seven or eight year old children wandering at large at 2 o'clock in the morning. I am advised that children of five years of age are getting through the windows of schools in my constituency and pilfering computer equipment. It is unfortunate that parliament has to take steps of this nature but for too long we have spent too much money on other programs. We have accepted the advice of well-meaning but, unfortunately in some cases, misguided people who believe that these sorts of measures are unwise and unnecessary.

The Attorney-General and I have had interesting discussions in relation to this proposal, and I have also had interesting discussions with a number of people within the bureaucracy. But, at the end of the day, I have one concern, and that is to protect decent, law-abiding people who have an expectation that they can live in their homes free from hindrance and harassment by elements who have no regard for people's rights. Some people have lived in one home in excess of 40 years and are over 80 years of age, and villains want to break through their windows, get on their roofs, kick footballs against their windows and doors and knock on their doors at all hours of the night. If parliament sits by idly, it is failing in its obligation to the people of South Australia.

I believe that there are sections of our community whose leaders have failed. I put it to the Aboriginal community that their leaders have to take responsibility for the conduct of some of their people. They continuously talk about their rights, but if you have rights you also have responsibilities, and you have responsibilities to the rest of the community. I hope that all members are listening, because for too long there has been a one-sided argument. We should not have to

put up with drunks and villains on the steps of Parliament House or in Victoria Square. My constituents should not have to put up with a small hard-core minority group which is attempting to terrorise sections of my constituency and elsewhere.

I ask the House to take note of clause 3 of the bill which sets out the criminal liability of parents of a child who commits an offence. It states:

A parent who, by wilfully or negligently failing to exercise an appropriate level of supervision or control over his or her child's activities, contributes to the commission of an offence of which the child is convicted or found guilty, is also guilty of an offence.

The penalty for a first offence is up to \$125 because the aim of this exercise is not to convict people but to solve the problem. That is why this bill treats the first offence as being of a minor nature. The penalty for the second offence, of course, is \$1 250. Clause 4 is significant because it gives police the power to remove children from public places. Subclause (1) provides:

If a police officer believes on reasonable grounds that a person who is in a public place is a child who is not at the time under the supervision or control of a responsible adult, the officer may—

- (a) request the child to state his or her name and age and the residential address of his or her carer; and
- (b) subject to subsection (3), remove the child from the public place and—
  - (i) take the child to his or her carer's residence; or
  - (ii) if it is not reasonably practicable to take the child to that residence or the officer believes that it would not be in the child's best interests to do so—take him or her to a place of safety (not being a police station) approved by the minister for the purposes of this section.

These are very important clauses. In clause 4(3)(b)(ii) the bill provides:

in the case of a child under the age of 10 years—reduce the likelihood of the child committing an act that would constitute an offence if the child was 10 years of age or over.

These are important provisions that I have placed in this legislation, and I believe that they are in the long-term interests of the community, particularly of people who have suffered far too long from unruly behaviour. It is no good the bleeding hearts in our community going on about wanting more resources when they have had large amounts of money expended and, unfortunately, the problem still exists. I have been arguing along these lines for a long time, and I believe that this bill will greatly assist the police in what is a most difficult undertaking.

I have been told that they take these young people home and then they go back on the streets because many of the parents could not care less, and the rest of the community then has the problem. It is also a problem because those young people themselves are at risk and should not be wandering at large at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning. This measure gives the police the necessary authority to deal more effectively with the issue. For battered wives and women we create safe houses, which I support, and the same process should take place for children at risk.

This measure has been widely discussed within the community, and I look forward to the support of all members from both sides of the House who are concerned about the welfare of their constituents, particularly the elderly, who are at greatest risk. This is happening because we have majority groups with no regard for people's privacy or for their property. I commend the bill to the House and look forward to informed debate on this measure. I look forward to the support of all members, because I believe that we should

proceed with this matter through the parliament as quickly as possible so that the police can be given greater authority to deal with this ever-increasing problem.

We have gangs of 15 or 20 hoodlums walking the streets and, when they are approached by the police, they push the young children forward to own up to any misdemeanour, knowing that they are below the age of responsibility. We have elderly people concerned about walking down the street or about reporting issues to the police because they are concerned that they will be intimidated. I have had a case of that nature this week. A poor woman has been ringing me at my office nearly every day in relation to the activities of groups of people. She has had to put a wardrobe against her window to prevent these people climbing into her home. We have had enough of this sort of behaviour, and my view—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** But the police need the authority to take these people to safe houses, because the parents are not properly supervising them. Also, the police should have the power to put batons on a few backsides, and perhaps we should also apply it to those who oppose me. We have had enough talking: we have had enough social workers—

*Ms Breuer interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** If the honourable member does not agree with me, she can go into her constituency and justify it. I say to her and to all the other do-gooders and bleeding hearts in the community that we have had enough of this sort of nonsense. I am giving the parliament a chance to show a bit of courage and take a step in the right direction. At the end of the day, members can support me or, if they want to oppose it, they must bear some responsibility for the continuation of unacceptable antisocial behaviour. I commend the bill to the House and look forward to members' speedy support.

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

Leave granted.

1. Short title
2. Interpretation.
3. Criminal liability of parents of child who commits an offence
4. Removal of children from public places
5. Regulations
6. Amendment of Young Offenders Act 1993
  - 28A Power to make counselling orders

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

#### **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (CULTIVATION OF CANNABIS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 17 May. Page 1591.)

**Mr MEIER (Goyder):** I move:

That the debate be further adjourned.

The House divided on the motion:

AYES (23)

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.
Kotz, D. C.	Matthew, W. A.
Maywald, K. A.	McEwen, R. J.
Meier, E. J. (teller)	Olsen, J. W.

AYES (cont.)

Penfold, E. M.	Scalzi, G.
Venning, I. H.	Williams, M. R.
Wotton, D. C.	

NOES (22)

Atkinson, M. J.	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.
Key, S. W.	Koutsantonis, T.
Lewis, I. P. (teller)	Rankine, J. M.
Rann, M. D.	Snelling, J. J.
Stevens, L.	Thompson, M. G.
White, P. L.	Wright, M. J.

Majority of 1 for the ayes.

Motion thus carried.

#### **WATER RESOURCES**

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Hill:

That a select committee be established to examine appropriate water resource allocation and management policies in relation to forestry and any other relevant matters.

(Continued from 30 November. Page 751.)

**Mr HILL (Kaurna):** I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried.

#### **EDUCATION (COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 9 November. Page 430.)

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite):** I note that the member for Taylor has introduced this bill in the knowledge that the minister already has the matter in hand. Indeed, he has made it very clear to the House and to the people of South Australia that, within the context of the review of the Education Act (which is presently under consultation with the community and which will come to this parliament in due course), the question of school leaving age will be addressed and that the government will be supporting, in principle, the concept of 16 years as an age up to which people must undergo some form of training.

Whether that will be at school or some other form of training is a matter that will be determined in consultation with the education industry, teachers, unions, parents, students and the public. The minister has indicated, and the government has made it very clear, that, in principle, it agrees with the proposition put forward by the member for Taylor; but, in a clever bit of one-upmanship, it seems that whenever the government decides that it wants to set a policy course the opposition—because it has no policies of its own—suddenly says, 'Look, we will grab that one. We will introduce a private member's bill and try to get that debated in the parliament before the government introduces the new Education Act,' or whatever the act may be.

If I were in the member for Taylor's position, and heaven forbid that I ever find myself sitting on that side of the chamber, I might very well do exactly the same thing because I think that it is quite an astute bit of one-upmanship. But, of

course, the bill is totally superfluous and unnecessary because the government and the minister have the matter in hand. As the member for Taylor has introduced the bill, I might take this opportunity to remind the honourable member about what an excellent job the government is doing in regard to retaining students at school.

The member for Taylor, in her enthusiasm to introduce this bill, may have overlooked the fact that more than 95 per cent of South Australia's 17 year olds are either in school, training or in employment. When the state's record number of part-time students is included (and the minister addressed this issue yesterday during question time) in apparent retention rate calculations, which the ABS does not do, the percentage of students continuing at school from year 10 to year 12 is 74.3 per cent, and it is expected to be higher than the national average. The opposition consistently chooses to ignore this point in its misrepresentation of the retention issue to the people of South Australia.

Not only that, in regard to vocational education and training, more students than ever before are gaining work-related skills while still at school. Remember, we are educating people for the work force for the rest of their life. Education itself is not an end in itself: it is a stepping stone to a more fulfilling life, to employment and to joining the mainstream community. That is what our government is about. Remember, it was the opposition that abolished technical high schools; it was the opposition that closed schools right, left and centre when it was in government. Suddenly, now that the opposition is in opposition, it is holier than thou: it never wants to close a single school.

Let me remind members opposite that, should the day ever come, we will be dusting off the *Hansard* very carefully and reminding the opposition about its protestations in respect of retention rates and the closure of schools. If ever the opposition is in government and it chooses to close schools, we will not let members opposite forget. Participation in vocational education and training has grown under our government from 2 500 students in 1997 to more than 15 000 students in 2000.

Let us talk for a moment about spending per secondary student because, under this government, South Australia's spending on secondary students, which was at \$7 900 in 1999, was 10.5 per cent greater than the national average, and the third best in Australia behind Western Australia and the Northern Territory. I would like to hear the member for Taylor and members opposite speak about that.

South Australia is among the top four states and territories for spending per student. Spending in South Australia's government schools increased from \$5 786 in 1997-98 to \$6 187 in 1998-99. The state ranks behind only the heavily commonwealth-funded Northern Territory, Tasmania and Western Australia. Spending per student is higher than the national average of \$5 960, yet we continue to get these negative assertions from the opposition that somehow or other the state of education in this state is in some form of crisis: it is not; we are outperforming the national average.

I return to retention rates, because the thrust of the member for Taylor's bill seems to be about retaining students in education or in school. Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicate that South Australia's year 10 to 12 retention rates have increased steadily over the past three years, rising from 63.3 per cent in 1997 to 64.2 per cent in 1998, and 64.8 per cent in 1999. Part-time students, as I mentioned, are not included in the published apparent retention rate data released by the ABS. South Australia has the highest number of part-time students and, when these figures are included in all

states and territories, South Australia's retention rate, as I mentioned earlier, rises above the national rate of 72.4 per cent.

Let us talk about student to teacher ratios because the amount of money spent in South Australia per student has risen from \$5 461 in 1993-94 (when the Labor Party was in government) to \$6 187 in 1998-99—an increase of 13.29 per cent. According to published data by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, in real dollars this increase amounts to 5.32 per cent real growth above the consumer price index. Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicate that the South Australian student-teacher ratio of 14.8 per cent is slightly below but better than the national average of 14.9 per cent, and is also lower than the ratio for non-government schools of 15.4 per cent. South Australia has the lowest secondary student-teacher ratio of all mainland states of 11.9 per cent, and that is the best.

To summarise, the bill introduced by the opposition is simply an effort to one-up the government. The minister and the government have made it very clear that, in principle, they agree that 16 should be the age at which children are in education or in training of some form. The government has made it clear that it will be addressing that issue within the context of the review of the Education Act. However, in an effort to get out there, appear to be on the front foot and leading the charge, the member for Taylor has put this bill forward. I will not be supporting it. I trust that the minister and the government will develop a better, more comprehensive and better consulted solution with the community. I will await the product of that work and, when it comes before the parliament, fully support it.

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop):** I concur with the member for Waite when he says that this bill is nothing more than a stunt. We have been hearing for some time now lamentations from the opposition that our education system is in dire straits, that it is in need of substantial overhaul and that the young people of South Australia are being let down. Indeed, there is nothing further from the truth. I will not go over the same facts and figures just presented to the House by the honourable member, but it is pretty obvious that the Labor Party has great difficulty in understanding the figures, which are there for all to see and read. Perhaps we should draw little pictures for them. Obviously they do not understand graphs. Perhaps we might do it in cartoons, or something.

It is either for that reason, or they are playing base political games to try to suggest that there is a situation that does not exist. Indeed, over the last seven years this government has improved the outcome for young South Australians substantially. The opposition would have us believe that this bill to increase the school leaving age is about trying to create a clever country and increasing the education standards of people coming out of our schools.

I am waiting to see what the minister brings before the parliament in his review. As a parent of four children (the three younger ones are still at university), and having spent the last 20 years being intimately involved with the education system right through from a small local primary school to university, and seeing how the education system works, I have had a fair interest. I believe the system in South Australia is working very well for our young people. It is a shame that all South Australians are being fed this continuous diet of misinformation and rubbish by the opposition about where our education system is heading. In fact, we have rebuilt the education system in South Australia.

The member for Waite reminded the House that it was the previous Labor government that did away with vocational education and technical training schools and we saw shortly thereafter the problems that beset our manufacturing industry in South Australia. We have been able to rebuild manufacturing in South Australia on the back of a trained work force, which is the result of rebuilding vocational education and the apprenticeship schemes, and not feeding the lie to young students that if they go to year 12 they will end up in a high-powered job.

Education is about giving young people the skills to enter the work force and make their way in the world. It includes both of those things; they are not mutually exclusive. On the other hand, they do not require the same educational skills. Indeed, there is a requirement for separate educational skills for making your way in the world and gaining employment. Most educators I have spoken to over the years—in following up my interest in the field—have indicated that the way to retain students in school is not necessarily to increase the compulsory school leaving age. It goes back to ensuring that at the beginning of their schooling, students learn the essential skills to see them through their education, such as literacy and numeracy at the junior primary level. Educators I have spoken to suggest that if a student comes through the middle part of high school without good literacy and numeracy skills it does not matter what you do they will never be inclined to continue with their studies and will never achieve at a high academic level.

If we are to increase even further our retention rates—and in saying that I do not for a moment swallow the line that the opposition is running that retention rates in our schools are quite good—we should ensure that we do the most we can with regard to literacy and numeracy rates in our junior primary schools. And, of course, through the basic skills test that has been introduced over the last few years we have been able not only to assess what sort of achievements we are getting at that level but we have been able to increase them markedly. When we take a cohort of students and retest them several years after their first test, and after remedial action has been taken in the schools, we find their rates in literacy and numeracy have increased markedly. The data in relation to this is available and those members opposite in this place who sit on the select committee into DETE funded schools have those facts and figures at their fingertips.

Middle and upper high school students are not only honing their academic skills but they are also starting to hone their work force skills. There are some interesting figures on the labour force status of students in government schools, prepared by the ABS for the year 2000, showing that more than half of this state's year 12 students are already employed part time and a further 13 per cent are looking for part-time work. Across the year 10 to year 12 levels, just over 30 per cent of students are already either in part-time employment or are seeking work.

We have to realise that it is not just formal schooling that prepares our young people for the work force and for life in the big wide world but it is actually having the opportunity to go into the work force in a part-time capacity. Of all 15 to 19 year olds in South Australia in the year 2000—the last calendar year—92 per cent were either studying full time or employed during the November quarter. That is 92 per cent of all 15 to 19 year olds and that is a figure that those opposite, when they come up with these sorts of stunts and knee-jerk reactions and say, 'Yes, we will increase the school

leaving age by 12 months for no other reason than that it sounds like a good idea,' should take note of those statistics.

I was talking a moment ago about vocational training and apprenticeships and the way that education under this government has changed the face of training and, indeed, employment in South Australia. If we look at the figures—and they only go back as far as 1995—they show a sharp increase in trend coming off the very low that we picked up after coming into government in 1993, after the previous Labor regimes had destroyed vocational and apprenticeship training for young people. In 1995, apprenticeship commencements in the 15 to 19 year old group in South Australia was 2 570; that has increased steadily to the year 1999 to 5 725. So, it has more than doubled over that five-year period.

In 1995, the number of young people in the 16 to 18 year old age groups in vocational training programs in South Australia was just over 9 500. In 1999, the number was a little over 20 000—again, a doubling in that period. More importantly, if we look at the South Australian rate as a percentage of the Australian total of people in vocational training programs, in 1995 South Australia had a rate of just 5.7 per cent of those young Australians in that 16 to 18 year old age cohort. Knowing that our population is somewhere between 8 per cent and 9 per cent of the total national population, looking at the figures I am delighted to report that by 1999 this state's percentage in the 16 to 18 year old cohort participating in vocational training programs had risen to 8.5 per cent of the national total, which reflects more accurately our population as a proportion of the nation's population.

I believe we can very soundly say that this government over the last seven years has turned around education in South Australia. The minister has announced that he is looking at—and cabinet has approved it—the compulsory school leaving age. I certainly will not be supporting this bill and I hope the parliament does not support it. I think we should dispose of it and wait until the minister brings forward a well thought out proposal.

**Mr LEWIS (Hammond):** I have listened with interest to the remarks made in the course of this debate, especially this morning. They are uppermost in my mind at this moment, but I do not want to overlook the fundamental principle of this bill, which is what I think the members for Waite and MacKillop have done. They have made out a very good case, which is totally irrelevant to the proposition in the bill, as to what should or should not happen.

It is a very good case indeed for the government, and in commendation of the government where it has set out in its time in office to address the problems created by the abandonment of the apprenticeship scheme, and matters of that nature. They have overlooked the fact that far fewer people are now staying in secondary school to study year 12 than was the case when the government—and I was part of it at that time—came to office in 1993. I do not think that that is in any way a consequence of what the government has or has not done. I know that these remarks are peripheral to the bill but nonetheless relevant to its final effect.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr LEWIS:** The member for MacKillop points out to me that they have jobs. Many of them do, but there are still high youth unemployment rates—higher than the youth unemployment rates of a decade ago in 1991. Youth unemployment rates in my electorate are higher than they were in 1990-91.

There is a hidden youth unemployment rate where the youth of the day have moved out of my electorate and chosen to live elsewhere in locations where they believe their prospects of employment may be higher. It is argued by some people that those who remain have deliberately chosen to do so because they do not wish to work, neither do they wish to go to school.

Regrettably, the government did not seize the opportunity, and the members for Waite and MacKillop and other members of government may cry crocodile tears over the fact that the member for Taylor in her capacity as the spokesperson for the Labor Party saw the need to simply require young people who were either not at work or in training to remain in school. That is part of the process here. She sees a need and has addressed it accordingly by preparing the simple bill we have before us now. The government acknowledges that it is a valid proposition and, no matter what kind of bull it talks about agreeing in principle but wanting to do this, that or the other thing, the fact remains it is not doing what needs to be done. Again, as the member for Gordon would say, were he to be in the chamber at present, they are talking the talk but not walking the walk; in other words, it is all words and no action. It has been around since October. It is time we voted upon it so that it can be bedded down before the commencement of the next academic year.

There is no way known that any other approach than the one taken by the member for Taylor can succeed in securing that outcome for us. The parliament needs to decide what ought to happen and, therefore, what services and facilities the government must make available and, as I have been told before, in a manner which is timely. Last year I heard the arguments being put around the corridor and even here that we needed to wait. We were told, 'It's too early; we couldn't possibly pass this bill in October or November because there isn't time to get it in place for recommencement of school in February.'

Damn it all, here we are in the middle of the year, and we are still no further down the track. According to that argument and respecting that it was an sincere argument, I say now is the time to put it in place ready for next year. Further delay will mean that, again, government members will argue in August/September, 'There's not time to get things in place. We must not pass a law that requires this to happen now, because next year we won't be ready for it; we won't have the resources, the classrooms, and so on.' To hell with that! I have heard enough of it. I want to see it done. Accordingly, I will be doing my best to ensure that not only is this bill debated out today but also that it passes. I wish it swift passage through the other place.

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** I say from the outset that I oppose this bill, but I do not oppose the increasing—

*Ms White interjecting:*

**Mr SCALZI:** Listen, member for Taylor; let me finish. All good classes allow members to speak. I do not oppose the increasing of the education age. I use the term 'education age' and not just 'school age' on purpose. Unfortunately in the community, and among some members, there is a concept that education is like an empty sack—that you fill it up as much as you can until the child reaches the age of 15, 16 or 17 years or has completed year 12, and the child is then educated. That is far from the truth. Education is a life-long process. As a former secondary school teacher, I have seen what can happen when students are forced to be at school without the proper structures, resources, programs and

courses that would be of benefit to them. Not only do they not benefit from that extra year but they are a disruption to other students who want to learn.

As I have said, I agree that we have to increase the education age, and the government is of that opinion. The minister is putting forward that proposal in the new Education Act. A draft bill will go out for consultation. There is a difference between requesting research and having a draft bill. That is the way it should be done, with the response to the draft bill being brought into the parliament. Members opposite should realise that this government has a comprehensive view of education. The fact that the Minister for Education and Children's Services is responsible for education from preschool to tertiary level and for looking at education in a comprehensive way for the 21st century shows how committed we are to education. The fact that this government has promoted the basic skills testing at various year levels shows how committed we are to education. It is no good saying, 'We will increase the school leaving age' and then not making sure that the programs are in place to ensure that that learning occurs.

I have no doubt that research shows that the more you learn, the more you earn, and the higher the level of education, the better opportunities you have in life. There is no question about that. It is only because I was given the opportunity of education, and continued to tertiary education and became a secondary school teacher, that I stand here today. I understand all that. With the increasing demands and complexities of the workplace, there is no question that we have to put more resources into education. However, there must be flexibility. When I was at university, a gentleman by the name of Dr Ulrich talked about de-schooling society and said that it was wrong to think that education was just in a classroom. To an extent, I still believe that: education is a life-long learning process. People who worked in a trade and learned that trade from a young age were being educated. To look at simplistic answers to education and just increase the leaving age is really not giving education the respect it deserves. When you think that 97 per cent of 17 year olds are either at work, school or in training, you realise that that is education. In actual fact, you could say that 97 per cent of 17 year olds are being educated, despite the school leaving age being 15. That is a great success rate.

Let us not forget that in 1993, which is before this government came to office, the youth unemployment rate was 40 per cent. The problem is that (and I have seen it at year 12), when students have been forced to do that extra year without the proper structures in place and without the subject choice, they have not only done an injustice to themselves but they have also done an injustice to the rest of the class, and I have seen it first-hand. That is a serious problem. You must have education links with the workplace, with tertiary education and with TAFE. This government is doing that.

Let us increase not just the school leaving age but the education age; but let us also ensure that those links are in place if we want to get the full benefits of that extra year. As I said, the research shows that students who leave school early are at much greater risk of becoming trapped in marginal activity, finding no secure place for either learning or work. Engagement in lifelong learning work opportunity increases in proportion with the level of education achievement in secondary school. I understand that. There is no question that there is significant community support. I am not criticising the honourable member for introducing the bill, but what I am saying is that the timing is not right.

The member for Hammond criticised the government procrastinating. The problem is that this is not something that can be changed overnight; we have to get it right. It is a little like saying, 'We want all primary school students to have two languages other than English,' and then not having the teachers available to teach them. We have made statements such as that many times in the past but, if you do not have adequate teacher training, subject choices or the programs in place, you will not achieve that. The member for Taylor knows that, but because the research shows that there is support for this she introduces the bill.

Politically, it appears the right thing to do. It should not be done not because it is the right thing to do politically but because it is the right thing to do for the education of our children. That is why this government has put in place programs that have links with work, links with tertiary institutions and links with TAFE, and they are working, as the statistics show. It concerns me that I have seen opposition members talking about year 12 retention levels—and I have attended many functions—as if that is the only indicator of the success of education. They have failed to point out that in 1992-93, when SACE was introduced, with the introduction of year 13, you could matriculate over two years.

They did not take all that into account, but the statistics supported their claim that this government had not succeeded. They failed to show the statistics that 97 per cent of 17 year olds are being educated, either at school, TAFE or at work. Education is a lifelong process: it is not just a sack that you fill by making it compulsory for children to stay at school until they are 15 or 16 years of age, or until they reach years 11 or 12, and then abdicate your responsibility in the belief that you have educated them.

Years ago one could have a career path for life. Now you are likely to change your career path four or five times, so you must have the flexibility and the foundation to ensure that that education can take place.

Time expired.

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL (Minister for Water Resources):** First, I would like to start my contribution by apologising to the honourable member whose motion appears next on the *Notice Paper*, but I feel compelled to make a few remarks. The contributions of members raises two points. First, I ask whether this is a political stunt, and I would not be unkind to the member for Taylor and suggest that it was, but I would suggest that perhaps, as the government already has the matter in hand, it is not a matter that she need now bother with. The second thing—

*Ms White interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** Look, I am trying to help—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member can speak later in her summing up, if she wishes.

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** The other matter to be considered is the very existence of compulsory school leaving ages. On that matter, it has always been fashionable to have a school leaving age. When the member for Fisher and I were at school it was under 14; it has risen to under 15. It appears that most jurisdictions are now going to go to under 16. The fact is that, as the member for Hartley said, education is a right, but it is a right that should be enjoyed, and I do not know that it should necessarily be a compelled right.

What does the extension of a compulsory leaving age do other than lock young people into the absence of choice? The fact is that, if our education speaks to young people and it is actually relevant for them and gives them opportunities for

the future, they will take those opportunities without being compelled. Why is it that as governments we seem to have such a lack in our education systems that we have to lock people in and say, 'By law you simply cannot leave school before a certain age'?

The member for Fisher and I have discussed this in previous lives. If someone has reached a satisfactory standard of education, and if in reaching the satisfactory standard of education they want to go into the work force and to proceed with another phase of their education through traineeship, apprenticeship or any other form of learning that does not happen to be the institutionalised learning signified by schooling or the schooling system, why should this parliament deny them the choice of learning through other modes?

What is sacred about taking someone at 9 o'clock in the morning, compelling them into an institutionalised framework, keeping them there until 3.30, and insisting that they do it until they are 16 years old? I challenge the House to answer that question. What is wrong—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** The member opposite interjects. What is wrong with the very many people who are the backbone of her political party and who left school at 14 years of age (many of them) who became apprentices and who got a great deal of their education on the shop floor and through the union movement and are now—

**Mr De Laine:** They were the old days.

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** The member for Price says, 'They were the old days.' Perhaps he and I belong to the old days, but it was a good system and it worked. It produced good and educated people. What I am saying is that there is nothing sacred about schools. There is something very important about education.

*Ms White interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** I support it in the absence of anything better. What I am putting—

*Ms White interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** I support raising the school leaving age.

*Mr Hanna interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** Let me be quite clear to the House: I support raising the school leaving age in the absence of anything better. What I am putting to this House is that there are other and better alternatives. It is to get the system relevant and appealing to young people so that young people want to take the choices available in the system and are not compelled to stay at school merely for the sake of staying at school.

Do I support this member's bill at this time? The answer is: why should I? The member has to convince me to get my vote; he has to give me a compelling reason why I should not better trust—

**Ms White:** You will vote against it.

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** —the minister who is my colleague and friend and who has behind him the entire resources of the education department, the parliamentary apparatus and everything that goes with it, and who has assured this House that he intends to bring in a measure absolutely identical to the measure proposed.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** I remember standing exactly where the member for Taylor is and demanding a similar thing when we were in opposition—

**Ms White:** Rubbish! You voted against it in opposition.

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** It was a similar type of measure.

**Ms White:** You voted against the measure.

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** I am talking about a transport measure; it was a similar type of measure. The then Deputy Premier (Hon. Frank Blevins) stood up and answered in this way: 'It is the business of the government to govern; it is the business of the opposition to constructively criticise.' He said to me, 'Wait your time; wait as you should and the government will deliver on this process.'

As a matter of fact, on that particular measure, what the Hon. Mr Blevins did not know is that I had the support of both of the Labor Independents and he had to sit there and see my measure getting put into law. I did not have to wait for the government at all. What I am saying is exactly what the Hon. Mr Blevins said to me, that is, that there is a minister here who has legislation; he will bring in the legislation and that legislation will in due time be passed. I will support that legislation—only because we have not got anything better before the House.

I am proposing that there are better alternatives and it is a better education system where you do not have to compel young people to stay at school; they stay there because it is relevant. I think compulsory school ages is another method of protecting the teaching profession from doing their job—

*Mrs Geraghty interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL:** I do. If you read my *Hansard* record, that is what I have argued through the whole speech. Because of the fact we cannot disband it at present, I will support the minister when he brings a considered measure before this House. I suggest to the member for Taylor that if she can convince me otherwise and she can convince me that we should be voting for it at this time I will have every pleasure in supporting her. I doubt that she can. I say to her that once I convinced the opposition to vote with me and left the Deputy Premier of the day stranded. If she is that good, she can do the same.

**Mr CONLON (Elder):** I decided to join this debate when I was listening to it outside and heard some things which I found annoying and distressing. I was not surprised that the member for Hartley made his usual contribution of a collection of inane fatuities, but I was very surprised to hear a minister of this state explaining to this House why it is wrong in principle to implement a measure that will require more children in our state to reach higher levels of school education. I find that an astonishing position.

He explains it by the fact that he trusts his minister. Well, I have to say, I admire him for that because he is in a small minority of people who trust this government or this minister on education. He asked a few rhetorical questions such as why is the ALP concerned about many of its people who left school early to become apprentices, then tradespeople and then very valuable members of the community. We do value them. Having come from the public education system and a lower socioeconomic background, I do value people becoming tradespeople. But in the history of education in this country, there are people who become tradespeople who, with different opportunities, might have become the high paid lawyers, doctors or computer technicians who make up the Liberal Party's supporters. Because of their public school education and socioeconomic background, they should not be consigned to taking up the lower paid positions in society. They should have the opportunity to realise all their potential.

The minister can sit and make noises about this, but I will tell the minister about my personal experiences in the education system. I went to the Adelaide law school. I know who was at the Adelaide law school with me. They were overwhelmingly children from private schools. If you go to the medical school, they are overwhelmingly children from private schools. The minister may be quite happy for our people to supply the trench diggers and tradespeople: we want to supply the doctors, lawyers and scientists as well. We do not think it should be the preserve of the privileged. We do not believe the system should continue as it has in the past, delivering the highest paid jobs in this society, the best careers and the most respected careers to a privileged few.

Let me tell members of my own personal experience and why I would have, I think, benefited from a system that better encouraged public education and staying in the public school system to realise my potential.

Let me also say that not only does the minister trust the Minister for Education and Children's Services but I assume that he also trusts those people in Canberra who are also Liberals and who have done more harm to the public school education system in this country in their short term than any government in 30 years. They have taken it further back in a period when it should have been going ahead; they have given largess to the privileged schools in this country; they have decided that those who already have shall have more; and they have been supported by the Liberals in this state in doing it.

So, members should not be surprised when a minister in this state tells them that he does not support in principle a system that will encourage more people to stay at school. If they are anything like the Liberals in Canberra, they do not care; they are happy to perpetuate a system of privilege where the best paid and most respected positions in society go to those already enjoying privilege. There is one thing that the minister cannot contest, that is, the statistics on it are incontestable. It is absolutely plain that those who have the privilege of a private school education, now funded by the taxpayers of this country, reach the positions in society that provide the most wealth.

I personally left school—as the minister would encourage, it seems—at about the age of 15. I took a year off but I got a job and I did rather well. I went back to school and the headmaster said, 'Well, you are doing well, why come back?' As a result of that, I did a mature age entry into university at the age of 28—when I might have been doing it at 17 or 18 like some of the people members opposite represent. I did all right at university and I got my degrees. I practised as a lawyer. If I had been going to a different school, had a different headmaster and a system that encouraged me more, I would have been doing it 10 years earlier. But, the minister does not care about that, apparently.

Let me make it absolutely plain about where we are in the world and where we are in Australia at the moment. If members opposite want to do one thing in this country to guarantee our economic future, they will educate our children. If they want to do one important social justice thing to make the future better for the children in this country, they will educate our children. Never in the history of this country has a first rate issue of social justice so collided with a first rate economic issue. The future creation of wealth, now more than ever, relies on education.

In the world economy, it is the educated positions that will create wealth and earn wealth for the people who occupy them. What we have seen structurally in this economy in the

past 20 years is the shrinkage of those jobs that the minister would be so happy for our people to get. Well, they do not exist any more in the way they once did.

The world has less need for ditch diggers, tradespeople and people who perform manual labour: it is a simple fact. What we should be doing is shaping our education system to the world that we live in, not the world that the minister would like to think exists and not the world where government does not care about a large portion of the population who are less well off than it is.

*The Hon. M.K. Brindal interjecting:*

**Mr CONLON:** I heard what you said, but I didn't like it.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr CONLON:** I'm told that I don't understand very much about anything. But this is the view of members on that side: that we on this side should not be educated because it would not do us any good. It is only if you are born into privilege that you wander the corridors of Prince Alfred and St Peter's, according to the member for MacKillop. According to him, there is no point in trying to educate us sort of people: 'It doesn't do them any good. They only end up in here causing trouble and embarrassment.' I stress this point: if we—

*Mr Scalzi interjecting:*

**Mr CONLON:** 'Why start a class war?' Joe asks. I have to tell you something, Joe: there is one, and we are losing it. I have been to Adelaide University. I stress again: the honourable member should go down there. They will let him in. He should go down and look at the law school, go and ask the students where they did their education, and he will find that something like 70 or 80 per cent of them came from private schools or from a very select few public schools. He should go to the medical school and ask them, then come back and tell me about the class war. We have been losing it for 100 years.

All we want is for the children of the people whom we represent to have the same sorts of opportunities as most of the people on that side had. I stress again: if you want to fix the economic future of this country, you educate our children. If you want to address the most important social justice issue in this country, you educate our children. I am mortified that a minister of the Crown would stand up and oppose the principle of something that would see more children staying at school longer.

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** I oppose this bill, and the member for Elder just listed all the reasons why we should oppose it. The member for Elder said that he left school early. We could say that the honourable member has been a success story: he sits in this House as a member of this parliament, and I have to say that his education seems to have worked very well. He may have needed that break. If he had been forced to stay at school another year, he could have been anywhere. So, I think that the argument put forward today by the member for Elder is just the argument to the contrary.

I believe that this whole bill is a political stunt. It is trying to publicise an issue that I think is very important, but the new Education Bill is currently being drafted and is pretty close to coming into this House. There will be many changes in that bill, and this issue will be addressed. Whilst I agree with the basic principle of the bill before us, I believe that it is far too simplistic. The review has revealed that it is an issue, with other considerations including discipline and school standards, as the member for Hartley very capably put.

Just to say that you cannot leave school until the age of 16 is basically wrong.

This is not about procrastination: it is about a big decision made within the total concept of an all-encompassing education climate. As the Minister for Water Resources said a few moments ago, why hold people at school for a year if there is no benefit? Education is not only at our schools: we have apprenticeships in industry, etc. Speaking as an agriculturalist, we have on-farm training in all sorts of facilities, so education does not just happen in our schools.

To top this issue off, I am amazed that the honourable member putting this bill forward is on a select committee looking into just this subject. We have a select committee looking into DETE funded schools, and school retention rates is one of the many terms of reference of this select committee. The member for Taylor is a member of this select committee, so why the hang are we debating this now if it is not a political stunt? Why not wait for the decision of the select committee and then address it?

But no: the member for Taylor is having a bit of a dull time of it and wants to get back into the throes after taking a little leave from the House—and I am pleased that the young'un is doing very well—but she wants to get back into it and make an impact, so she comes up with this. I believe that this is quite premature.

*Mr Williams interjecting:*

**Mr VENNING:** She is on the select committee, but whether she has confidence in that, I do not know. It must be going badly there. I am not privy to that, and I cannot understand why the honourable member does not put a strong advocacy in the select committee, see what decisions are made and, if it is not happening, introduce the matter then. I will be quite happy to support that. Why is the honourable member pre-empting a select committee decision, especially when she is a member of that select committee?

Currently, the school leaving age in South Australia is 15, as it is in most other Australian states. A number of factors prompted consideration of school leaving arrangements as part of the legislative review. Tasmania and Western Australia have in recent years raised the school leaving age beyond 15 in their respective states, and I note that other states are also considering this. Overseas, the trend has been to raise the school leaving age and extend the period of compulsory education in recognition that educational achievement and standards promote economic advancement.

Research indicates that students who leave school early are at much greater risk of becoming trapped in marginal activity, and I certainly agree with that. It is a very basic and bland statement to make, but it is generally true. They find no secure place for either learning or work. The engagement with lifelong learning and work opportunity increases in proportion to the level of education achieved in secondary schooling. As the member for Hartley mentioned to me a moment ago, it is all about raising the standards, but we must raise the standards first.

There is significant community support for raising the school leaving age. Responses through submissions and public forums highlighted a range of parallel concerns, which are being addressed through current government initiatives such as curriculum quality and diversity and its relevance to individual students; alternative education and training pathways; and, of course, support for students themselves. More than 95 per cent of South Australia's 17 year olds are in school, so we are talking about 5 per cent of these people. They are either in school, in training or in employment.



When the state's record number of part-time students is included in the apparent retention rate calculations, the percentage of students continuing at school from year 10 to 12 (74.3 per cent) is expected to be higher than the national average. Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that South Australia's year 10 to 12 retention rates have increased steadily over the past three years, rising from 63.3 per cent in 1997 to 64.2 per cent in 1998 and 64.8 per cent in 1999. Part-time students are not included in published apparent retention rate data. South Australia has the highest number of part-time students and, when these figures are included for all states and territories, South Australia's retention rate rises to 74.9 per cent in 1999, which is above the national average of 72.4 per cent.

Our record stands very well with the national standard. As I said before, we are waiting for a new bill, which I believe is being finally drafted by parliamentary counsel and is very close to coming into this House. I believe that it is coming from a very good base. I have served on the backbench policy committees of this Education Minister (Hon. Malcolm Buckby) and the previous minister (Hon. Rob Lucas) and have had input into this subject for many years. It is yet another ministry that has performed extremely well.

Education today is one of our state's success stories. Employers are pretty pleased with our education system: the 1999 National Centre for Vocational Education Research Survey of Employer Views on Vocational Education and Training shows an increase in the employer satisfaction with TAFE from 6.2 to 7.4. South Australia has the highest level of employer satisfaction in the country, and that is equal to New South Wales.

I cannot let a discussion on education go without discussing the success of Partnerships 21. I know that certainly makes the opposition cross, but this has been probably the greatest success story education has seen for 25 years in South Australia.

Debate adjourned.

### **ROBRAN, Mr BARRIE**

**Mr WRIGHT (Lee):** I move:

That this House congratulates Barrie Robran on being inducted to legend status in the Australian Football Hall of Fame and thanks him for his contribution to Australian Rules Football in South Australia and Australia.

I thank the members for Heysen, Fisher and Hammond for allowing this motion to be brought forward. When we bring motions of this nature before the House, as we do from time to time, the quicker we can expedite them the better because there have been occasions when they have lost some of their relevancy. I therefore thank those three members for their indulgence. Because of that I will not necessarily take the full 15 minutes—in fact, I will try not to. I could speak for 15 days about Barrie Robran. I will go longer than five minutes, but will not take the full 15 minutes. I understand the member for Hartley also will try to keep his remarks brief.

It is a wonderful tribute to a wonderful athlete that Barrie Robran has been added to the legend status of the Australian Football Hall of Fame. It is also something of which all South Australians can be very proud—proud for Barrie but proud also for the South Australian National Football League, because he certainly made a wonderful contribution not only to football here in South Australia but to football Australia wide.

Needless to say, Barrie's record stands for itself. He played 201 games of league football for North Adelaide from 1967 to 1990. That career was cruelly interrupted by a very severe knee injury. These days knee injuries are treated vastly differently and players return much sooner than they did at the time when, sadly, Barrie was stuck down in a state game in Sydney, I believe. His career was never the same again.

Barrie came from Whyalla and had a distinguished career playing for the North Whyalla Football Club. His career here in South Australia is second to none. He played for the North Adelaide Football Club. He won three Magarey medals, in 1968, 1970 and 1973, and, irrespective of whom you follow, most if not all of us believe that had it not been for that very unfortunate knee injury Barrie Robran would have won many more Magarey medals. He played state football on 13 occasions and he had national club championship games.

Barrie's performances at state level when playing for South Australia and also when representing North Adelaide against other clubs such as Carlton—in those days they would have competitions where the premiers of each state played against each other—really stood out. I vividly remember one game in, I think, 1972 at the Adelaide Oval when he virtually won the game by himself against the Carlton Football Club. North Adelaide and Carlton were both premiers. I remember one incident so vividly that people may be surprised. It was on about the half forward flank on the grandstand side: Robran got a hold of the ball, baulked, ducked and weaved and got around four or five opponents. It was difficult to comprehend, but it was such an outstanding feat that Alex Jesaulenko, also recognised as the premier player in his competition (the VFL, as it was then called) during the game—not in a break at quarter or three quarter time but while the game was still in progress—actually stopped and applauded what Barrie Robran did. That was the quality of the person.

There was nothing on the football field that Barrie Robran could not do. Probably his premier position was centre half forward, but if North Adelaide was in trouble they would throw him into the ruck. If North Adelaide was kicking with the breeze they might have thrown him into defence if the opposition was having a good quarter. They would play him at centre or as a rover. There was no position that North Adelaide would not throw him into. We are talking about someone for whom nothing was impossible on the football field.

I remember vividly, when my family shifted down from Port Augusta at about the time Barrie Robran started his league career, my father and I regularly watched Norwood play. We came across Barrie Robran. So strong were his talents that whenever we had the opportunity, if Norwood was not playing or if it was a broken round, we would go and follow Robran. Many people did that at the time. His class really did stand out.

I have given a backdrop, but I should also talk briefly about Barrie Robran the person. In addition to his great talents, there was no person on or off the sporting field who was a better sportsperson than was Barrie Robran. He exemplified all the characteristics one would want a sports-person to show on the field. He of course also went on to be a coach at a South Australian National Football League level, coaching North Adelaide for three years. He has continued to be a mentor to young players. He was a state selector for about five years while we were playing state of origin games. All those qualities and characteristics, which are part of why

a person would be chosen to be legend status, were all fulfilled by Barrie Robran.

Why we would have the President of the Carlton Football Club, Mr John Elliott, coming out and criticising this appointment is totally amazing. Why the jam tin man, as he is known around corporate Australia, would come out and criticise an appointment of this nature is beyond me because this appointment was unanimous, not only on the committee but beyond it. The only person I have heard being critical of Barrie Robran being added to legend status is John Elliott. John Elliott has no sportsmanship, no morals and no right to criticise this appointment. This appointment was universally accepted and John Elliott has shown once again why we do not need John Elliotts in Australian rules football.

Out of all the comments and commentary I saw from a whole range of people in South Australia, Victoria and Australia wide following those tardy unsportsmanlike, ridiculous, unprofessional remarks made by John Elliott—over which he should hang his head in shame and over which the Carlton Football Club and AFL should bring him to book—the one that stuck me the most was the comment made by Bob Hank when he said that Barrie Robran's standing was increased by the fact that he did not go to Victoria. There were enormous demands and pressure on Barrie Robran, with something like eight out of 12 VFL clubs trying to get Barrie Robran to go to Victoria.

Of course, Barrie Robran resisted that and he resisted it for one reason: because he was loyal to the North Adelaide Football Club. Would it not be better for Australian Rules Football if, today, we saw some of that great loyalty displayed by Barrie Robran in those days? I call upon John Elliott to show some loyalty to Australian Rules Football immediately and to apologise to Barrie Robran, his family and to the South Australian football public. John Elliott has done what he has always done: he has got into the gutter, and his comments have been nothing short of a disgrace. I will conclude my remarks. I said that I would not deliberately take my full 15 minutes because of the goodwill of other members who have allowed this motion to be called on today.

I simply say that there are 16 other legends; I think that Barrie becomes the 17th legend. We may all have our views about who might take priority. I did not see all of those 16 legends on the football field because, obviously, some of them played many years ago. However, I have seen a lot of them and let me say that not one of those legends I saw on the football field displayed anything that Barrie Robran did not display on the football field. This man was a genius. This man was a credit to himself, his family and to South Australian and Australian football. No-one, Australia wide, deserves this honour more than Barrie Robran. We salute him as a great champion and legend of South Australian and Australian Rules Football.

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** I will be brief because the achievements of Barrie Robran have been well outlined by the member for Lee, in newspapers and in commentaries on radio and television. There is no question that Barrie Robran deserves the recognition that he has been given. I find it an honour and a privilege to be the local member for the electorate in which Barrie Robran resides. I have met Barrie Robran on many occasions. Barrie also works for the Department of Human Services, promoting a healthy lifestyle. Recognition should not be based on geography: excellence in one's field can be attained in any area.

There is no question that Barrie Robran is a great example of a sportsman and someone who excelled as a player and coach, as well as excelling in other areas following the end of his football career. Again, it was unfortunate that John Elliott made those comments, but one cannot give much credence to them because John Elliott is neither a great sportsman nor a great example of a healthy lifestyle, and neither is Sam Newman who defended John Elliott. The records of both men stand for themselves. Certainly, in this day and age, we need role models. We do not need the McEnroes of football and their tantrums.

Barrie Robran certainly was not that. I am sure that his sons, Matthew, who plays for the Adelaide Crows, and Jonathon, who plays for Essendon, will also be great examples to the game. As I said, I am not a great supporter of Australian Rules, but I am certainly a great supporter of great sportsmen, such as Barrie Robran, and he deserves the recognition that he has been given. I congratulate him, his wife Taimi and his family, especially his sons Matthew and Jonathon who have a great example to follow.

**Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith):** I, too, will limit my comments in recognition of what other members have done to allow this motion to be moved and voted on today. I endorse wholeheartedly the comments made by the shadow minister for sport, the member for Lee, who, I think, has covered Barrie's background exceptionally well. Having been a lifelong North Adelaide supporter and a member of the North Adelaide Football Club I, too, extend my congratulations to Barrie on his induction as a member of the Legends Club of Australian Rules Football. The member for Lee has already mentioned Barrie's distinguished football background.

I will not go over all of that, except to say that in 1966 Barrie was initially recruited from North Whyalla by North Adelaide. In his first full season with the North Adelaide Football Club, Barrie lost the club's best and fairest award on a count-back to the captain, Don Linder. That is not a bad testimony to the skills that Barrie Robran exhibited from a very early age. Indeed, when Barrie retired from the North Adelaide Football Club his number 10 guernsey was retired by the club and no other player wore that number until 1993 when Josh Francou played for North Adelaide prior to his going to Port Power.

Josh Francou, of course, is the son of Maurie Francou, a former North Adelaide football player. Barrie Robran's sister is Josh Francou's mother and Maurie's wife. When Barrie was awarded the honour of becoming an AFL legend, I thought that the humility with which he accepted the award typified the man. In particular, when Barrie gave his thanks and appreciation for the award he thanked the football clubs for which he had played, commencing with the North Whyalla Football Club. He made mention of North Adelaide and the football club with which he completed his career, the Walkerville Football Club—a local amateur league football club.

I thought it was rather touching that a great like Barrie Robran would remember the first club with which he played and the last club, which was in the amateur league. Also, as reported, one of his proudest moments in his football history was not necessarily winning the Magarey Medal of which, of course, he is rightly proud, but when his brother Rodney joined him in the North Adelaide football team and the brothers played together. Barrie is reported to have said that

the proudest moment in his football career was playing with his brother.

On one occasion I remember that I attended a function and I was sitting next to Barrie Robran. I asked him why he had never accepted all of the offers, to which the member for Lee referred, from VFL clubs to transfer from North Adelaide to Victoria because, obviously, the rewards would have been great. In answer to that question, Barrie simply said to me, 'I only ever wanted to play for the North Adelaide Football Club.' It is that type of humility, honesty and decency in such an outstanding sportsman that John Elliott cannot understand. That is what John Elliott cannot fathom and why he utters the words that he did about Barrie Robran. John Elliott cannot recognise decency when it stares him in the face because he himself is not decent or honest.

The other point I highlight is the great match in 1972 when North Adelaide defeated Carlton in the Champions of Australia contest by 10.13 to 10.12. Lou Richards, that great Victorian mouthpiece for the VFL, had this to say after that game in reference to Barrie Robran:

Yesterday Robran took super Jezza (Jesaulenko) and the mighty Carlton apart like a soggy newspaper. Stand up and take a bow Barrie Robran. I dub thee the new king of football.

In conclusion, I extend my very best wishes to Barrie Robran and his family for an honour well deserved as much for his decency and humility as for his skills as a sportsman.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher):** I had an association many years ago with the North Whyalla Football Club, as did people such as Neil Kerley. Unfortunately, I did not come into contact with the game of football until I was 20 years old, which was a bit too late to start a career. Sadly, I went to a school that had no grassed playing area, so football was never an option.

As highlighted by other members, Barrie Robran's great humility and modesty are something that other people in the sports world could learn from him. He had a great talent on the field; it was worth going to a match just to watch Barrie Robran. He had the speed of a gazelle, brilliant agility, manoeuvrability and a loping, striding action, and he seemed to have hands everywhere. As a teenager, he was not quite so physically competent but as he matured he turned into the brilliant talent we have come to acknowledge and a sportsman who is now being recognised as one of the legends of the game.

We have seen with cricket what can happen to a great sport if standards are not maintained in terms of personal behaviour and personal ethics. I would not like to see Aussie Rules go down that path. If the younger players can follow the example of someone like Barrie Robran, I am sure that this great game—and I personally believe it is the greatest game in the world—will remain just that. I salute Barrie Robran and acknowledge the contribution of his family, and I wish him well in the future. I am saddened that someone like John Elliott would demean himself by trying to diminish the achievements of a great champion.

**Mr CONLON (Elder):** I too wish to support the motion. I declare an interest because I am a follower of the greatest football club in the universe—the Port Adelaide Football Club. As a youth, I first encountered the brilliance of Barrie Robran at the first two football grand finals I ever witnessed, in 1971 and 1972. I assure members that Barrie Robran destroyed us. He took us apart. I can tell this House that, if Barrie Robran had not been playing for North Adelaide, Port

Adelaide would have had two more cups on the mantelpiece. As it was, we had to contend with the man who was possibly the best footballer I have ever seen.

If there is a modern comparison playing football today, I think the player closest to him would be James Heard, an Essendon player who has the same sort of effortless grace about everything he does. He is able to mark, ground play and do all those things. The one thing he shares most with Barrie Robran is that he makes it seem so effortless. He rarely seems to get his guernsey pulled out of his shorts or his hair mussed up. Barrie Robran was precisely like that. The only thing I would say here is that he was a better mark than James Heard. I think it is a fair rap, and says a great deal about his sporting prowess, that if he was playing today he would be an acknowledged superstar of the AFL.

As so many speakers have said, with all of that he had a great modesty about his achievements. He has always been admired for both his modesty and his generosity of spirit in dealing with people. He is a truly great South Australian. I know that he has been criticised by John Elliott. I do not like to talk about John Elliott because, frankly, he gets talked about more than he deserves. In Barrie Robran, you have a person who gained great fame by a singular sporting prowess and by his remarkable decency and strength of character. In the case of John Elliott, it is a modern phenomenon of a person who only ever manages to gain fame by some sort of demonstrable stupid and ignorant offensiveness. I know which character I prefer and I will leave it at that.

**Ms BREUER (Giles):** Today, as a Whyalla born and bred resident, I certainly would like to speak about Barrie, of whom we in Whyalla are very proud. Barrie, perhaps above all else, is a person remembered most as coming from Whyalla. He is still talked about with affection and he is still welcomed with open arms when he returns to our community. We are extremely proud of him, his distinguished career and, of course, his latest honour.

One of the good things about Barrie is that he has never turned his back on Whyalla and denied that he comes from Whyalla. Whyalla has copped a lot of flak over the years. There have been people who come from Whyalla but do not admit to it for some reason. Barrie has always been very proud and happy to acknowledge that he comes from Whyalla and he has always talked about his football club, the North Whyalla Football Club.

Barrie is a couple of years older than me, which is a bit unusual because there are not too many people who are. I followed behind him and attended the same schools—the primary school and Whyalla High School. I remember his family well. I remember his mother because she used to visit my neighbour's house quite regularly. I remember his sister Julie and, of course, his brother Joe—Rodney is his correct name but we remember him as Joe. They were a really good country stock family, community spirited and involved in our community and schools.

I played on the same oval as the one that Barrie Robran talked about the other day where as a young boy he did a lot of his early training. For years he went there to play and practise by himself. I also remember going to that oval. In 1968, I remember sitting at a desk at Whyalla High School and seeing carved in the desk 'Barrie Robran was here'. Of course, 1968 was the year he won the Magarey Medal, which was a real thrill. I remember a whole group of us sitting around looking at this carving and trying to work out if we

could cut it out of the desk to take it with us. We did not but I often wonder if it is still there.

As far as John Elliott is concerned, just send him up to Whyalla for a while and we will sort him out. We are very proud of Barrie in Whyalla and I join with everyone, including the generations of young people who have been inspired by him over the years, to wish him well, because we are very proud of him.

**Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood):** I support the motion. I had the good fortune of knowing Barrie Robran for many years when he was a player at North Adelaide and more recently when his two sons played for Norwood. If there is any question that Barrie is one of the greatest footballers in South Australia, a number of years ago I had the good fortune of taking Martin Flanagan, who is one of the greatest footballer writers in Australia, to the Norwood Oval where the boys were practising just before the Grand Final, when Norwood defeated Port Adelaide. I introduced him to Barrie Robran that night, and when he wrote about him he said that he had met one of the greatest footballers in Australia.

John Elliott does not deserve to be mentioned. I think the sooner we stop looking at Melbourne as the centre of national football the better. Many great Australian players have actually come from South Australia. We remember in the days of the VFL when they used to come over and raid our teams for the best players. Barrie, like another great player, Gary McIntosh, said 'I only ever wanted to play for my home team.' He is a great player and certainly deserves his place in the Hall of Fame.

Motion carried.

### SUPERANNUATION, PARLIAMENT AND JUDICIARY

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher):** I move:

That the House calls upon the government to appoint an independent person or persons to review the superannuation schemes available to members of parliament and the judiciary with a view to ascertaining if the schemes are fair and equitable in respect of contributions and benefits when compared to those available to the general public, whether they be in the private sector or the public service, and to make recommendations as appropriate.

This is a sensitive issue amongst my colleagues; I understand that. The motion seeks to get the government to appoint an independent person or persons to have a look at the superannuation schemes available to us as members of parliament and also the judiciary to see whether they are fair and reasonable in respect of contributions made and benefits received when compared to others in the community. It is appropriate that this be done.

I do not want to make this a political issue. People in my electorate have raised this matter with me, and I undertook to do something about it. We often see in the paper people having a cheap shot at politicians, and it is easy to do that. I have been a member of this place for nearly 12 years, and I would have to say that the members with whom I have come in contact are well intentioned and are committed to doing the best for the community and for the state—although at times, they may have different philosophical approaches. In my experience, with regard to their behaviour, members of parliament have been a good example to the rest of the community.

We often do ourselves a disservice, because we are portrayed as spending a lot of our time fighting. Someone said that to me the other day, and I said, 'That's not correct;

95 per cent of the time parliament is a constructive and productive activity. However, it is not highlighted in the media, because it is not newsworthy in the eyes of the media. We have a big task ahead of us in portraying what we do as members of parliament.

Some people think that all we do is come in here and talk on issues. As members would know, most of our work—and I am not saying the work in here is not important; it is very important—is done outside this place, serving the electorate and attending meetings. I do not know of any MP who would not be out many nights of the week. In fact, some are out nearly every night of the week and on weekends. By way of example, I worked over Easter, and I do not begrudge that. A lot of people forget that MPs put in a lot of time which can cause their families a lot of inconvenience. Indeed, it is often the families who suffer the most.

It is appropriate and timely that the government look at the issue of this superannuation, through a specialist person or persons. We all know that we contribute about 11 per cent of our gross salary, so we make a significant contribution. The question is whether that is adequate. In terms of the benefits, the question is whether the benefits are excessive. Recently, I pointed out to someone when they were querying me on this issue—and I do not think for a moment that we will get any brownie points in the community—that MPs do not get leave loading or long service leave. They are not protected by WorkCover, so they are at the mercy of the government if anything happens to them in terms of injury or illness. There are no guaranteed holidays. People would say, 'Tough! You get paid a lot.' We get paid a reasonable amount. I do not believe it is overly generous; in fact, some of the ministers here are probably underpaid. However, in any organisation or gathering you will have some people who clearly work harder than others. It is just a fact of life.

I do not know whether members realise this, but judges make no contribution to their superannuation. They do not contribute one cent towards their superannuation. Also, judges are entitled to a sabbatical. After every sixth year, they are entitled to half a year off on full pay. I am saying not that that is not a good thing but that when you start examining what other people get in the community you see that significant benefits accrue to others.

One of the key issues is whether we should be able to draw on our superannuation before the age of 55 years. Other people cannot do so, and that is one of the obvious issues about which the community is concerned. Members of the community are also concerned about whether the overall benefits are excessive. It clearly raises the question of the nexus between salary and superannuation. People often argue that, instead of getting the superannuation payout, perhaps we should have an adjustment to our salary and allowances and get a lesser superannuation entitlement.

They are some of the issues that would need to be canvassed. This motion is couched in a way that does not seek to pre-empt any outcome. It is long overdue. We have reached a point where the community would want it to happen, and it would be done by someone who was independent. I do not believe someone who is a beneficiary of a superannuation scheme should be reviewing the schemes. That is always the accusation—that we are in here looking after ourselves because we are making decisions about our remuneration, and so on. The motion covers that point adequately.

Recently in this place we canvassed the possibility of members being forced from one scheme to another scheme.

Each of those schemes has its good and bad points. If you are in the more recent scheme, there are some benefits to your family if you should die at a young age, because the family will in effect get the total entitlement. However, the earlier scheme is essentially a pension scheme, so that benefit is not transferred automatically in total to your dependants.

In that previous debate, we were looking at something that did not address the fundamental issue, that is, whether either of the two schemes is appropriate in the way it is structured. A few years ago in about 1995—and I stand to be corrected on that—the present government reviewed the superannuation schemes and altered them such that we now have two schemes operating, but clearly members cannot enter the old scheme. As I indicated earlier, one can argue about the benefits of those two schemes.

I do not want to make this into a political football; that is not in anyone's interests. I want the government to nominate a person or persons who have actuarial experience and expertise in this area. Let us once and for all nail this issue and have a look at our scheme or schemes in respect of what other people get in comparable-type situations. We know there is no identical comparable employment, but our contributions and benefits need to be compared in relation to what people in the senior level of the Public Service get, as well as in respect of the private sector.

In essence, I hope we can move quickly on this motion and get the matter dealt with. Then we can say in all fairness that our scheme is appropriate and, if it needs adjustment, those adjustments can be made. I commend the motion to the House.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Venning):** Is the motion seconded? Order! As there is no seconder, I believe the motion lapses.

Motion lapsed.

#### ALTERNATIVE POWER SOURCES

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen):** I move:

That this House commends the federal government on the financial support provided to South Australia through the photovoltaic rebate program which encourages the use of solar power through the provision of a rebate and calls on both the federal and state governments to continue to provide worthwhile incentives which encourage the use of alternative power sources in South Australia.

As I am sure members would be aware, this is a subject that has been of particular interest to me over a very long period. I was interested when I gave notice of this motion that at about that time—and this goes back to March of this year—quite a bit of publicity was given to the interest being shown in solar panels and solar power. I am delighted about that. I would like to see more publicity given to it, because I think it is a very positive thing that is happening in our community, and one would hope that the amount of publicity will increase in the future.

The photovoltaic rebate program has been highly successful. I am delighted to have been advised that, during its first year, 183 applications totalling rebates of \$1.2 million were approved in this state. This corresponds to 236 kilowatts of solar electricity being installed. Of these installations, 88 are grid connected and 94 are stand-alone systems. On a national scale, \$14.1 million was committed for 2 600 approved applications; of these 454 were grid connected and 1 974 were stand-alone systems. One would hope that more people will become involved in this program, but it is very encouraging to see what has been achieved so far.

I refer again to the article which appeared in the *Advertiser* in March. I was interested in the comments of an Adelaide installer, a fellow by the name of Troy Ryan of the Solar Shop, who, at that stage, said that business was booming. This particular electrician is one of seven accredited South Australian installers and he has been involved in setting up solar systems in a number of houses and community centres. In the article he said:

I used to do one or two installations a year before, but now it's most of my business.

I am delighted to see that that is happening.

What is this rebate program all about? It was introduced on 1 January 2000. The commonwealth government introduced this rebate program through the Australian Greenhouse Office. It is really about encouraging the long-term use of photovoltaic technology. The Office of Energy Policy in South Australia (which is part of PIRSA) will administer the program for all South Australians, and it has been doing that for some time. The aim of the program is to generate greater use of energy from sunlight and to increase the use of renewable energy in Australia. Commonwealth funding of \$31 million has been made available for this purpose over four years. However, the level of demand will determine how long the program runs.

The rebate can be obtained for residential buildings. It applies to solar photovoltaic panels only and is based on the peak output of each new panel. The minimum system size to qualify for the rebate is 450 watt peak output. The rebate offered for new systems is \$5 per watt peak installed, up to a maximum of \$7 500 for each installation. Extensions to existing systems can receive rebates of \$2.50 per peak watt, up to a maximum of \$2 500. In order to qualify for a rebate under this program, applicants must demonstrate that they are able to comply with a number of conditions. The conditions include the requirement that major equipment items must be new equipment and not second-hand, and that of course applies to PV modules, inverters, battery regulators and batteries.

It also suggests that the rebate is only available for the applicant's principal place of residence as shown on the electoral roll and only one rebate is funded per applicant. Also the designer and the installer of the system must be accredited, and that applies to their being either fully or provisionally accredited by the Sustainable Energy Industries of Australia, and systems must be commissioned within six months of approval being received. The program is going very well.

The other program that is working in association with this program is the renewable remote power generation program in this state. Again, the commonwealth government, through the Australian Greenhouse Office, has introduced this particular program to provide renewable power to people living remotely. Again, the Office of Energy Policy in PIRSA is administering the program in South Australia. The objectives of this program are to help provide an effective electricity supply to remote users to assist the development of the Australian renewable energy industry, to help meet the energy infrastructure needs of indigenous communities and also to lead to long-term greenhouse gas reductions.

This program is also progressing well. A total of 45 grant applications have been approved since the program began in March of this year. The first few systems to be funded under this scheme have now been installed and are generating electricity for their owners. To date, grants total a little over

\$809 000 and individual grants range from \$4 386 up to \$60 367. The average grant has been just under \$18 000 per system. The funds committed under the Pastoral Properties and Homestead Scheme total \$443 481. It is good to see that people on pastoral properties are some of those who are able to take advantage of this program.

Two excellent programs have been introduced by the commonwealth government, but in more recent times—and I understand we will hear more about it this afternoon in the budget—we have learnt of new sustainable energy funding through the state, as well. I am delighted with that, and the minister made a release earlier this week indicating that South Australians will have access to rebates of up to \$700 for the installation of solar hot water systems as part of an initiative that will be detailed in today's state budget. The new rebate scheme will significantly reduce the cost of installing a solar hot water system, encouraging more households to save money and reduce greenhouse emissions through sustainable energy use.

The minister has indicated that the rebate of between \$500 and \$700 per system will be paid directly to consumers. I agree with the minister when he says that this is an exciting new initiative for South Australia and part of the government's new direction in enhancing the sustainable use of energy. I am also pleased because the scheme will be contributing greatly to improving the use of sustainable energy measures and reduce our impact on the environment. As in past years, this is part of the government's long-term plan of delivering a strong economy. It is not only the commonwealth that I want to commend in this motion but also the state government and the Minister for Minerals and Energy for the programs to which I have referred at both the commonwealth and state levels.

Before concluding, I suggest to members that they take advantage of the new web site which will provide them with more information on what is happening as far as energy is concerned in this state. The web site is [www.energy.sa.gov.au](http://www.energy.sa.gov.au) and offers easier access to information on sustainable energy use. I have taken the opportunity to look up the web site, which provides some excellent information. I honed in on 'renewables'; the overview points out what the government is about and how it is carrying on with this policy. It provides a definition of what are 'renewable resources' and the types. There is a considerable amount on green power and renewable energy.

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** Port Power?

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** No, nothing to do with Port Power. There is a lot of information of which members could take advantage. I encourage members to take advantage of this new web site. Sustainable energy use certainly means cost savings and better protection for our environment and allows the state to ensure its energy supplies into the future. There are also a number of opportunities for new investment in renewable energy generation, particularly wind generation, in regional South Australia, and on another occasion I will take the opportunity to speak about that subject. Improving the efficient use of our energy resources is important for the future of all South Australians. I commend this motion to the House.

**Mr LEWIS (Hammond):** I commend the member for Heysen for what he has done in putting this motion before us. But it is about 10 years too late. It is well and good that we are commending the government for doing something now, but the member for Heysen will recall—and I am not being

critical of him but, rather, reminding him of—the arguments we had in the party room prior to the 1989 election in relation to the proposition I drafted with the former member for Kavel (Hon. Roger Goldsworthy) when I was part of his two man policy subcommittee on energy. I wanted the party room to adopt a commitment at that time to photovoltaics as well as to wind generation.

I was a member of the International Solar Energy Society and the Australian Solar Energy Society long before I ever became a member of this parliament. I joined those societies at about the same time as I became a foundation member of the Civic Trust, which was about good civic manners in the built environment. It was clear to me then, from discussions I was having with one of my foster sons—who, after having gained masters degrees as a chemical engineer, scientist and mathematician, then went on to do a masters degree in business administration and, finally, law and who is now in Indonesia—that we needed to start using photovoltaics. It was clear to me then that we needed to start using wind energy to prove up the technology; to adopt what was already being used as world's best practice in places such as Denmark; and to learn from the experience and mess that was made in Yucca Valley in California, in the San Bernadino Mountains at a place called Palm Springs.

However, there was plenty to be done and it would have been cost effective research and development work in that it would not have been a dead loss, a sunk cost; it would have added to our generation capacity. But we could not get that commitment. I even argued against connecting towns in the Mid North, in the more remote areas, to the grid, believing that the best way to go there, rather than spending a huge amount of money to extend the high tension power grid to those locations, would have been to install remote area power supply generation incorporating photovoltaics and wind generation equipment.

I think the place in question was Peterborough, and I know I upset the member for Stuart, when he was member for Eyre, but it was not intentional. My view was based on good science: it was very sound; and we would have done much better if we had put less money than that into the infrastructure necessary to use photovoltaics with a battery back-up buffer and wind power. The amount, if any, that we would have needed for generation using fossil fuels (that is, gas straight out of the Moomba pipeline in a cogeneration plant) would have been minimal, because it passed right by there. Now, of course, we have that high tension line connected to it and cogeneration plants are widely accepted as the only plants to install, because they are energy efficient. However, we have lost the opportunity that was presented by that need.

Those people were entitled to expect that electricity would be generated. I said at the same time in 1989 that what we in Australia all needed to do was go nuclear and tax the power heavily to finance the necessary research. In the short run, we knew that that was clean, easy and safe, and we could have used the Argentine technology, which involved small, stand-alone power stations in the nodes of greatest energy demand. The cost of maintenance on the high tension grid to interconnect those power plants would have been much lower than it is to reticulate all the power from the larger power plants that we have burning fossil fuels in places such as Port Augusta and Moe now, through the interconnector on the border with Victoria.

That always struck me as crazy. If we had taxed that nuclear energy heavily and done the research to put us as a state at the head of the world in world's best practice on all

that stuff, we would have been much better off now: we would not have lost Professor Bockris and Henk de Bruin from Flinders University and we would still have had the commitment that was around the place 12 years ago as well as the people who provided that commitment. There was the essential core mass, and now we have lost that. We might be able to regain it, and that is the reason why I stand here to strongly commend the member for Heysen for putting this matter on the record.

There is one other thing I want to say before I sit down. If we are not going to put the interconnector from New South Wales across Victoria through Ouyen and Pinnaroo, we jolly well ought to provide remote area power supplies in the form of photovoltaics and wind generation out in the Mallee, where we are trying to develop 53 or 54 gigalitres of water a year and industries based on that. We have to pump the water and then, if we are sensible, process the crops that are produced as a consequence of the irrigation industries that will be established.

At present the power supply is very unreliable and we are tipping tonnes upon thousands of tonnes of atmospheric carbon into the world's atmosphere every year because we have to burn diesel. We simply have to generate that electricity or direct-couple the diesel motors to the pumps for that purpose, and I commend the honourable member for what he has put before the House. I trust that commonsense will prevail and we go down this path; the sooner the better.

Motion carried.

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

### APPROPRIATION BILL

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following bills:

Listening Devices (Miscellaneous) Amendment.

Statutes Amendment (Avoidance of Duplication of Environmental Procedures),

Statutes Amendment (Transport Portfolio),

### EUTHANASIA

A petition signed by 72 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House retain the present laws against euthanasia while maintaining the right of patients to refuse treatment and support for palliative care procedures, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Kotz.

Petition received.

### RADIOACTIVE WASTE

A petition signed by 18 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House prohibit the establishment of a national intermediate or high level radioactive waste storage facility in South Australia, was presented by Mr Hill.

Petition received.

### MURRAY RIVER

A petition signed by 34 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House support a River Murray Bill for the purposes of the rehabilitation and control of the river, was presented by Mr Hill.

Petition received.

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Government Enterprises (Hon. M.H. Armitage)—

South Australia Ports (Disposal of Maritime Assets) Act 2000—Transfer Order—Erratum

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

Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia—Report, 2000

Teachers Registration Board of South Australia—Report, 2000.

### QUESTION TIME

#### FAULDINGS

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is directed to the Premier. What is the Premier's attitude towards a hostile—or at least an unwelcome—takeover bid by the Melbourne based company Mayne for the South Australian icon and world leader in biotechnology, Fauldings, and what discussions has the Premier had with either Mayne or the Fauldings company in order to retain Fauldings' head office operations in South Australia? This morning I was contacted by Mr Peter Smedley, the Chief Executive Officer of Mayne, who told me that his company would be making a bid for Fauldings. He said that if successful the Fauldings head office would move to Melbourne but that 1 000 jobs would be retained in Salisbury. I have been advised that Fauldings does not welcome the takeover move and, in addition, as both the Premier and I know, the Salisbury plant employs 300 people and not 1 000.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier):** A company like Fauldings is very important to our state. It is an international headquartered company based in South Australia with strong links to this state. Its growth into the international market and the reputation it has established internationally are second to none. The quality of management of Fauldings in South Australia, through Ed Tweddell, has led to the company's advancement and enhancement. I assure the leader that whether it is its head office status in South Australia, whether it is the employees at Salisbury or whether it involves other aspects of Fauldings, it is important to our state. In discussions that will continue, we will seek to ensure the protection of South Australia's investment and its jobs.

#### LOCUSTS

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart):** I direct my question to the Deputy Premier. Will he advise the House of the success of last year's locust control campaign, the lessons that have been learnt and the preparedness of the state to resist future challenges of this type; and will he say what steps the state government is taking to ensure that all necessary action is taken?

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier):** I thank the member for Stuart for both his question and the support he gave us in what was a long year in the locust campaign. Last season was by far the biggest campaign we have had with locust spraying with, in the old terms, over a million acres being sprayed by aircraft, plus a lot of spraying undertaken by ground units. We saw an unprecedented amount of planning and cooperation. The program was undertaken very differently than in the past. We heeded what we had been told over a long time, consulted with everyone, and there was a terrific partnership involving government, the Plague Locust Commission federally, the Local Government Association and Brian Hurn (they were extremely cooperative), local government at the local and regional level, the Farmers Federation, the Pest Plant Control Commission, the media, the Bureau of Meteorology and landholders. Everyone worked together and it showed that when you do that the result is a lot better.

The predictions were for tens to hundreds of millions of dollars damage to occur, and we reduced that right back. There was enormous concern about what could happen. Even going to the South-East to see the signs warning people to stay vigilant showed how wide the level of concern went. It was unfortunate that you could not prevent all damage, and certainly in the pastoral area where there were large hatchings damage could not be prevented. In the wash-up, there was little damage to vineyards or crops, which was a magnificent result, looking at where we had come from. The fact that we had a record crop meant that it was absolutely vital that we were able to do this well.

It set a new benchmark for locust campaigns. Certainly, South Australia was a big winner, and the South Australian economy reaped the benefits of what was a terrific cooperative effort. With the importance of trade within the industry, foremost in our mind was the issue of residues. In the past, free chemicals had been given to farmers and, when we said this year that we would not do that, there was some opposition, but I think people now see that that was the best decision. We focused the campaign on stopping fly-ins and, when it was used we used local government to train people to do it. As a result of the way in which we conducted the program this year, we experienced no lost-time accidents at all and, despite a lot of testing, no residues were discovered in grain or stock, which was very important.

Quite a bit of surveying is being carried out in both the channel country and the northern areas of South Australia, and the numbers are extremely low—it has been dry there. That, along with the fact that the campaign worked so well here, we hope that, in the coming season, if we have any need for a campaign it would be extremely small, and that will also save a lot of expenditure. Again, I thank the member for Stuart for his cooperation and the way in which he was able to help me talk to local government in that area to ensure that we all worked together in what was a very successful campaign.

#### WESTPAC MORTGAGE PROCESSING CENTRE

**Ms RANKINE (Wright):** My question is directed to the Premier. Given his statement in this House on Tuesday that he expected job increases at the Westpac mortgage processing centre, and that Westpac would honour all undertakings made to the government and the work force at the Lockleys centre, is the Premier aware, and is he concerned, that Westpac has stated that its motive for outsourcing is to upgrade its IT

platform and that there is a likelihood of job cuts, whether or not the outsourcing proceeds? In a letter dated 3 May, Westpac's head of Secured Lending, Mr Mike Dilworth, states:

As the service provider introduces new technology, it is likely that employee numbers required would reduce. The impact of new technology on staff numbers would not differ if the TMC remained with Westpac.

An employee briefing notice from the company dated 30 April further states:

Outsourcing provides us with a cost effective means of upgrading our technology.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier):** No, I am not aware of his statements. I am relying on my discussions with the Managing Director of Westpac, Mr David Morgan, who indicated to me that the reason Westpac is exploring the option with EDS and Unisys is that both companies would have a capacity to add on a range of other mortgage processing contracts with other private sector Australian firms; and that a number of companies perhaps felt constrained to work with a particular financial institution whereas a processing company, such as an EDS or a Unisys, might well have a greater opportunity to grow the number of contracts put in place for processing at the mortgage loan processing centre. It was clearly put to me in the context that this was an opportunity for growth, not that it had the capacity for contraction.

If the member for Wright is then introducing a new angle, which would be whether modern technology introduced to any company creates changes in staff numbers, of course it does and will. That is a set of circumstances that can and will unfold at any time with an organisation. But as it relates to the outsourcing, it has been quite clear in the discussions and views that have been put to me, and I reiterated those to the House this week.

Further, I can assure the member that, in any discussions we subsequently have with either of the two proposed prospective bidders, or with Westpac subsequent to its consideration of any proposals that are put to it (and, as I mentioned, that is several months away), we will be looking to ensure that the position and commitments given to the government of South Australia are maintained, and that relates to employee numbers.

Of course, the member also needs to understand that Westpac grew this business well beyond the contractual commitments. Its contractual commitment for South Australia was 900 employees. It is well above that; the figure is approximately 1 400 full-time equivalents. That amounts to close to 2 000 persons being employed within the facility. So they are well beyond what they were contractually obliged to commit to in response to government support to establish a mortgage loan processing centre in South Australia. Again, I add that in any discussions that will take place with either the proposed bidders or with Westpac after it gives consideration to it, uppermost in our mind will be fulfilment of contractual obligations, commitment to employee numbers and capacity to grow the business.

#### MINERALS INDUSTRY

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Will the Minister for Minerals and Energy advise the House on the new computer mapping initiative for the minerals industry and how it would benefit future mining opportunities?



**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Minerals and Energy):** The member for Flinders has a keen interest in the expansion of the minerals industry in her electorate; indeed, she has many prospective areas within the electorate of Flinders. This initiative will help bring forward many of the programs she desires to occur in her local area. I am pleased to advise the House today about a geoserver initiative that has been implemented recently by our government. Regrettably, the title is somewhat jargonistic, as is the way with new computer systems. It is called SARIG (South Australian Resources Industry Geoserver). In plain speak, we have put vital scientific mapping information that has been collated by the department over decades into a format where it is easily accessible. That means that the minerals industry has the opportunity to obtain valuable information about prospective areas in the state not only for future exploration but also from that future mining initiatives.

The computer program that has been made available to put forward this information has been developed over the past 12 months. It has been an intensive exercise not simply to develop the computer program but also to scan the data made available through it. Now companies can use the internet to get the latest information about opportunities in mining in South Australia wherever they are in the world. This will help revolutionise the way the mining industry approaches South Australia. This initiative was recommended by the state government's resources task force which, of course, was established by the Premier over 12 months ago. In its report, it recommended that data of this type be available. In doing this, we are the first jurisdiction in Australia—in fact, we believe we are the first jurisdiction in the world—to make available in such a way this quality and quantity of information about prospectivity. It means that explorers can now get access to review a wide range of South Australia's geoscientific data. They can identify from that areas they believe are potentially beneficial if they explore them.

It also enables them to have a look at current tenements so that if a company looks at the data about our state and sees it as an opportunity, it will be advised if another company already has a hold on that area for exploration. It can also foster partnership opportunities. Importantly, they can apply for a licence and pay for it over the web. So they no longer have to go into an office to make that sort of contact. When you consider the mining industry is used to operating from remote locations, as long as they have a telephone line access and can get into the World Wide Web, they will be able to undertake this business.

The application has already been well received by the minerals industry which has been given some exposure to it in the past 1½ weeks. We as a state are keen to expand the competition in our mining industry in this state for prospective areas, and we have now sent the message to the industry that South Australia is well and truly open for business. The web site can be accessed through the address 'www.minerals.pir.sa.gov.au'. I look forward to a future occasion when I can report to the House the success of this initiative as the benefits come forward.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** It is interesting that the honourable member opposite would interject. I would have thought the last group in this House who would want to interject are members of the Labor Party, particularly about the mining industry: you lot have a pretty sorry record when it comes to the mining industry in this state. This initiative has been made possible after seven years of responsible

economic management by this government's freeing up the funds to make initiatives such as this possible.

**Mr CLARKE:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. According to standing order 98, the minister is debating the answer to the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I uphold the point of order and bring the minister back to his question.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It disturbs me when the Labor Party would yet again attack issues in relation to the mining sector. The mining industry has returned to our state a record royalty figure, and I have reported that to the parliament before. The project that Labor called 'the mirage in the desert', Roxby Downs, has been a good provider for this state in terms of jobs and returns. What we want to encourage through this initiative is more such opportunities in places such as the member for Flinders' electorate, which covers a considerable portion of the Gawler Craton, considerably prospective, providing opportunity for jobs, growth and economic viability; the Curnamona Province, again, another opportunity for the state; and Musgrave Rock—three exciting areas of exploration (almost unexplored in some areas and certainly under explored). This initiative—whether or not the Labor Party likes it—will bring more mining opportunities into South Australia.

#### LIBERAL PARTY FUNDRAISERS

**Ms KEY (Hanson):** Does the Premier believe that it is appropriate for ministers to solicit money from public servants for Liberal Party fundraisers and, if not, will he take action to ensure that such practices are not occurring and that, if any taxpayers' funds are received by the Liberal Party branches in this way, they are refunded to the public purse? The opposition has received a copy of a letter from the Minister for Water Resources inviting people to Australian Breakfast at the Radisson Playford tomorrow morning. The letter says—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms KEY:**—that tomorrow's budget breakfast (which the minister was promoting in the House yesterday) will be addressed by the Premier, and the cost is \$30 per head, or \$300 for a table of 10, with the cheques to be made payable to the Kings Park branch of the Liberal Party. The opposition has been advised—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms KEY:** The opposition has been advised that the letter has been sent to public servants in their official capacity as executive officers of a range of taxpayer funded boards and councils in the minister's portfolio.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier):** I am personally unaware of the particular circumstances that the member draws to my attention. I just highlight the fact that a table of 10 at \$300 is a lot different from a table of 10 at \$2 500 for your show last Tuesday night—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** Only a couple of hundred. Anyway, I am sure that, if anyone voluntarily and on their own initiative wanted to go, they would be paying for it themselves.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hartley has the call.

*Mr Foley interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*The Hon. J.W. Olsen interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the Premier!

### PRISON ESCAPEES

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** Will the Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency services provide to the House information regarding the prison escapees who have been the topic of discussion in the media recently?

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services):** There has been some media coverage in recent days about eight people who, over a long period—in fact, going back about a decade—have been unlawfully at large (four of whom escaped from the prison system), and about whether or not their names and photographs could be published in the media. On being advised of this issue and then checking the policy that the department had in place, I sought legal advice from my senior legal adviser. On the basis of that advice, I immediately decided that the interpretation that the department had put onto that particular section of the act was too tight; and, whilst it did err on the side of caution (it is a great department with very committed officers), I made the immediate decision to release the names and the photographs of those prisoners.

It is important, whilst we are working hard to make sure that we do not have any escapes from our prison system, that if people do escape from jail they are put back behind bars immediately. That is the desire of the government and, obviously, the community of South Australia. As members may have seen today, the photographs of nine of those prisoners were printed in the media. Under the provisions of the act, two prisoners could not be included because one of them is now in custody in Western Australia and the other is under the management of the Correctional Services Department in Queensland.

I was very pleased to see that, as a result of that decision and the material that was in the *Advertiser* yesterday morning, one of those prisoners at large actually decided to give himself up; and I would encourage those others who are out there to do the same thing.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** No, they read the *Advertiser*. The consequences of escape are very serious. The fact that they are staying at large only compounds that situation. In completing this answer, I am very pleased to advise that I did a little more homework on matters surrounding escapes and can report that, since 1992-1993 to the end of the financial year 1999-2000, I am pleased to see that under our government there has been a decrease of 61 per cent in the escape rate compared to that when the Labor Party was in government. This comes at a time where, over the same period, we have seen an increase of 17.6 per cent in prison numbers in South Australia. This shows that we are tough in every way when it comes to law and order, and it also shows that the department has come a long way in addressing what is always a challenge to it, and that is the issue surrounding escapes in any prison system.

### EDUCATION, SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

**Ms WHITE (Taylor):** Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services confirm that his department is doing work on costing educational support services, such as

guidance, special education, behaviour support, speech therapy and instrumental music teaching so that these services can be sold to Partnerships 21 schools and preschools? Although these services are not included in Partnerships 21 global budgets, and schools are not currently charged for them, the opposition has been told that the minister's department is planning to set them up as a business unit of government that sells its services to schools.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** One of the excellent facts of Partnerships 21 is the flexibility that is given to the schools, especially in terms of schools actually having the choice to purchase whatever services they require. It is a matter of whether they purchase additional SS0 officers to reduce class sizes and give one on one literacy and numeracy guidance to children who are in the classroom, or whether they purchase for their school services that are outside the education department. That is the flexibility that the Labor Party hates to see being given to our local schools. It does not like it because it takes it away from the bureaucracy; it takes it away from the government making decisions for the schools; and it puts it in the hands of the local communities. That is exactly what it does not want to happen because it wants to keep total control.

The Liberal Party does not stand for that. We stand for giving schools the choice and giving them the ability to make their own decisions to ensure that what they decide suits their own local community. We know that in Ceduna there are different circumstances from what there are in Mount Gambier, Ingle Farm, or wherever else. Partnerships 21 schools are being able to make that decision and fitting education to their own children in their own area is the big advantage of P21. In relation to the issues that the member has raised, I will have a discussion with the P21 coordinator to assess whether those investigations are being undertaken.

### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen):** Can the Minister for Minerals and Energy advise the House how South Australians will benefit from sustainable energy initiatives recently introduced; and, further, will he provide details to the House regarding the energy web site that has come online recently?

**Mr CLARKE:** I rise on a point of order, sir. The question relates to information that is publicly available. The member himself referred to information which is on the internet and which is freely available to all members.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Chair is well aware of the point of order. Until the minister gives me a response and I know the areas he is going to canvass, I can hardly rule him out of order. The minister.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Minerals and Energy):** The member for Heysen during his time in this parliament has been a champion of alternative energy initiatives and during his time as environment minister he proposed many such initiatives. It is fair to say there has been only one thing thwarting the member for Heysen in his endeavour to put many things in place, that is, the past economic management of the state.

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** If the member for Peake listens, he might learn something for a change—although in his case that seems unlikely. The only thing thwarting opportunity in this state has been the bad economic manage-

ment of the past Labor government. After seven years of responsible management we now have the opportunity to put in place some initiatives, many of which were put forward by the member for Heysen.

I am pleased to advise the House that considerable change is starting to be put in place in relation to delivering sustainable and renewable energy opportunities in South Australia. That change has occurred through, first, focusing on the former Office of Energy Policy. When that office was established in the 1980s, it was a good initiative for its day but it was time for it to move forward. The office has now been changed. It will now be known as Energy SA. Energy SA has the task—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I am sorry to interrupt the minister but there is too much conversation on a one-to-one basis going across the chamber.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection. It disappoints me—as no doubt it disappoints you, sir—that Labor members do not want to listen to these initiatives but, of course, it is good news and the last thing they want to hear is good news. Whether or not that is what they want, that is what is being delivered. Energy SA is now in a position, with its additional budget of \$1.29 million, not only to continue our partnership services with the commonwealth but also to introduce a range of new services.

As the member alluded to in his question, those services are being advertised through the government's new energy web site [www.energy.sa.gov.au](http://www.energy.sa.gov.au). That site will provide the member for Ross Smith with a lot of information. He might even like to take the opportunity to teach the member for Peake how to use a computer so he, too, can access this sort of information. The information and assistance being provided by the office include things such as photovoltaic rebate grants (in partnership with the commonwealth government) and the remote renewable power generation grants (again, in partnership with our commonwealth colleagues). I know these two particular initiatives have been strongly supported by a number of my colleagues, in particular, the member for Stuart. He has championed those issues, as has the member for Flinders, both recognising the benefits that they provide to their communities. Also, through the office we will be supporting the Cities for Climate Change—

*The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:*

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** It amazes me that the Leader of the Opposition would dare interject, particularly on budget day. Today we are outlining changes that have been made possible through seven years—

**Mr CLARKE:** On a point of order, I refer to standing order 98. The minister is debating the answer. Also, I again draw your attention to Erskine May, point 8 on page 300, which states that questions seeking information which is available in an accessible document should not be allowed.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I do not uphold the second point of order, but I do bring the minister back to the question.

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** I take a further point of order. Is this not allowing the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to defend the rights—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the member for Bragg!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the Leader of the Opposition. The Minister for Minerals and Energy.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Thank you for your protection: it is much appreciated, sir. It amazes me that programs like these that are made possible through seven years of responsible economic management would be criticised by the Leader of the Opposition, because he would not know a good economic manager if he fell over one. He has demonstrated that through some of his earlier statements. He is the—

**Mr CONLON:** Not only do I take again the point of order about standing order 98, but this is the second time today that the minister has merely ignored your ruling when you have called him back to order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I uphold the point of order. I suggest that the minister keep to the question he has been asked.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Thank you again for your protection, sir. In addition, through Energy SA we will continue to support the management and expertise within the Cities for Climate Change, and many cities within our state are involved in that. I am pleased to see local councils also committed to that project. A number of targeted technical advisory services will be provided through Energy SA, and there will be increased seed funding for a variety of projects that will be progressively announced over the next few weeks.

Importantly, it will also provide opportunities for education about sustainable energy—and opportunities within this state. The people in Energy SA, together with government workers in Industry and Trade, are also working on some 34 exciting sustainable renewable energy initiatives at this time, two of which I have detailed in the chamber previously: wind power initiatives in each of the South-East and the West Coast of the state. The office is also the office providing information to the public and opportunities to access grants for hot water systems that are solar powered, an initiative that I know the member for Heysen has been eager to see put in place for a considerable time.

Again, through responsible economic management, we now have the moneys freed up to make this possible. People who install a new hot water service that is solar powered will receive a rebate of \$500 to \$700 for the installation of that system, bringing it down in price to a level that is far more cost-competitive with conventionally powered systems. In addition, the cost of these units can be further decreased—

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** I am not sure what the rabble opposite is on about now, but I will continue.

**Mr Conlon:** Let me make it clear for you: you're boring!

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I would ask the minister to consider winding up his answer.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** I will wind it up at your direction, sir, but I have also received some bad encouragement from my colleagues over the question of length, and I am trying to keep everyone happy in this. Importantly, the office is there to move forward sustainable renewable energy opportunities in our state, and the initiative with hot water services is but one. In closing—

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** The member for Ross Smith might be interested to hear this, because it is of benefit to his constituents. As a candidate for Enfield, I thought that he would want this information. I will provide him with an information pack for them. The office can also offer advice about renewable trading certificates for energy. Through the

commonwealth government, South Australians who are involved in programs which reduce greenhouse gas emission are issued with certificates that can be on-sold. Certificate buyers are just establishing in our market now, but for a solar hot water service we estimate that an additional \$400 to \$500 will be available to purchasers by on-selling their renewable energy certificate. That is an important initiative in which, I would hope, members of the Labor Party are interested.

**Mr CLARKE:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, this has been degenerating into a farce. I refer to standing order 98. How many other standing orders do I have to give you, sir?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member knows full well that the minister is not in breach of the standing order that he has just mentioned. The minister was providing facts. He was not straying into debate. I have already asked the minister to wind up. Has the minister now finished?

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Yes, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** He has.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey):** They say never follow children or animals, don't they!

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms BEDFORD:** My question is directed to the Minister for Human Services. Given that demand for domestic violence services is increasing, why has the minister proceeded with a model for domestic violence crisis services that is not the preferred model of the DVCS, the Crisis Response and Child Abuse Service and the Adelaide Central Mission? Will he now undertake to implement a three month review process consulting these bodies, placing weight on their views and experiences as key providers in this area?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services):** I am sorry; I could not hear what the honourable member was saying. However, I will undertake to get an answer to her question. I understood it was something to do with domestic violence or domestic violence services. I also understand that some of the issues I think she has raised relate not only to my department but also to that of the Attorney-General, so it will require a considered reply, and I will certainly get that.

### SMOKING

**Mr CONDOUS (Colton):** Can the Minister for Human Services advise the House of the impact of the campaign to reduce smoking in the workplace?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services):** Last year we launched a public program to make sure that there was greater understanding amongst employers of the risks of having smoking within the workplace. Within South Australia, two-thirds of workplaces are already smoke-free, and our campaign was aimed particularly at smaller workplaces with less than 50 employees, where we know that a considerable number of people are still smoking within the workplace.

I am delighted to say that, as a result of the campaign, 355 workplaces contacted the department to seek additional information. They ran actual programs and courses in 50 workplaces. Some 232 workers have so far availed themselves of the subsidised nicotine patch program to encourage them to quit smoking. I can also indicate that we have made funding available so that at least 500 people will be able to access that subsidised nicotine patch program. Our aim is to

further and very substantially reduce the number of workplaces where smoking takes place.

This is part of a campaign in conjunction with smoking in confined spaces, particularly the program where adults are smoking in front of children in the family car and the family home, where I believe we can make a substantial difference here in South Australia.

The good news is that South Australia currently has the lowest incidence of smoking of any state or territory in Australia. We are about 17 per cent below the national average. The other good news is that over the last two and a half years the incidence of smoking in South Australia has dropped by almost 10 per cent. So, the programs are working, and we want to make sure that in key areas those programs continue.

### MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

**Mr De LAINE (Price):** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier (who seems to have disappeared), representing the Attorney-General in another place. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House of why a constituent was refused a registration renewal on her motor vehicle because she had an outstanding parking infringement notice and how the registration and licensing division gained this information? The constituent has informed me that she received a parking infringement notice from the Adelaide City Council. She was a day late in paying the fine and during the time she was in the process of paying the fine, plus a late payment penalty, she was refused the right to renew her vehicle registration because of the outstanding parking fine. My constituent was concerned as to how the registration and licensing division knew of her outstanding fine and feels that this inappropriate procedure could force defaulters or tardy fine payers to drive unregistered and uninsured vehicles.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier):** I thank the honourable member for the question. He has raised the issue with me. I will take it up with the Attorney-General and come back with a considered reply.

### VICTOR HARBOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop):** My question is directed to the Minister for Government Enterprises. Could the minister advise the House of the outcomes of the Victor Harbor waste water treatment plant consultative process?

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Government Enterprises):** I thank the member for MacKillop for his question, which is about one of the really great advances of the environment as a direct flow-on from the capital works programs of the government. We have put in place the state's largest infrastructure project to improve the local marine environment. We had to do that because it had been neglected. The environmental improvement program is a result of major upgrades of our waste water treatment plants and obviously the benefits are quite substantial in that a smaller amount of treated waste water goes into the marine environment and the water discharged contains far fewer nutrients to impact on the environment, such as the seagrasses and so on.

The EIP is a \$235 million project providing for major upgrades of the Bolivar, Glenelg and Christies Beach treatment plants and the relocation of the Port Adelaide plant to an expanded Bolivar treatment plant, thus ending the outflows into the Port River. That is one of the most major

advances of this whole program, yet what I found quite extraordinary was that the member for Elder on radio last night indicated that there had been a blow-out in our environmental improvement program from \$210 million to \$235 million. The blow-out, so-called, comes from two things: first, an inflation from 1997 to 2000 prices but—

**Mr Conlon:** It is the GST.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** No, it is not the GST. The vast majority comes from the fact that we decided to remove all waste water going into the Port River.

*Mr Conlon interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** I know the member for Hart knows it because when I announced the program the members for Hart and Lee were extraordinarily enthusiastic about this program. They were in fact delighted about it. I find it interesting that the member for Hart was so enthusiastic about this, yet the member for Elder clearly wishes we were not doing it. I thought they were actually a team. At one stage they were flipping the sausages together. Obviously that is no longer the case.

The question was about Victor Harbor so, I am sorry, I got carried away. It is really pleasing to announce at this stage that, as the member for Finnis would know only too well, the results of a detailed consultation process with the constituents in Victor Harbor have led to Victor Harbor's being yet another beneficiary of our major environmental improvement program. The project is a \$28.5 million waste water treatment upgrade. It is on a new site in Victor Harbor and, most importantly from my perspective as Minister for Government Enterprises, it is utilising the newest possible technology, and that is a real bonus.

It is directly in line with the community consultation process and it is directly in line with what the community wanted. It is, in fact, a more expensive option than the one that the government was first looking at but, clearly, it indicates—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many audible conversations on my right.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** Thank you, sir. Clearly, it indicates that the government has listened, and that the member for Finnis, in making his representations, has also been listened to. The treated water will be of the very highest quality comparable with the best in Australia. There is a great opportunity for reuse as we are going to put this class A water into the soon to be decommissioned Hindmarsh Valley reservoir. Work is due to commence in mid-2002 after the design work is finished and the project will be completed in about 12 months.

It is the fastest growing area in South Australia so, obviously, we need to make sure that the waste water and those sorts of matters are well looked after and, frankly, it is part of a larger program to help protect our marine environment with which, indeed, I am thrilled.

#### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND STOCK FOODS

**Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith):** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier in his capacity as Minister for Primary Industries and Resources. Given recent public concern on the issue of fruit-fly spraying in metropolitan Adelaide, coupled with the minister's statement on 12 September 2000 that 'there is no requirement for users of agricultural chemicals to minimise off-target application of sprays,' when will he

release the government's response to its October 1998 green paper entitled 'Comments on draft review and consolidation of legislation relating to the regulation of agricultural chemicals and stock foods.'

In October 1998, the minister issued his green paper, inviting public comment on it by the end of January 1999. Since that date the minister has not made public the government's response to the public comment on the green paper and no legislation has been tabled in the Parliament.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Minister for Primary Industries and Resources):** I asked the same question of the department yesterday morning and I was promised that I would have the draft reply within—

**Mr Clarke:** You are the minister.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** That is why I asked the department yesterday.

**Mr Clarke:** It is 2½ half years behind.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** No, it is not 2½ years behind. It is on the way to me and the response will be forthcoming.

#### TOURISM FUNDING

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** Will the Minister for Tourism inform the House of the various state government funding opportunities available to the tourism regions of South Australia?

**The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism):** I thank the member for Schubert for his question, because his electorate is one that has taken enormous advantage of so many of the programs that are available to regional areas for tourism investment.

**The Hon. R.L. Brokenshire:** So has mine.

**The Hon. J. HALL:** I know that my colleague the minister's electorate has, too. One aspect of the investment that has taken place in regional Australia is that the results are now starting to speak for themselves because visitor numbers and visitor nights have increased dramatically not only in the city but also very dramatically across all regions of our state at local, national and international levels. We are very proud of that because not only does that generate a lot of economic activity but it also certainly generates increased employment, particularly in some regions of the Barossa and the South-East.

Essentially, three main areas are available for regional areas to take advantage of tourism investment: marketing, regional events and special festivals, and infrastructure investment. In the area of marketing the success has been welcomed by the regions, because there is a new formula. Most of the regions are gaining more dollars to be spent specifically on marketing activities rather than just having to look after their membership base.

**The Hon. D.C. Wotton:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. J. HALL:** I note the member for Heysen applauds that. The job that is being done in the Adelaide Hills marketing is quite exceptional, and I know they are starting to see the benefits of a focused and concentrated marketing campaign. The other area is events, and in most regions that is particularly important, because of the spin-on effects that so many of the regional events and festivals create. I could go through a whole range of them, but I will not. I think a couple are very important: the Renmark rose festival, which has enormous spin-off benefits; and the Port MacDonnell Bayside Festival on the Limestone Coast. The enormous involvement and stakeholder benefit that is coming out of that

festival has surprised many of the local individuals, and there are many more to come.

Two other events will have an enormous impact on the regions next year: the Year of the Outback, which I am sure the House will hear me talk about over coming months, and the program Encounter 2002. That will benefit a lot of the coastal communities in particular, and the areas that have already benefited from this program are quite significant. They range from Kangaroo Island, Whyalla, Port Lincoln, areas of Yorke Peninsula, Robe, Streaky Bay and Victor Harbor. Some of those projects and programs will be welcomed by many members of this chamber.

I am also pleased about the spin-off effects coming from our infrastructure investment. Some of these activities are worth repeating. However, the most important thing is that \$1 million is being spent annually in the regions, and the next round of infrastructure grants will be called in September. Some of the activities that have been supported are particularly important, because it is able to generate extra funds in the regions for these projects. Sometimes that is from the local government communities, and I applaud local government for their responsibility and the enthusiasm with which they are embracing the tourism projects in the regions.

Local communities and private sector investment often supplement tourism infrastructure funds. I could give many examples, but I will not do that, because that would be inappropriate. However, many will be released over coming months, and I hope that members of this House will take advantage of the great tourism product which now exists and of which people are extremely proud in our regions.

I conclude my remarks by reminding the House that South Australia has an area of just less than one million square kilometres, and we have a coastline of 3 700 kilometres. The infrastructure that is required to service and promote so many of the areas that that embraces is quite expensive. So, infrastructure programs and event and marketing support are most important to make sure that we maximise the benefits from tourism investment.

### EDUCATION, SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

**Ms WHITE (Taylor):** Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services rule out charging individual schools for student support services such as guidance, special education, behaviour support and speech therapy that are not included in their global budgets?

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I have advised the member for Taylor that I will seek information about whether this is occurring. We know from previous questions and releases from the Labor party that they are misleading and often fabricated. The question is: are they occurring? That is what I have undertaken to investigate.

**Ms WHITE:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. My question was: will the minister rule out charging schools?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member will resume her seat. There is no point of order. Has the minister completed his reply?

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** As I said in answer to the member for Taylor's earlier question, I will investigate whether or not these matters are being addressed. I will not take her word for it, because hers would be the last one I would want to take. I will investigate whether it is happening and then I will provide an answer to the House.

### ENVIRONMENT SHOP

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite):** Will the Minister for Environment and Heritage update the House on government efforts to provide information products and services on the environment in Adelaide?

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Environment and Heritage):** In part, this follows on from the question asked of the Minister for Tourism regarding the increase in tourism and tourism facilities. We have just updated the environment shop in Grenfell Street to the tune of \$250 000, from memory, on time and on budget, as a way of enhancing the environment shop as a one stop shop for people interested in our environment, and indeed tourism programs.

Much of the tourism to which the Minister for Tourism referred occurs within our national parks or as a result of our state's environment. The Naracoorte Caves would be a good example of where tourism has virtually doubled since we installed some very good visitor facilities. Another example would be the Innes National Park where we have also provided very good visitor facilities.

Over the last year, we have upgraded the environment shop. About 2 000 people a month visit the environment shop and it receives about that many phone calls as well. There is a growing interest in environmental matters, and so providing a good facility, a one stop shop, is important. We have gone to some trouble in upgrading the shop to use environmentally sensitive materials both in the stock that is sold and also in the items on display. A lot of recyclable material has been used throughout the shop to create a certain atmosphere and promote environmental factors within the shop.

We have also expanded the range of products within the store. Not only is there detailed environmental information such as research reports, park management plans and so on available but information regarding tourism, postcards and other environmental gifts are also now available within the shop in an effort to provide a wider range of services to the general public. With IT developments the way they are, we have provided more internet services and computers are now available within the environment shop to allow people to log onto various environmental programs available on the web.

We have also designed the shop so that the shelves can be moved very easily to enable lectures and teaching to occur within certain parts of the shop. I understand that during World Environment Day next week some information classes and so on will be held in the environment shop. It is far more flexible and far more useable to the general public and I would encourage members of parliament who have not visited the environment shop of late to do so and to enjoy what has been a successful upgrade of the store.

### ADELAIDE AQUATIC CENTRE

**Mr HANNA (Mitchell):** My question is directed to the Minister for Recreation and Sport. In respect of the government's proposal to build a new aquatic centre which I announced in the House on Tuesday this week—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr HANNA:** I will send you a copy of *Hansard*.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I raise the question of misleading the House. Is the member—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The minister will resume his seat.

**Mr HANNA:** In respect of the government's proposal to build a new aquatic centre, which I announced in the House on Tuesday this week, how soon will the government take steps to secure the site at the Marion domain in the face of financial and political pressure on the Marion council to finalise development of the currently vacant site?

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** In relation to any announcement about the Marion swimming centre, I suggest that the member waits about one minute. The Treasurer will be here and all matters will be revealed for the member to consider whether or not there is an announcement.

### MURRAY RIVER

**Mr MEIER (Goyder):** My question is directed to the Minister for Water Resources. Recognising the importance of the Murray River to the whole of South Australia, can the minister provide an update on salt levels in the Murray and any action being taken in that respect?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! We have a point of order from the member for Ross Smith.

**Mr CLARKE:** That information is readily available on the government web site and in government documentation, and it is readily available to all members.

**The SPEAKER:** I ruled on that point of order earlier today and made the point that until the minister actually starts to speak I do not know what he is going to say and whether he is in order or out of order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

**Mr CLARKE:** You do not have to wait for the answer: it is the question. Erskine May on page 300 says, 'Moreover, questions requiring information set forth in accessible documents have not been allowed when the member concerned could obtain the information of his own accord without difficulty.' It is not the answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I think you have to bear in mind that if that was the case I would be standing here every day disallowing most questions that would be asked. If that is what members want, I suggest that they remember that as the years go on, and as people shift seats in this chamber, it may not be what everyone wants. The Minister for Water Resources.

**The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL (Minister for Water Resources):** I would have been pleased to finish this answer to the House three minutes ago had it not been for the member for Ross Smith. The Treasurer will go through the financials of this government, so there is no point during that now. All I wish to say is that in the member for Chaffey's electorate there was recently, as part of Water Watch, a Salt Watch week that involved young people in the schools there. The young people in the schools are taking Salt Watch seriously, and I commend their efforts to the House as an example.

### BUDGET PAPERS

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier):** I lay on the table the following budget papers: Budget Paper No. 1, Budget at a Glance 2001-2002; Budget Paper No. 2, Budget Speech 2001-2002; Budget Paper No. 3, Budget Statement 2001-2002; Budget Paper No. 4, Estimates Statement 2001-2002; Budget Paper No. 5, Portfolio Statement, Volumes 1 and 2, 2001-2002; Budget Paper No. 6, Capital Investment Statement 2001-2002; Budget Paper No. 7, Employment Statement 2001-2002; Budget Paper No. 8, Regional South Australia: Making a Difference 2001-2002; and I move:

That budget papers Nos 3, 4, 5 and 6 be published.

Motion carried.

### APPROPRIATION BILL

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier)** obtained leave and introduced a bill for act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the year ending 30 June 2002 and for other purposes. Read a first time.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** I move:

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

**The SPEAKER:** Does the Premier wish to have leave to continue his remarks?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** Yes, sir.

Leave granted.

**The SPEAKER:** Admit the honourable Treasurer.

*The Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas) was admitted to the chamber.*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** Mr Speaker, today heralds a new chapter in the budget management of this State. Today we are turning the page.

The first chapter was one of repair—Budget repair—after the Labor Government left us with a State in fiscal trauma, the work done in those early years following the State Bank and SGIC disasters was essentially ambulance work, patching the fiscal wounds of the past.

The second chapter could best be described as Restructure. With the fiscal wounds bandaged, it was time to take the hard decisions and set about building a sound platform for the future of South Australia. Such a platform required budget discipline and a new direction in business risk management.

Mr Speaker, we have delivered such a platform: budget discipline, incorporating balanced budgets, significant reductions in our debt levels, and unprecedented reforms in the ownership, management and regulation of government businesses. This discipline now provides a solid basis for the next chapter in the budget management of this State—Reinvestment in our future.

Such discipline does not come without effort. Turning the page on the chapters of repair and restructure, this budget re-invests in the future of our State through improved community services and infrastructure.

Last year the Government outlined a significant reduction in the Emergency Services Levy and the employment of 113 extra police and 27 staff as the first tangible signs of budget flexibility.

This budget continues that reinvestment with:

an Older South Australians Package with increased concessions and targeted service improvements  
a comprehensive Jobs Package including the largest ever payroll tax cuts in our history

increased spending on health, more police officers and new programs in education.

Mr Speaker, before outlining the details of the Government's reinvestment program it is important to summarise briefly the Government's record and in particular its record as measured against the four-year financial plan laid down in the 1998-99 Budget.

In today's dollars the Government inherited a net debt level of just over \$10 billion in 1993-94 and that has now been reduced to about \$3.3 billion. As a direct consequence of the sale/lease of our electricity assets, \$4.9 billion of the proceeds have been directed to reducing our net debt.

While total public sector net debt is now \$3.3 billion it is important to note that when the debt of commercial agencies like SA Water and others are excluded the general government sector net debt is now only \$1.2 billion.

Reductions in debt levels as a result of the ETSA sale/lease, mean government interest costs will be reduced by \$279 million in 2001-02.

Government savings on interest costs each year will obviously depend on the average level of interest rates in that year. This means that if interest rates return to the actual levels in 1989 of 15.2% the interest savings as a result of the ETSA proceeds would be \$745 million. Similarly if interest rates returned to 1994 levels of 9.03% the interest savings would be \$442 million.

The Government's record of fiscal repair also shows that unfunded superannuation liabilities have been reduced from the peak of \$4.3 billion in 1993 to now just \$3.3 billion. The annual budget deficit the Government inherited of over \$300 million has now been removed and we have produced a small surplus of just \$3 million this year and there will also be balanced budgets for next year and the forward estimates.

Finally the Government inherited an unfunded WorkCover liability which peaked at \$275 million in 1995 and this has now been reduced to just \$22 million.

So Mr Speaker the Government's record of fiscal repair shows significant improvement in all areas including net debt, unfunded superannuation liabilities, unfunded WorkCover liabilities and the annual budget balance.

This restructure of the State's financial position has created significant flexibility and thus opportunity.

This is an opportunity that must be seized not squandered.

One of the important features of the Government's budget strategy has been that the forward estimates continue to provide a structured avenue for meeting unexpected cost pressures and new policy initiatives approved by Cabinet. This budget continues that sensible planning parameter and the Government will announce further policy decisions over the next 12 months.

Mr Speaker, salaries and wages and associated payments are the largest single outlay for the Government and are expected to be around \$3.8 billion next year.

The 2001-02 Budget includes funding provisions for new enterprise agreements established during 2000-01 for teachers, medical officers and nurses. Similar provisions are in place to allow for increases in police salaries. These provisions allow for modest wage increases without impacting adversely on the level or quality of services available to the community.

Any significant unbudgeted movement in these costs will have major impacts on service delivery or funding requirements.

This policy of providing for reasonable wage increases has been the subject of attacks in the past and some have claimed it to be a recipe for a wages blow-out.

The Government is pleased to once again advise that wages outcomes have been managed in a way that has prevented such blow-outs. The success of our prudent, common sense management of public sector wages is evidenced by ABS data showing that public sector earnings between August 1994 and February 2001 grew at an annual average of 4.7%. This was the most moderate of all the mainland States and below Victoria's increase of 5.3% and 5.0% in New South Wales.

In addition, public sector wages growth in South Australia since November 1997 has been 17.9% just below the comparative private sector wage growth figures of 18.9%.

Along with the significant results that flow to the budget through the restructuring of financial arrangements at the macro level through asset sales, and fiscal responsibility, significant benefits also flow through efficiency reforms.

There is always scope for improvement through the elimination of duplication, improvement in processes and reduction in over-expenditure and waste.

By targeting these areas we have the opportunity to create capacity within the budget to pursue new initiatives and meet cost pressures.

The Government can not afford to ignore these opportunities.

Last year, the Government set a target of reducing total public sector expenditure on consultants by at least \$40 million over two years. To achieve this, non-commercial agencies were set a target of achieving a 20% reduction in consultancy expenditures over two years to help fund new initiatives.

This 20% reduction is on target. The \$40 million reduction is also on target and should see consultancy costs decline from about \$105 million in 1999-2000 to below \$65 million next year.

Mr Speaker, in this budget the Government has adopted two additional strategies designed to free up an additional \$20 million, which will be retained by agencies and used to directly support the provision of additional services to the South Australian public.

Agencies will be required to adopt a targeted reduction of 5% in the number of administrative executive positions in portfolios. This strategy will provide for an effective transfer of resources away from red tape and back to the provision of services at a grass roots level. More indians and less chiefs.

In addition, in order to satisfy funding for new initiatives and emerging cost pressures on the provision of essential public services, agencies will be required to identify an additional 1% efficiency measure across all non-salary costs (excluding Commonwealth funded programs).

As an additional incentive to rejuvenate and restructure the service delivery capacity of the public sector, portfolios will have access to an Enhanced Targeted Voluntary Separation Package scheme. This scheme has been designed to foster restructuring on the grounds of efficiency and to support the recruitment of graduate officers thus creating a public sector which is better equipped to meet the service delivery needs of the future.

Mr Speaker, once again this government is delivering a responsible financial blueprint for the coming year and the books are balanced over the forward estimates horizon.

We continue to live within our means.



**REVENUE**

Mr Speaker, this budget contains no new taxes.

This budget contains no tax increases.

In fact this budget contains significant tax reductions.

Consistent with this Government's 1997 election commitment to ensure the State has a competitive tax regime for business and job creation, tax reductions are a feature of this budget.

With effect from 1 July 2001 the payroll tax rate will be cut from 6% to 5.75%. This cut will benefit thousands of South Australian businesses with payroll tax relief estimated to be \$22.5 million next year, increasing to \$28.6 million by 2004-05.

A further rate cut to 5.67% and an increase in the tax-free threshold from \$456 000 to \$504 000 will apply from 1 July 2002. This will be funded through a broadening of the payroll tax base to include the full grossed-up value of fringe benefits and 'eligible termination payments' similar to the action taken by Victoria to assist in funding its payroll tax reforms.

Small businesses will benefit from changes to stamp duty rules applying to about 5700 leases of land and property each year. From 1 January 2002, leases with annual payments below \$50 000 will be exempt from stamp duty. The benefit of this is twofold for tenants of small business premises: not only are they relieved from paying duty of up to \$500, they also benefit from the reduced tax administration costs related to lodging and stamping lease documents.

This budget provides measures to remedy anomalies in the land tax legislation relating to land occupied as the principal place of residence. From the 2001-02 assessment year, relief from land tax will be provided in circumstances where an owner-occupier incurs land tax for technical reasons that relate to the land tax status of the vendor or the timing of the transfer from one principal place of residence to another.

The budget also ensures that Emergency Services Levy rates on fixed property next year will be adjusted to keep Emergency Services Levy revenue collections at the same level as this year. The adjustments have been aimed at minimising impacts on individual properties.

Emergency Services Levy rates on mobile property are unchanged from 2000-01.

Consistent with the policy used over the last three years the Government has announced today a 3.1% increase in a range of government fees and charges. This established policy reflects the cost of delivering the services to the community.

In addition to these tax reductions, revenue decisions have been taken on SAFA and SAAMC dividends.

A review of SAFA capitalisation has revealed that it currently retains a higher level of capital than is prudently required for its ongoing operation. The level of capital held by SAFA will be reduced to \$75 million which will then be consistent with equivalent interstate organisations giving a benefit to the budget of \$92 million over the forward estimates.

I am pleased to be able to report that South Australia remains the third lowest State for State taxation revenue per capita. In fact, South Australia's per capita tax levels are 25% below those for New South Wales.

**EXPENDITURE**

Mr Speaker, I turn now to specific expenditure initiatives contained in this budget.

As I noted earlier in this Budget Speech, older South Australians are given special priority in this year's budget with additional funding of \$55 million over four years.

The Government will increase the maximum concessions on local government rates from \$150 to \$190 for pensioners, Centrelink customers and low income earners who own and live in their own homes.

The Government will also, for the first time, provide a maximum concession of \$100 on local government rates to self-funded retirees who hold a State Seniors Card. State Seniors Card holders already receive State concessions on the Emergency Services Levy and public transport fares. The Government will work with local government to ensure that the full benefits of these concessions are felt by those who receive the concessions. The total cost of these new concessions will be \$32.1 million over four years.

This budget ensures that the older and less fortunate members of our community are given assistance to allow them to remain in their own homes close to family, friends and the social networks they have developed.

State funding to the Home and Community Care Program will be increased by \$10.8 million over four years. Major recipients of HACC funding are the Royal District Nursing Services, Meals on Wheels and the Domiciliary Care Service.

Further funding of \$4 million over four years will be allocated to the 'Moving Ahead' project to provide post acute support to older people leaving hospitals. And older people in rural and regional communities will benefit from redevelopment and renovation of aged-care facilities at a cost of \$8 million.

Older South Australians will also benefit from the Government's decision to allocate an extra \$4 million over two years to reduce dental waiting lists by a subsidised treatment scheme through private dentists.

Health spending next year will be \$200 million higher than for this year as a clear sign of the priority placed on health spending. In fact health spending next year will actually be \$440 million higher than for 1997-98.

While demand for services in hospitals remains high, the Government has allocated an extra \$15 million this year for winter bed pressures and emergency department workloads in our public hospitals. Recent significant increases in private health insurance will be monitored to see whether they lead to lower demands on the public hospital system, providing the scope for improved service levels.

\$8 million over four years has been provided to implement the recommendation of the Mental Health Review while additional funding is also provided for diabetics, the clean needles program, Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund, rural and remote patient transport, and the men's health screening and infection program.

In addition, through revised enterprise agreements, the Government has provided funding to support nurses and doctors working in the public health system. Almost \$200 million will be provided over the next three years for nurses, including 200 new nursing positions, and approximately \$110 million for doctors.

A \$248 million capital investment budget is directed at funding major capital works—redeveloping major hospitals and housing programs. Included in this figure is \$18.6 million over two years for hospital redevelopment and associated aged-care beds in a number of country hospitals and \$14.5 million over three years for new and more accessible mental health facilities at metropolitan hospitals.

Mr Speaker, a central focus for this budget is a comprehensive Jobs Package which will help generate more jobs by fostering a stronger economy.

The foundation to the Jobs Package is obviously the \$25.5 million cuts to payroll tax and stamp duty for small business outlined earlier. As from 1 July this year, business also will be assisted by the abolition of financial institutions duty and share duty on transfers of quoted marketable securities. Further cuts to WorkCover levies (in addition to this year's cut) will provide a benefit to employers of \$108 million in total.

In addition to these significant cuts in business costs the Jobs Package includes carefully targeted additional spending in key areas for jobs creation.

This Budget includes funding for the State's commitments under the Adelaide-Darwin rail link. This State will contribute \$176 million towards the total \$1.3 billion cost of this historic project over four years, with \$25 million to be paid in 2001-02.

This budget provides funding to lever off this important investment opportunity by developing a skilled and ready workforce in regional areas to contribute to the project.

Using the Adelaide-Darwin rail link as a basis, \$5.2 million will be spent over four years on the development of an Asian Gateway, including local participation and employment and training initiatives. This project ties the rail link with Asian export and business opportunities to provide a boost for employment and the State's economic development.

Funding in this budget and the forward estimates is also provided for key infrastructure projects such as the Adelaide Airport terminal development, the third river crossing at Gillman and the Industrial Park at Salisbury which is already attracting new businesses from the automotive and defence sectors.

The enormous recent growth in the aquaculture industry will be built on by an extra \$3.4 million over two years and an extra \$3.5 million over seven years on a new national aquaculture research centre which will attract up to \$40 million of research contributions.

Additional funding of \$6.7 million over four years will be directed to the successful State Food Plan initiatives which aim to triple the value of South Australia's food industry to \$15 billion by 2010.

Extra funding to Regional Development Boards will also promote strong job creation in our regional communities.

Bio Innovation SA has been allocated \$12.5 million over four years to maximise opportunities for South Australia in this key knowledge-based industry sector.

Recent successes in marketing South Australia as a prime tourist destination will be enhanced by a \$4.5 million funding boost over two years for international and intrastate marketing campaigns. South Australians still spend \$926 million per year outside the State on holidays and the intrastate campaign will be targeted to encourage more of that money to be spent in South Australia.

After a review of the State's overseas trade offices the Government has allocated up to \$1.2 million next year for the establishment of a US Trade Office to especially target investment from leading food, information technology and electronics firms. To help fund this new office the Government has already decided to rationalise the existing Asian-based offices including the closure of one office.

Additional funding of \$29.5 million this year will ensure a continuation of recent successful investment attraction of companies such as Electrolux, BAE Systems, BHP, Compaq,

Amcor, SAAB and others either moving to or expanding their operations in South Australia.

South Australia's small and smart IT companies will be supported by the operation of SA Bits which will also be able to take advantage of \$10 million of Commonwealth funding secured last year.

Additional funding in the forward estimates has been allocated to assist the State in matching funds made available from the Commonwealth Government's recently announced \$2.9 billion Innovation Action Plan.

The State's investment in mineral resources will be boosted by the injection of \$5 million over four years in the Mineral Resources Development Plan. This investment is targeted at quadrupling the value of minerals and petroleum products produced by the State by 2020 with a payback flowing to the community through increased royalty revenue.

The State Government has invested a further \$20 million next year in the South Australia Police budget as a part of our ongoing commitment to community security and law enforcement.

This budget will provide funding for an additional 90 police and, when added to last year's budget, will mean an additional 203 police and 27 staff in just two budgets.

The extra police will be dedicated specifically to target drug and drug-related crime, outlaw motorcycle gangs and particularly to target crime within local communities.

An extra \$8.5 million over four years will be used to upgrade the pilot 11444 call centre and \$9.6 million over three years will be spent on a new telephone and radio communication system for police and emergency services.

Mr Speaker, education spending next year will be \$280 million higher than spending in 1997-98 and it will also be \$105 million higher than last year's budget. Additional spending on education has been approved through the last 12 months and these increases have been maintained in this year's budget.

It is important to note that South Australia's ageing population profile means that it is estimated there will be about 3 100 fewer students in government schools next year compared to last year. So total education spending per student will obviously increase next year.

Mr Speaker, class sizes as measured by student teacher ratios in South Australia's primary and secondary schools continue to be smaller than the national average. Secondary school class sizes are the lowest of all States. This reflects our considerable investment in our State's future through education.

This investment will be supported further by the provision of \$16 million over four years for the new Active for Life strategy designed to increase students' physical activity and participation in sport.

Schools, preschools and TAFE campuses will benefit from a \$10 million school improvement program which will provide funding for external maintenance and painting of buildings and landscaping of outdoor areas.

Literacy outcomes will also be targeted as part of a \$5.6 million early intervention initiative, focusing on the need for stronger parental involvement in children's learning in early years.

As we start the new millennium it is essential that we equip our students for the significant economic challenge that will come from the need to master information technologies.

The Government's \$75 million computer scheme means we have reached our target of one computer for every five students—and over three years there will be another \$36 mil-

lion for computers from Government, schools and parent contributions.

The Government has now committed another \$75 million over five years for the e-education program which will build on the success of the first five-year plan.

A number of significant school and TAFE redevelopments will be undertaken during 2001-02 with funding totalling \$98 million. This program of investment includes redevelopment of the Regency Institute costing \$15.7 million, and redevelopments at eight major schools costing a total of \$26.7 million.

Mr Speaker, in all other portfolio areas, there are many other new initiatives some of which I now list:

\$100 million over seven years to fund the Save the Murray program

\$7 million over four years to protect Adelaide coastline and beaches

a \$500-700 rebate scheme for installing solar hot water systems

unemployed people will be given a 50% concession for country bus travel

\$6.65 million towards a new solar/gas power station and transmission grid being built in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara land

\$55.6 million over four years for more overtaking lanes and the Safer Roads program

\$19.5 million on more accessible and air-conditioned buses for public transport

\$17 million over three years to improve community sporting and recreation infrastructure

\$68.7 million over three years on wastewater treatment plants at Heathfield, Victor Harbor and Glenelg

\$6.2 million over four years to start the Service SA initiative which will see a series of 'one-stop' government services shops introduced into rural and regional areas

\$2 million to redevelop the Natural Sciences building at the SA Museum

\$2.5 million over four years to continue a major domestic violence prevention program

\$4.5 million to fund a number of pilot programs under the three-year Integrated Youth Strategy and the one-year Youth Employment Program

\$4 million over four years to establish a permanent Office for Volunteers.

Mr Speaker, as you will note, this year's outline of new programs and initiatives is much more extensive than in previous years and further detail on other programs is provided in the budget papers.

#### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Mr Speaker, the South Australian economy is expected to grow by around 2½% in 2001-02, with growth estimated to be 2¾% during 2000-01. This compares favourably with the expected growth in national GDP of 2% in 2000-01. Through the year South Australia recorded seasonally adjusted growth figures outperforming all other States. This prompted Access Economics to describe South Australia's recent record as the untold success story in Australia.

State growth continues to be underpinned by household consumption expenditure, and overseas merchandise exports.

South Australia's overseas exports of goods remained remarkably strong throughout the Asian crisis and continue to show robust trends into 2001. Exporters strengthened their ties with established markets such as the USA, UK and Middle East. The depreciation of the Australian dollar against

the US dollar has fostered growth in exports by making local product more competitive. Overseas exports from South Australia grew 27% in the nine months to March 2001 compared to the nine months to March 2000. Our major contributors to growth in overseas exports continue to come from the automotive industry, wine, and metals and metal manufactures.

Total Business Investment was the strongest component of growth in State Final Demand in 2000, growing by 7.1%. Private dwelling investment during 2000 grew by 4.1% down from 9.8% in the previous period reflecting the pull forward in anticipation of the GST. The recent easing of interest rates and the doubling of the first home owner's grant for new dwellings should assist a pick-up in dwelling investments in 2001.

Household consumption spending grew by a solid 3.9% in 2000, after growing more modestly in 1999.

Price growth in Adelaide was slightly below the national average this year and is forecast to rise in line with the national estimate of 2½% in 2001-02.

In line with the slowdown in the national economy, employment growth in South Australia is forecast to ease to ½% this year before rising to 1% next year. Despite recent falls in trend total employment, South Australia's trend unemployment rate was 7.2% in April 2001 and this compares favourably to 8% at the same time last year. Unemployment rates in the last six months have approached lows that were last experienced a decade ago.

Recent improvements in youth employment rates also reflect the success of government programs in this area.

South Australia continued the modest population growth experienced over recent years principally due to our ageing population profile.

Effects of interstate migration continue to be offset by overseas immigration and this budget continues the Government's commitment to the attraction and settlement of skilled migrants through the Immigration SA initiative.

#### COMMONWEALTH-STATE RELATIONS

Mr Speaker, a new era in Commonwealth-State financial relations began on 1 July 2000, with GST revenues being paid to the States in lieu of financial assistance grants.

These funding arrangements are expected to make the States better off, in the medium to longer term, with GST revenues expected eventually to outstrip the projected revenues calculated on the old basis.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement guarantees that no State will be worse off under new funding arrangements by providing for budget balancing assistance over and above the funds received from the GST.

Most recent estimates suggest that South Australia can be expected to gain from tax reform from 2006-07 with budget balancing assistance continuing until 2005-06.

It remains the case that the tax reform package will deliver medium and longer term benefits to the State from the receipt of revenue from a genuine growth tax in the form of the GST. It remains critical to the State's future that there is not a roll-back of the GST by a future Commonwealth Government. Members need to be aware that roll-back means less money for schools, hospitals and police services in the States. If such a policy was to become a possibility then it will be critical to have strong bipartisan opposition to such a plan which could cost South Australia tens of millions of dollars in future budgets.

2001-02 heralds the introduction of further reforms resulting from the new funding arrangements, namely:

the abolition of financial institutions duty  
the abolition of stamp duties on the transfer of listed marketable securities.

As the States continue to meet their commitments as part of national tax reform, it is important that the Commonwealth continues to meet its commitments on significant funding responsibilities that fall outside of the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

The Commonwealth uses a fiscal equalisation approach for the distribution of funds to the States. This approach is a key component of the Inter-Governmental Agreement. Fiscal equalisation is based on Australia's commitment to ensuring that each State has the capacity to provide public services at a similar standard and level of efficiency to the other States for a similar revenue raising effort. It is an essential tool in ensuring equity between States regardless of economic, geographic or demographic circumstances. Reflecting South Australia's circumstances, equalisation results in South Australia receiving 27% more than its simple per capita share of funding. This amounts to around \$480 million in 2001-02.

In recent times significant pressure has been placed on the Commonwealth to move away from this system of equity and fairness. If South Australia is to continue to provide high quality services without increases in State taxes and charges it is essential that the current system of equalisation is maintained.

One of the more significant achievements of this Government and the Premier in particular was the incorporation of this principle of fiscal equalisation into the Inter-Governmental Agreement which will now govern Commonwealth-State financial relations into the future.

#### REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Speaker, the expenditure and revenue initiatives outlined above and the budget strategies contained in this budget are designed to benefit all South Australians.

It is important to also highlight the significant contribution to the State economy that flows from our regions.

For example, the Murraylands region accounts for around 27% of South Australia's agricultural production, while the Northern and South East regions share the highest manufacturing turnover on a per capita basis in the State.

Mr Speaker, Cabinet has travelled to regional locations on a regular basis throughout the last three years to understand better the issues facing regional communities.

This Government strongly believes that rural and regional South Australia has a bright and optimistic future. This Government is committed to working in partnership with rural and regional people and their communities, businesses and other spheres of government to make our regions a better place to work and live.

Highlighting the importance of the regions and the Government's commitment to regional development, the Government has once again released its regional statement which identifies a range of new and ongoing initiatives.

#### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Government's Capital Investment Program for 2001-02 is \$1.035 billion. And while I have outlined some of the projects, the details are given in the Capital Investment Statement.

Mr Speaker, an important distinction with the Government's Capital Investment Program in this budget is that the Government has now pre-committed a three-year capital investment program rather than, substantially, just a one-year program.

While a modest contingency has been retained for emergencies, the pre-committed three-year program obviously places a much greater discipline on Governments promising new capital works projects. If Governments or Oppositions want to promise new projects at any time in the next three years then they will need to nominate which existing pre-committed project is to be excluded or raise additional revenue to fund it.

Mr Speaker, governments around the world including those of Britain, Victoria and New South Wales believe the private sector can play a significant role in providing infrastructure. The Government shares the view that by engaging the private sector, the Government is able to harness the respective skills and expertise of the public and private sectors to provide high quality and cost-effective services to meet the Government's social and economic priorities. The Government also believes that such a partnership has the potential to bring forward some capital projects and pay for them over a longer time period.

This Government is committed to pursuing realistic opportunities for public-private partnership through the Partnerships SA program.

The Partnerships SA program will not be simply an arrangement to gain access to private sector funding for infrastructure. The main benefit of successful partnership programs overseas has been a significant reduction in the total cost of delivering government services. In order to achieve such outcomes experience has shown that it is essential for the private sector to have a much greater role than just the financing of the project. The involvement of private sector capital also obviously reduces the calls on the budget for capital investment.

The development of Partnerships SA means that the public sector will be operating in a rapidly changing environment, which will require complex processes and innovative approaches by Government. With this in mind, the Government has established a separate unit within the Department of Treasury and Finance to undertake policy development and responsibility for assisting portfolios in developing public-private partnerships as a viable procurement alternative.

A number of significant projects are currently being considered as part of the Partnerships SA initiative, including:

- the upgrading of the Glenelg transport corridor and the procurement of new trams
- the development of a new State aquatic centre
- the development of a new Investigator Science and Technology Centre
- redevelopment of the Cavan Youth Training Centre
- a new regional hospital at Angaston and other hospital redevelopments
- new police stations in Mount Barker, Gawler, Victor Harbor, Port Adelaide and Port Lincoln
- a new women's prison.

With some of these projects (for example new State aquatic centre and Investigator Science and Technology Centre) the Government has decided that if the Partnerships SA model is not suitable then the Government will proceed with the project in the conventional publicly funded way with the bulk of the funding for each project not being expended until 2004 and onwards. For some projects there has been no Government decision taken yet about public funding in future three-year programs and the Government will consider those projects on a case by case basis.

## SUMMARY

Mr Speaker—three years ago in this House I highlighted that there were some people in the community, and in the Parliament, who believed in the magic pudding approach to managing the Budget. They oppose tax and revenue increases, oppose expenditure reductions, and oppose asset sales. However, at the same time they support excessive wage demands from union leaders and still claim they can balance the budget and reduce the State's debt. Sadly, the magic pudding club still exists today.

As we approach the end of this parliamentary term, the magic pudding believers will be required to explain how they believe this can all be done.

The community will look forward with much interest to that response.

Mr Speaker, this budget represents a responsible balance.

The balance is between the service provision improvements that the public expects after seven years of repair and restructure, and responsible investment in the future.

In this budget we continue to live within our means. We continue to pay our way in terms of superannuation and investment in the infrastructure necessary to provide continued high quality services in the future, as well as securing the future economic and environmental viability of the State.

The tough decisions of the past are starting to bear fruit.

However, we cannot afford to squander the opportunities the hard work has created. These gains could so easily be thrown away in just a few years of reckless spending.

This Government will continue to follow the economically responsible course, continue to make the tough decisions and continue to make a responsible investment in key areas like schools, hospitals and police to ensure a prosperous future for all South Australians.

I commend the Budget to the House.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier):** I seek leave to have the remainder of the second reading explanation inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

*Clause 1: Short title*

This clause is formal.

*Clause 2: Commencement*

This clause provides for the Bill to operate retrospectively to 1 July 2001. Until the Bill is passed, expenditure is financed from appropriation authority provided by the *Supply Act*.

*Clause 3: Interpretation*

This clause provides relevant definitions.

*Clause 4: Issue and application of money*

This clause provides for the issue and application of the sums shown in the schedule to the Bill. Subsection (2) makes it clear that the appropriation authority provided by the *Supply Act* is superseded by this Bill.

*Clause 5: Application of money if functions etc., of agency are transferred*

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

*Clause 6: Expenditure from Hospitals Fund*

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

*Clause 7: Appropriation, etc., in addition to other appropriations, etc.*

This clause makes it clear that appropriation authority provided by this Bill is additional to authority provided in other Acts of Parliament, except, of course, in the *Supply Act*.

*Clause 8: Overdraft limit*

This sets a limit of \$50 million on the amount which the Government may borrow by way of overdraft.

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

**STATUTES AMENDMENT (TAXATION MEASURES) BILL**

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Minister for Education and Children's Services)** obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Land Tax Act 1936, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the Stamp Duties Act 1923. Read a first time.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** 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 contains a number of revenue measures that form part of the government's budget strategy for 2001-02.

The government is committed to ensuring the state has a competitive tax regime for business and job creation. Pay-roll tax is one of the largest sources of state taxation revenue and through its impact on business cost structures has the potential to influence business location decisions. South Australia's pay-roll tax structure has become less competitive following significant rate reductions recently announced by the Victorian government.

The government has decided to reduce the rate of pay-roll tax from 6 per cent to 5.75 per cent effective from 1 July 2001. This measure is estimated to deliver pay-roll tax relief to business amounting to \$24.5 million per annum.

The pay-roll tax rate will be further reduced from 5.75 per cent to 5.67 per cent from 1 July 2002 and, at the same time, the pay-roll tax threshold will be increased from \$456 000 to \$504 000. This second round of pay-roll tax relief will be funded by broadening the pay-roll tax base to include eligible termination payments (as defined for income tax purposes) and the grossed up value of fringe benefits under the *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986 (Cth)*. The changes to the measurement of fringe benefits will remove existing pay-roll tax incentives for remuneration to be taken in the form of fringe benefits.

Lease duty arrangements will also be changed, delivering particular benefits to small businesses which lease premises. From 1 January 2002, an exemption from lease duty for annual lease payments not exceeding \$50 000 will be introduced in the *Stamp Duties Act 1923*. This measure will deliver relief across a broad range of business activity. An estimated 5 700 leases per annum will be relieved of lease duty.

The opportunity has also been taken in this bill to make some minor amendments to the *Stamp Duties Act 1923* to provide certainty to taxpayers that various acquisitions are not subject to *ad valorem* stamp duty under the land rich provisions or the land use entitlement provisions of the Act. This uncertainty has arisen as a result of the operation of the *Stamp Duties (Land Rich Entities and Redemption) Amendment Act 2000*.

In addition, given that as at 1 July 2001, stamp duty on quoted marketable securities is to be abolished, RevenueSA undertook a final review to ensure that the legislation in this area achieves its purpose.

From this review, it emerged that the amendments made by the *National Tax Reform (State Provisions) Act 2000*, may not technically remove the liability to duty on the "sale and purchase" of quoted marketable securities.

After further discussions with industry and with legal advisers, it was decided that it would be prudent for a minor amendment to be made, to put this issue beyond doubt and allay any industry concern that might arise.

Finally, provisions will be inserted into the *Land Tax Act 1936* to deliver land tax relief where the particular circumstances relating to people who are moving house or constructing a new home gives rise to a land tax liability on the principal place of residence.

Relief will be provided in the following circumstances:

- where at 30 June a person owns land on which a home is either to be constructed or is in the process of being constructed for owner occupation in the following financial year; in the absence of relief, a land tax liability would arise because at 30 June the land was not being used as the principal place of residence;

- where a person is in the process of selling a home and as a result owns two properties at 30 June, one of which is the current principal place of residence (and eligible for exemption) and the other is the intended but not yet occupied principal place of residence (and liable for land tax); land tax relief will be made available on both properties provided no rental income is received from either property during the period that the homes are owned concurrently;
- where a person purchases as the principal place of residence a property which was taxable in the ownership of the vendor and in accordance with standard contractual arrangements the land tax payable on the property is apportioned between the buyer and the seller; the proposed legislative amendments will enable the buyer to be refunded the lesser of the amount paid to the vendor in respect of land tax or an amount equal to the apportionment of the land tax payable on that land as a single holding.

The bill sets out the various criteria which must be met by taxpayers before land tax relief is available in these situations.

To ensure that only those taxpayers who are eligible for relief obtain the benefit, a refund of land tax will only be applicable once all the relevant criteria have been satisfied. For example, where a person is in the process of selling one home and buying another, the taxpayer must have moved into the new home and sold the original home before applying for a refund.

This relief measure will remove the burden of land tax from persons who incur a liability merely because of the timing of the sale and purchase of their homes.

I commend this bill to honourable members.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### PART 1

##### PRELIMINARY

*Clause 1: Short title*

*Clause 2: Commencement*

*Clause 3: Interpretation*

These clauses are formal.

##### PART 2

##### AMENDMENT OF LAND TAX ACT 1936

*Clause 4: Insertion of s. 5A—Waiver or refund of land tax for residential land in certain cases*

This clause provides for applications for waivers or refunds of land tax paid or payable by the applicant or paid by the applicant to a vendor as an adjustment of land tax paid or payable by the vendor if the following are satisfied:

- the land became the applicant's principal place of residence during the course of the financial year; and
- proper grounds for exempting the land from land tax under section 5 came into existence when the land became the applicant's principal place of residence; and
- the applicant must have divested himself or herself, before the end of the financial year, of any other land in respect of which the applicant has had the benefit of a relevant concession for the financial year (*ie* subject to a residential exemption under section 5 or an earlier waiver or refund under this section); and
- unless the Commissioner allows otherwise in a particular case, no rent or other consideration has been paid or is payable for occupation, during the financial year, of the land or any other land in respect of which the applicant has had the benefit of a relevant concession for the financial year, while the applicant owned both the land and other such land; and
- the criteria for the time being determined by regulation.

The clause applies in relation to land tax for a financial year commencing on or after 1 July 2001.

##### PART 3

##### AMENDMENT OF PAY-ROLL TAX ACT 1971

*Clause 5: Amendment of s. 3—Interpretation*

These amendments expand the meaning of wages as from 1 July 2002 to incorporate eligible termination payments. They also alter the way in which fringe benefits are to be valued as from 1 July 2002 to incorporate the 'grossed up' value of those benefits.

*Clause 6: Amendment of s. 9—Imposition of pay-roll tax on taxable wages*

This amendment reduces the percentage of pay-roll tax to 5.75 per cent for 2001-2002 and to 5.67 per cent for future financial years.

*Clause 7: Amendment of s. 11A—Deduction from taxable wages*

*Clause 8: Amendment of s. 13A—Meaning of prescribed amount*

*Clause 9: Amendment of s. 18K—Interpretation*

These amendments increase the threshold amount for pay-roll tax to \$504 000 for 2002/2003 onwards.

##### PART 4

##### AMENDMENT OF STAMP DUTIES ACT 1923

*Clause 10: Amendment of s. 62—Land use entitlements*

This amendment introduces exceptions to the dutiability of transactions providing land use entitlements. The exceptions are—

- the acquisition of a share in a company or an interest under a trust that confers a right to occupy a dwelling if the dwelling is part of a scheme consisting of two or more dwellings owned and administered by the company or the trustees of the trust;
- the acquisition of a share in a company or an interest under a trust that confers a right to occupy a dwelling if the dwelling is part of a retirement village scheme under the *Retirement Villages Act 1987*;
- a transaction exempted by the regulations.

The specific exceptions are similar to those that existed under Part 4 of the Act prior to the *Stamp Duties (Land Rich Entities and Redemption) Amendment Act 2000*.

*Clause 11: Amendment of s. 67—Computation of duty where instruments are interrelated*

This amendment makes a technical correction by removing subsection (8) which refers to a definition in section 71(15) which no longer exists.

*Clause 12: Amendment of s. 90A—Interpretation*

This is a technical amendment to put beyond doubt that the reference to 'conveyance' includes a sale or purchase of a quoted marketable security.

*Clause 13: Amendment of s. 101—Exempt transactions*

This amendment introduces an exemption from duty for an acquisition of an interest in a land rich entity that takes place under a compromise or arrangement approved by a court under Part 5.1 of the *Corporations Law*.

This exemption is similar to that contained in section 93(1)(b)(ii) of the Act prior to the *Stamp Duties (Land Rich Entities and Redemption) Amendment Act 2000*.

*Clause 14: Amendment of Sched. 2*

This amendment provides that lease transactions are to be exempt from stamp duty if the term of the lease commences on or after 1 January 2002 and the rent reserved, averaged over the term of the lease, does not exceed the rate of \$50 000 per annum.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3.54 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 5 June at 2 p.m.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**Tuesday 29 May 2001**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HYDROCARBON REFRIGERANTS**

2. **Ms KEY:** Has any action been undertaken to introduce controls and monitoring of hydrocarbon refrigerants and, if not, when will this occur?

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** The Minister for Workplace Relations has advised that:

Hydrocarbon refrigerants are extensively and successfully used in many applications.

In Europe, hydrocarbon refrigerants are widely used both in domestic applications and industrial applications, such as refrigeration and air conditioning systems. However, in the USA, hydrocarbon refrigerants are deemed unacceptable in automotive applications.

The makers of competing products have been waging a campaign to ban the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants. South Australian and other state governments (apart from New South Wales) have not bowed to this pressure. I am advised that the New South Wales government is reconsidering its position and has established a joint industry working group to develop a hydrocarbon refrigerants code of practice.

In South Australia, the use of hydrocarbon and other refrigerants is already subject to legislative control. Both the Dangerous Substances Act and the Occupational Health Safety and Welfare (OHS&W) Act imposed a duty of care on persons using these products. In addition, the Regulations made under the last-mentioned Act require a safety assessment to be undertaken before equipment may be modified to use hydrocarbon refrigerants.

The regulations also require people carrying out work with hazardous substances (including people carrying out refrigeration work) to have a detailed knowledge of the properties of the substances they use, as well as knowledge of the requirements for their safe use and understanding of their compatibility with other products.

Moreover, there is an Australian standard that sets out the requirements for the safe use of flammable refrigerants in fixed refrigeration systems.

According to the advice given to the government, the use of hydrocarbon refrigerants in automotive and static applications can safely occur when it is used in properly maintained equipment and in accordance with supplier's instructions.

The government regards public and workplace safety as a paramount consideration in this matter. This issue will be kept under review and South Australia will adopt nationally accepted solutions.

**FOUNDRIES**

16. **Mr HILL:** With respect to foundries operating in South Australia:

- (a) how many have been evaluated by the EPA; and
- (b) how many health and/or environmental complaints have been received by the EPA concerning foundries, which foundries are involved, what is the nature of the complaints and what action has been taken in relation to each complaint?

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

- (a) There are 36 sites in South Australia with a licence to melt ferrous and non-ferrous metal including, BHP, Pasminco and WMC Olympic Dam. All the licensees are evaluated on a regular basis by environment protection officers.
- (b) Since the formation of the EPA in 1994 numerous complaints have been received concerning environmental emissions from foundries; not all complaints have been found to be justified. The predominant reason for complaints is odour nuisance, however complaints have also been received regarding excessive noise, hours of operation, waste collection times and disposal systems, and unprofessional operating practices.

The following licensed foundries have been the subject of complaint between 1994 and 1 November 2000:

**OUTSOURCING**

23. **Mr HILL:** What was the value of all outsourcing contracts arranged by the Department of Environment and Heritage in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and in each case:

- (a) what are the details;
- (b) were tenders called and if not, why not;
- (c) were written contracts signed and if not, why not; and
- (d) were any former public sector employees involved in these arrangements and if so, who were they and how long had they not been in public sector employment?

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

The total value of all outsourcing contracts for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was \$1,273,573.

The response has been based on the:

1. structure of the Department that was in place as at 30 June 2000; and
2. the following definition of 'Outsourced Contracts' which includes contracts where:
  - an agency enters into an ongoing or term contract with a third party
  - the contract is for:
    - the provision of a service or activity to the agency itself, or
    - the provision of a service or activity to a third party on behalf of the agency
  - until the contract was entered into, the service or activity was performed by the agency itself using its own employees or other resources (and to continue to undertake the activity in-house would have involved the employment of additional persons).

**Environment and Heritage Portfolio**

Details—Name of outsource provider & nature of contract (a)	Were tenders called and if not, why not? (b)	Written contracts signed? If not, why not? (c)	Any former public sector employees involved in arrangements? If so, who, & how long had they been in public sector employment? (d)
Corporate Strategy & Business Services			
Ausdoc Mailroom Management Services	No – specialist services provided	Yes	No
Environment Protection Agency			
Australian Environmental Laboratories	Yes	Yes	No
Environment Policy Division			
Nil			
Heritage and Biodiversity Division			

Environment and Heritage Portfolio			
Heritage Management & Advisory Services (refer individual contracts below)	Yes (all contracts)	Yes (all contracts)	None (all contracts)
D Alexander – Goyder			
D Alexander – Gawler			
R Woods – Alexandrina			
J Hawke – Clare & Gilbert Valleys			
B Harry – Adelaide Hills			
B Harry – Mount Barker			
E Vines – Port Adelaide Enfield			
S Weidenhofer – Unley/Mitcham			
R Woods – South East			
S Weidenhofer – Kapunda and Light			
M Butcher – Onkaparinga			
S Wiedenhofer – Onkaparinga			
D Alexander – The Barossa			
Resource Information Division			
EDS	N/a	N/a	contracted through DAIS
Airborne Research Australia Pty Ltd (for the provision of an aircraft for aerial photography purposes)	No. It was a 'right of first look' project by Fujitsu Australia Ltd, the government's spatial alliance partner at the time.	Yes	
Recreation, Sport and Racing Portfolio			
Details—Name of outsource provider & nature of contract (a)	Were tenders called and if not, why not? (b)	Written contracts signed? If not, why not? (c)	Any former public sector employees involved in arrangements? If so, who, & how long had they been in public sector employment? (d)
Office of Recreation and Sport			
Nil			
Racing Industry Development Authority			
Nil			

### FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

33. **Mr HILL:** Why have research grants to the Flinders Medical Centre been cut by 25 per cent, how will this impact research and will there be further research cuts?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Funding towards research from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the public health system over the last three years 1998-1999 to 2000-01 has been stable at \$5,884,000 for each financial year.

Accordingly, the total funding for the research infrastructure grant has not changed.

There has been a redistribution of the research pool. This pool is distributed on the basis of matching funding against eligible National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) grants awarded to each of the hospitals for the current year.

NHMRC and ARC grants are determined by peer review and the State does not play a role in allocating funding for these awards.

Each hospital's total funding from these grants determines its relative share of the fixed research pool (\$5.9m).

FMC's relative share decreased this year due to a tightening of the criteria for eligibility for matching grants.

There is no change in the funding level of research by DHS. The formula enables each health unit to compete equally for research support funds. If FMC increase their research in comparison to other health units, then the FMC share of DHS research funds will increase.

There has not been a cut to research funding in this financial year.

The DHS will continue to support research in our hospital system, however, as with all areas of DHS operations, annual review of funding levels will be undertaken.

### FLEURIEU VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTRE

45. **Mr HILL:** How much government funding has been provided to the Fleurieu Volunteer Resource Centre and how many volunteers and organisations were assisted by the centre during each financial year since the 1997 state election and will the Minister review funding to the centre prior to the next round?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The Fleurieu Volunteer Resource Centre Inc receives recurrent funding of \$12,700 per annum under the Family and Community Development Program. All services funded under this program will be indexed at 2.5 per cent in 2000-01. This will increase the Fleurieu Volunteer Resource funding from the Department of Human Services to \$13,000 per annum.

The number of volunteers and organisations assisted by the centre since the 1997 state election are:

1997-98	288 volunteers	1997-98	71 organisations
1998-99	321 volunteers	1998-99	73 organisations
1999-00	351 volunteers	1999-00	93 organisations

Currently no growth funding is available in the Family and Community Development Program. Any future funding recommendations will be identified and considered through an integrated area planning framework process developed by the department to ensure funding is directed to the highest priority needs/issues.

### HOUSING TRUST PROPERTIES

48. **Mr ATKINSON:**

1. How many South Australian Housing Trust properties are reserved for short-term leases to newly arrived skilled migrants?

2. Why are the vacant Trust houses and gardens in Yamba Street, Kilburn, in such disrepair?



**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:**

1. The SA Housing Trust currently has 53 properties in use for the On Arrival Skilled Migrant Program. Slight variations to this number occur regularly due to fluctuations in demand.

2. There is only one vacant trust property in Yamba Street, Kilburn, and the trust has served the tenant with a 14 day notice to conduct appropriate maintenance of the yard and property. If such maintenance has not been carried out on expiration of the notice, the trust will undertake this maintenance and charge the tenant for any costs.

**GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY SALARIES**

69. **Mr FOLEY:** With respect to those government employees referred to in the 1999-2000 Auditor-General's annual report as receiving annual salaries of \$100,000 or more, how many are permanent public servants, how many are on a fixed term contracts and how many are on contract but have a substantive public service positions at each of the following agencies: Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, Art Gallery Board, Attorney-General's Department, Auditor-

General's Department, Country Fire Service, Department for Correctional Services, Emergency Services Unit, Department of Education, Training and Employment, Department for Environment and Heritage, Home Start Finance, Justice Information System, IMVS, Legal Services Commission, Libraries Board of South Australia, Land Management Corporation, Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia, Department of Industry and Trade, Motor Accident Commission, Metropolitan Fire Service, Passenger Transport Board, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Primary Industries and Resources, Public Trustee, SAAMC, SA Police, St John Ambulance, SA Housing Trust, State Electoral Commission, State Opera of South Australia, Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia, Department of Treasury and Finance, Department of Administrative and Information Services, Trans Adelaide, Department for Transport, Urban Planning and the Arts, South Australian Tourism Commission, Department of Human Services & Department for Water Resources?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** Government employees referred to in the 1999-2000 Auditor-General's Annual Report receiving total remuneration of \$100,000 or more:

Department/Agency	Permanent Public Servants	Fixed Term Contract	On Contract but have Substantive Public Service Position	Total
Adelaide Convention Centre		2	1	3
Adelaide Entertainment Centre		1		1
Adelaide Festival Centre Trust		4		4
Art Gallery Board			1	1
Attorney-General's Department (including Public Trustee)	2	25	22	49
Auditor-General's Department (1)			5	5
Country Fire Service		1		1
Department for Correctional Services	3	3	2	8
Emergency Services Unit		1	2	3
Department of Education, Training & Employment	29	7	32	68
Department for Environment & Heritage		4	10	
Home Start Finance	(see Department of Human Services)			
Justice Information System	(see Department of Correctinal Services)			
IMVS	46		1	47
Legal Services Commission		3	1	4
Libraries Board of South Australia		1	1	2
Land Management Corporation		2	2	4
Local Government Finance Authority		1		1
Department of Industry & Trade	5	8	11	24
Motor Accident Commission		1		1
Metropolitan Fire Service		2		2
Passenger Transport Board		2	2	4
Department of the Premier & Cabinet	6	12	13	31
Department of Primary Industries & Resources	2	6	9	17
Passenger Transport Board		2	2	4
Department of the Premier & Cabinet	6	12	13	31
Department of Primary Industries and Resources	2	6	9	17
Public Trustee	(see Attorney-General's Department)			
St John Ambulance		6		5
	(see Department of Human Services)			
State Electoral Commission		2		2
State Opera of South Australia		1		1
Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia		3		3
Department of Treasury & Finance		8	26	34
Department of Administrative & Information Services	5	18	29	52
TransAdelaide	1	1	3	5
Department for Transport, Urban Planning & the Arts(DTUPA)	2	3	19	24

(2)

South Australian Tourism Commission (3)		8		8
Department of Human Services (4)	6	11	27	44
Department of Water Resources			3	3

- (1) The position of the Auditor-General is appointed on a contract pursuant to the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and thus has not been included in these figures. The position is however, included in the 1999-2000 report of the Auditor-General.
- (2) Although there was one employee from the Office of Local Government and one from the Department for State Aboriginal Affairs that received remuneration over \$100,000 during the 1999-2000, these employees are not included in the figure for DTUPA. This is due to the fact that when the Departments joined the portfolio, these employees were not paid over \$100,000 and were, therefore, not included in the Auditor-General's report for the year ending June 2000.
- (3) It is to be noted that of this number, one position is currently vacant and is not intended to be filled.
- (4) DHS data include SA Housing Trust (one with fixed term contract and three with substantive PS positions) and Homestart (two with fixed term contracts and one with a substantive PS position).

### HISTORIC CONSERVATION ZONES

76. **Mr HILL:** What is the status of the Historic Conservation Zones, how many are there, and where and when were they established?

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

Historic (Conservation) Zones and Historic (Conservation) Policy Areas are established in Development Plans under the Development Act. The Minister for Transport and Urban Planning has included reference to both Zones and Policy Areas, as Policy Areas have substantially the same policy effect as Zones—in that they both introduce demolition control over the affected area, and both aim to protect and enhance the heritage qualities of a particular location.

With regard to the "status" of Historic (Conservation) Zones and Policy Areas, the Development Act allows for their establishment through the Plan Amendment process, either through a Council or Ministerial initiated Plan Amendment. In most cases, however, the Zones and Policy Areas are established through Council initiated PARs, which are often based on a heritage survey. Once authorised, the Zones and Policy Areas are designated in Development Plans together with specific heritage policies to guide the assessment of development within such areas. In the majority of cases the Council is the authority which assesses an application for development approval in a Historic (Conservation) Zone or Policy Area.

The following table notes the establishment of Historic (Conservation) Zones and Policy Areas in Development Plans in both the metropolitan area and country South Australia. A map recording the same areas will be forwarded by the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning to the Member for Kaurua.

In summary, Historic (Conservation) Zones and Policy Areas are located in 11 of the 25 Metropolitan Development Plans and are located in 6 Country Development Plans. It should be noted that like all Zones and Policy Areas, Historic (Conservation) Zones and Policy Areas often cover more than one location in a Development Plan. For example, the Prospect Development Plan contains one Historic Conservation Zone with the Policy Areas for that Zone affecting 6 separate locations.

The Minister for Transport and Urban Planning notes that the question does not refer to State Heritage Areas which represent a "higher order" of heritage protection than Historic (Conservation) Zones and Policy Areas. The majority of such areas have been in existence for many years including places such as Port Adelaide, Hahndorf and Burra. Such areas are not designated in Development Plans as they were introduced under the provisions of the Heritage Act. It has only been more recently that State Heritage Areas have been established under the Development Act and are therefore designated in Development Plans (such as the Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area).

#### Historic Conservation Zones and Policy Areas (By Development Plans)

#### METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS

BURNSIDE (CITY)	
Historic (Conservation) Zone	Auth—21 January 1993
GAWLER (CT)	
Edith/Blanch Street Historic (Conservation) Zone	Auth—7 July 1994
Historic (Conservation) Policy Areas	Auth—8 March 2001
HAPPY VALLEY (CITY)	
Heritage and Rural Townships	Auth—23 September 1999
HENLEY AND GRANGE (CITY)	
Heritage	Auth—4 September 1997

#### KENSINGTON AND NORWOOD (CITY)

Historic (Conservation) Zone	Auth—30 January 1992
Historic (Conservation) Zone, South West Norwood	Auth—9 July 1992
Kensington Historic (Conservation) Zone	Auth—27 October 1994
MITCHAM (CITY)	
Historic (Conservation) Zone, Mitcham Village	Auth—23 January 1997
PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD (CITY)	
Local Heritage Places of Historic (Conservation) Policy Areas	Auth—4 May 2000
PROSPECT (CITY)	
Historic (Conservation) Zones	Auth—16 December 1999
ST PETERS (CT)	
Historic (Conservation) Zone	Auth—9 December 1993
UNLEY (CITY)	
Historic (Conservation) Zone	Auth—15 April 1993
WILLUNGA (DC)	
Historic (Conservation) Zone Amendment	Auth—10 June 1993
COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PLANS	
ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL	
Stirling—Heritage	Auth—17 December 1987
Local Heritage Places and Historic (Conservation) Policy Areas	Auth—5 October 2000
ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL	
Port Elliot Historic (Conservation) Zone SDP	Auth—19 August 1993
ANGASTON (DC)	
Town Centre and Environs	
Historic (Conservation) Zones PAR	Auth—25 May 2000
CLARE AND GILBERT VALLEYS COUNCIL	
Heritage Conservation PAR	Auth—1 March 2001
MOUNT BARKER (DC)	
Historic (Conservation) (Auchendarroch) Zone	Auth—13 March 1997
MOUNT GAMBIER (CITY)	
Heritage PAR	Auth—28 October 1999

#### State Heritage Areas Shown in Development Plans

Please note that these Development Plan Amendments were all prepared by the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning and/or her predecessors.

CLARE (DC)	
Mintaro State Heritage Area 2	Auth—24 March 1994
PENOLA (DC)	
State Heritage (Petticoat Lane—Woods/MacKillop School House) Area	Auth—11 December 1997
MITCHAM (CITY)	
State Heritage Area (Colonel Light Gardens)	Auth—4 May 2000

In addition to State Heritage Areas shown in Development Plans there are a number of other State Heritage Areas which are not indicated in Development Plans as they were introduced under the provisions of the Heritage Act. These areas are:

- Port Adelaide
- Moonta Mines
- Beltana
- Goolwa

- Mintaro
- Innamincka/Cooper Creek Complex
- Church Hill, Gawler
- Belair Recreation Park
- Arckaringa Hills
- Hahndorf
- Mt Gambier Volcanic
- Mount Schank
- Burra

### SPEED LIMITS

93. **Mr SNELLING:** What Department of Road Transport procedures are in place to ensure that the placement of speed restriction signage is in accordance with the "Code of Technical Requirements for the Legal Use of Traffic Control Devices" and in the event that the signs are incorrectly positioned, are police fines imposed for exceeding the posted limit still issued?

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

Conditional to the Commissioner of Highways' "Notice to Authorities, Bodies and Persons Undertaking Roadworks at Work Areas or Work Zones and to Other Authorities, Bodies and Persons" dated 22 June 2000, all persons installing temporary traffic control devices at works on roads must be trained in the "Workzone Traffic Management" course. Contained within this training program are modules that cover the placement of speed limits and buffer zones at roadworks. Upon successful completion of the course, participants receive accreditation. These successful participants are therefore the only authorised persons who can install temporary traffic control devices.

Transport SA has developed a Field Guide for Speed Limits at Works on Roads which shows the placement of speed signs at roadworks in various situations, and is distributed to the wider roadworking population through a number of outlets such as training providers, Transport SA, and various associations (SA Landscapers Association).

This field guide complements Section 8 of the Code of Technical Requirements for the legal use of traffic control devices.

Additionally, Transport SA provides an audit function where a Transport SA officer inspects sites that may be considered hazardous to workers or the general public. The Transport SA officer will then assist the on-site supervisor to remedy the problem and help address safety issues.

The practice of Police issuing expiation notices is a matter for the Commissioner of Police and it is not appropriate for the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning to comment. In reference to this particular question, it is important to note that under section 22 of the Road Traffic Act, "a traffic control, proved to have been on, above or near a road will be conclusively presumed to have been lawfully installed or displayed".

However, this does not prevent someone who has received an expiation fee to elect to be prosecuted and then challenging the expiation on the grounds that the speed sign was not clearly visible. The matter is then subject to the court's discretion. Alternatively, the person who has received the expiation notice may appeal to the Commissioner of Police to withdraw the expiation notice pursuant to section 16 of the Expiation of Offences Act 1996, on the grounds that the Commissioner of Police is of the opinion that "the notice should not have been given with respect to the offence".

### RIDER SAFE MOTOR CYCLE TRAINING

96. **Ms RANKINE:** How many accidents have occurred involving students undertaking Department of Road Transport motor bike riding courses since inception; what are the details of any insurance covering these accidents; have any students received injury compensation and if so, what are the details. Does the department issue warnings to prospective students and are students required to sign a disclaimer prior to commencement?

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

The Minister for Transport and Urban Planning has been advised that Transport SA has not kept records of the number of crashes involving students at Rider Safe motor cycle training courses. However, since the courses were introduced in May 1987, Transport SA has received five personal injury claims from students.

Of the five claims received, one was settled for the sum of \$606, one claim is the subject of current legal proceedings, and one claim is being negotiated with the claimant's solicitor. The remaining two claims were rejected.

In the event of a crash giving rise to a personal injury claim, Transport SA carries its own civil liability insurance up to a value of \$100,000, but is insured for claims in excess of this amount by the Government Captive Insurer, SAICORP.

Several days prior to undertaking the course, students are provided with an information sheet entitled "Training Conditions and Safety Rules". This describes the safety rules applying to the course and provides advice on the appropriate safety equipment and personal protective equipment that should be worn during the course. While students attending the course are required to sign an attendance sheet to confirm that they have read, understood and agree to abide by the safety rules, they are not asked to sign a disclaimer.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

97. **Ms RANKINE:** How many people have qualified for pensioner concessions on their most recent Emergency Services Levy Assessment and how are these concessions accessed?

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** A concession of \$40 in respect of the Emergency Services Levy is granted to the registered proprietor of a principal place of residence under the Emergency Services Funding (Remissions—Land) Regulations 2000, where the registered proprietor is:

- the holder of a current pension concession card, a TPI gold repatriation health card or war widow gold repatriation health card;
- the recipient of Austudy payments, the Newstart allowance, the parenting payment (partnered) additional rate, the partner allowance, the sickness allowance, the special benefit widow allowance or the youth allowance granted under the Social Security Act 1991 of the Commonwealth;
- the recipient of Abstudy payments from the Commonwealth Government;
- the recipient of payments under the Community Development Employment Project established by the Commonwealth Government;
- the recipient of a pension as a war widow under legislation of the United Kingdom or New Zealand;
- the holder of a current State Concession Card issued by Family and Youth Services (FAYS) part of the Department of Human Services;
- the holder of a current State Senior's Card issued by the State Government. In the case of a couple, both must have Seniors Cards or if one partner only has a Seniors Card their partner must not be working more than 20 hours per week in paid employment.

The number of concessions granted in relation to the Emergency Services levy for 2000-01 currently stands at 148,529, with a value of \$5,941,160. Part owners of properties receive a level of concession in line with their degree of ownership of the property.

People who think they may be eligible for the concession should contact FAYS for more information.

### FIREWORKS

108. **Mrs GERAGHTY:**

1. What types of fireworks are permissible for use by members of the public, what discharge procedures must they follow when issued with a permit and what action is taken by the Police when they detect the illegal use of fireworks or prohibited types of fireworks?

2. Did a police patrol car attend a property at Flockhart Avenue, Valley View, on the evening of 31 March 2001 in relation to a fireworks incident and if so, at what time and if not, why not?

**The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE:** I have been advised by the Minister for Workplace Relations of the following information:

Members of the public who are untrained are only permitted to use "Shop-goods Fireworks" which are fireworks containing less than 40 grams of explosive or pyrotechnic substance and are often initiated by a gunpowder wick. Roman candles and Catherine wheels are typical of this type of firework. Permits are not issued for the purchase of bangers, rockets and similar items. However, up to 3 kilograms of these larger items can be purchased in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory for personal use. These can be brought into this State and legally used without a permit.

A permit to purchase fireworks must be obtained from Workplace Services. The application process requires the applicant to identify such information as the nature of the firing site and safety zone and fire and animal safety issues. A person to whom a permit is granted

must comply with the details provided in the application when discharging fireworks.

In addition, I have been advised by the Commissioner of Police that the action taken by Police Officers who detect the illegal use of fireworks or prohibited types of fireworks will depend on the circumstances identified. In many cases police respond to reports of noisy fireworks in a neighbourhood but on arrival find it difficult to pinpoint the actual source of the noise and the offender. However, where persons are detected in possession of or using, illegal fireworks these are generally seized and the person may be reported under the Explosives Regulations.

A fireworks permit was issued in conjunction with Administrative Services and a permit from Tea Tree Gully Council in relation to a Ninth Schedule under the Country Fires Act. This permit allowed persons of a Flockhart Avenue, Valley View address, to have a display at that address from 9.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. with all fireworks completed by 10.30 p.m.

Police did not attend the major firework display as they were aware of the permit. It appears from residents, and in particular the authorised officer from the Council, that fireworks which were outside 'permitted fireworks' were let off during the display. Police did however attend in Flockhart Avenue, Valley View, at 11.42 hours on 31 March 2001 as a result of a complaint, but all was quiet on attendance.

### PASTORAL LEASES

110. **Mr HILL:** Is the Pastoral Board considering permitting pastoral lessees to run goats and, if so, will the minister rule out such a practice on environmental grounds; and has environmental impact advice been sought and if so, what was it and if not, will he seek such advice?

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** The reply is as follows:

- the Pastoral Board's standing policy is to eradicate feral goats from the pastoral leases in South Australia
- in the last couple of years the Board has come under increasing pressure to be consistent with other States, in particular NSW and WA, that allow the running of domesticated goats in their rangelands
- during 2000 the Board surveyed pastoral lessees. One of the purposes of the survey was to gauge the number of pastoralists that are seriously considering the running of domesticated goats, should the Pastoral Board's prohibition be relaxed
- 28 per cent of respondents to the survey indicated that they would consider running goats
- strong arguments have been put to the Board, both for and against, the changing of the Board's current policy
- with respect to feral goats, the Board is resolute that eradication remains the ultimate goal
- with respect to domesticated goats, the Pastoral Board has not, at this point in time, made a decision to change its current

policy and has not approved any changes in land use to allow goats to be run on pastoral leases.

Will the Minister rule out such a practice on environmental grounds?

- Pastoral leases are granted pursuant to the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act for pastoral purposes and all Pastoral Lease instruments specifically allow the running sheep or cattle
- use of the land for any other purposes requires the approval of the Pastoral Board
- the Act confers powers to authorise a change of land use to the Pastoral Board, not the Minister—pursuant to Section 22 (b) (iii)
- consequently, as the Minister responsible for the Act, I do not have specific powers to intervene on these matters
- and as Minister I have complete confidence in the Pastoral Board to carry out its duties as required by the Act.

Has environmental impact advice been sought?

- at the present time, ongoing discussions are occurring at Pastoral Board meetings
- considerations include such matters as appropriate containment measures, a review of literature on the environmental impact of running goats and future monitoring requirements
- a joint committee, comprising representatives from the Animal & Plant Control Commission and Pastoral Board, has been set up to consider this information and report back to their respective Authorities
- the Pastoral Board has consulted on this matter with the South Australian Farmers Federation, Soil Conservation Boards and the Animal & Plant Control Commission
- the Board has corresponded with the Nature Conservation Society and a meeting is planned in the near future with the Society and the Conservation Council of South Australia to discuss this issue
- The Pastoral Board is also considering if a trial is required to determine the environmental impacts of goat grazing in the rangelands.

Concluding comments

- at the present time it is not possible to convey the Pastoral Board's intentions with respect to the running of domesticated goats on pastoral leases, as the issue is still very much a matter of debate
- it is worth noting that running of domesticated goats is also prohibited in the Flinders Ranges Prohibited Area, as defined by the Animal and Plant Control Commission
- the use of Prohibited Areas to control feral animals is currently under review by the APCC, with a view to adopting standardised Risk Assessment Procedures
- in framing any changes to its policy on running of domesticated goats, the Pastoral Board would work consistently with Soil Conservation District Plans, such as the Northern Flinders Ranges District Plan which disallows the running of goats in that district.