

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 17 October 2002

The **DEPUTY SPEAKER (Hon. R.B. Such)** took the chair at 10.30 a.m. and read prayers.

GREAT AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DRIVE

Adjourned debate on motion of Mrs Hall:

That this house congratulates the South Australian Tourism Commission and the Year of the Outback team on the success of the Great Australian Cattle Drive, and

- (a) acknowledges the significant economic benefits and goodwill this historic event has generated across the outback regions of South Australia;
- (b) congratulates the numerous individuals who participated in this event;
- (c) recognises the valuable international media coverage this state has received for staging this event; and
- (d) urges the state government to financially support the concept of a similar biennial event in the future.

(Continued from 29 August. Page 1448.)

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I support the motion moved by the member for Morialta as it clearly indicates the great success of this event which, basically, was staged in my constituency. I would like to add my congratulations to all those people who were involved in what was an outstanding event, which many people will remember for the rest of their life. I spoke to a number of people involved in the event and I attended what was an excellent function—the Slim Dusty concert—at Marree on a lovely Saturday evening. I do not suppose I will ever see 8 000 people gather in Marree again—it is unlikely.

Mr Hanna: Perhaps at one of your political rallies.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I am pleased that the honourable member accepts that I can draw crowds and attract people on a necessary occasion. I am pleased he recognises that and I thank him for his compliment. However, I do not wish to be sidetracked on this occasion, because the concert at Marree was a wonderfully well organised and successful occasion and those people attending thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The event attracted people from across the whole of South Australia. Interestingly, as I was lining up to go through the gate to show my ticket, the gentleman standing behind me did not recognise me, but I recognised him as the son of the member for Schubert. I said to him that it was lucky he was behaving himself because I could have given a first-hand report if he had not been. However, the only thing wrong was that the member for Schubert himself was not present; indeed, he should have attended, because I am sure that he would have enjoyed it.

The South Australian Tourism Commission was involved from the outset, and a considerable number of extra facilities were provided to ensure that the large number of people involved were adequately catered for. It was interesting to see the tent city which was moved on a regular basis to ensure that people kept up with the cattle drive, and eventually it was established at Marree. I understand that the photos taken to record this historic event are very popular. I am looking forward to getting a signed one to hang up in my electoral office to give due recognition to the people who played an integral role in this event. On a recent trip to Marree we met the person who organised the drive, and he said that it was one of the happiest occasions of his life and that he wished

that it could all happen again. Of course, Mr Oldfield who runs the caravan park, was a drover in his early days and he did a wonderful job in ensuring that this event was a success.

I commend the member for Morialta for bringing this event to the attention of the house because, as a former minister for tourism, she understands how important tourism is to the north of South Australia—and to South Australia—and that we need to continue to provide infrastructure and to maintain our roads system so that the huge number of people who want to enjoy the Outback experience can safely visit with their families without damaging their vehicles unnecessarily and enjoy the wide open spaces. A number of people from Germany, Austria and Switzerland like to go to that part of Australia during the hottest time of the year. Most of us do not want to go there in December, January and February, but overseas people seem to want to go there are at that time of the year—and we should encourage them.

The Outback cattle drive clearly indicated to the rest of Australia that there are facilities and great things to see in the north of South Australia and that there have been improvements in public infrastructure, which was put there as part of the government's program to ensure that tourism can continue to expand and so that the people who attended this event were provided with adequate facilities, such as, the sealed airstrip at Marree and roads which were in good condition. It is disappointing, highly irresponsible and completely unnecessary that the road gangs in the north have been cut and that the sealing of the road between Lyndhurst and Marree will not continue.

That decision is of great disappointment to the people of that area and contrary to the best interests of the people of South Australia. It is a shortsighted decision because we will run down the infrastructure that has been established and paid for by the taxpayers. The people who built and maintain the roads have done a very good job. They are experienced and understand the difficulties of building and maintaining infrastructure and the roads system in that part of South Australia. It is important that, in terms of other great events which are going to take place (such as the eclipse) everything possible is done to ensure that people from all over South Australia have easy access to these small communities so that the people who live in those communities as well as the people of South Australia can benefit.

This cattle drive was a unique occasion, and it probably will not take place again. Not only did they have to organise the cattle, but they had to organise a considerable number of horses and make sure that they were well broken in because a fair number of the people involved were probably inexperienced in horseriding. The horses had to be walked from Marree to Birdsville and, of course, saddles, bridles and other equipment were required. The horses had to be fed and watered and farriers were needed to shoe them, so it was a very big undertaking. Of course, medical assistance was also needed. I understand that Keith Rasheed, one of the prime instigators of the cattle drive fell off his horse and broke his ribs. He also had a refurbished Landrover, so I am pleased to say that in his usual exuberant way he managed to complete the drive and participate in ensuring that tourists visiting Wilpena were well looked after and had a unique experience.

So, I commend the member for Morialta for bringing this motion before the house. I sincerely hope that in any steps that the government takes in relation to restricting or altering the status of the Unnamed Conservation Park the community of South Australia are in no way prevented from going to that part of the state. This was a very successful event at Marree

and along the Birdsville Track. The Unnamed Conservation Park occupies a unique part of South Australia and people are entitled to visit, camp there and enjoy. We need to discuss this matter in the parliament. It should not be used just for people seeking a bit of short-term publicity without fully understanding the long-term effects. I will have more to say about that matter in the future.

This cattle drive was a unique and successful Outback event. It is uniquely Australian and probably something that we should look at doing again in the future because it attracted a great deal of very positive publicity. I, for one, will never forget the wonderful Slim Dusty concert which took place on a beautiful evening in Marree. The community was happy and well-behaved and the concert was well catered for. The road between Marree and Lyndhurst was in a very good condition.

Mr Brokenshire: It's not now.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: It's not now; it is deteriorating. The police did a wonderful job in making sure that everything went smoothly. My wife and I enjoyed it, and I sincerely hope that, in the future, we can participate again in an equally successful event in the north, because this event has done so much good. I commend all those responsible for the organisation of this event and the successful running of it.

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I am pleased to support the motion and to congratulate everyone involved in the Great Australian Cattle Drive as part of the Year of the Outback. I have a love for the Outback and I particularly respect those people who have done so much great work in the Outback, so I am pleased to see that this motion has been brought before the parliament. During the school holidays I visited Marree and stations to the north on the Birdsville Track. I sat down with one of the locals and had a look at the video that has been put together of this event. I commend all members to put this video in their library at home because it will provide a lasting opportunity to show our children and grandchildren what the great cattle drives were all about.

Whilst this was a re-enactment and was certainly done a lot easier than the bushies experienced in years gone by, it is still a fantastic example of the logistics of this event: how they were able to bring the cattle from Birdsville down the Birdsville Track during—I might add—a drought year, the worst drought on record for 100 years in Australia. They were able to bring those cattle down the Birdsville Track and fatten them up along the way to the point where when they went to auction in Marree they were in prime condition. A couple of calves were born along the way and they managed to bring them along the track also.

I wish to pay tribute to a couple of families that have traditionally lived in the Outback and the north of South Australia for a long period of time. One only has to think of the Kidman family. I commend the book *The Cattle King*, a fantastic story about how a person can build a pastoral enterprise. I refer also to people such as Tom Kruse and the work that he did to get mail and supplies through. It is not the Tom Cruise who acts in America: it is the Australian Tom Kruse, the man who did it so hard taking food and supplies to all those Outback stations. Members should look at Len Beadell's book *Too Long in the Bush* and see the sort of work he did. These are just a few examples of the sort of people who pioneered and opened up the Outback.

There are also traditional families there. I speak especially of the Oldfields and the Bells; people who have gone through enormously tough times and sometimes tragedy in their life

when sadly they have lost loved ones who have been involved in plane accidents during mustering and so on but who have stayed there with their young families to keep the bush alive. The thousands of people who went on this Great Australian Cattle Drive, not only from South Australia and Australia but also international visitors, shows how much people enjoy Outback Australia.

It also says to me that it is an opportunity for us to further market a tourism opportunity, one on which we did a lot of work when we were in government. We argued that we are the gateway to the Outback, particularly now with the Adelaide to Darwin rail line coming in, and we can build on and grow that opportunity. Another thing that is important is that the future of produce in the world will be more towards organic produce, and where can you get better organic produce than from outback South Australia? It is naturally organic. I am pleased to congratulate Daryl Bell and his family on an initiative where as an outback family they are capitalising on organic beef. They have recently purchased a butcher shop in Glenelg and will market organic beef into the tourism area in Glenelg. It can grow from there, as it can for saltbush reared outback mutton, and I think we can get a real niche for Australia out of that.

The local member, the member for Stuart (Hon. Graham Gunn), talked about the roads. The previous Liberal government made a conscious decision several years ago to upgrade roads in the Outback, and I talk particularly of the Birdsville Track. Not only that, we also had a budget to seal the road between Lyndhurst and Marree. Whilst those roads were in good order during the Great Australian Cattle Drive, they have deteriorated, because this government decided to withdraw the gangs that work on those roads, to withdraw the funding for maintaining those roads and to stop that project.

Mr Williams interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: As the member for MacKillop said, it is disgraceful. The government is not thinking about the fact that there is economic opportunity there and there are also opportunities for families that I saw when I was up at Mungerannie and places like that, where average South Australians who also have a passion for the Outback have put all their savings from their year's hard work into taking a trip up north. However, the roads are deteriorating so much now that they are blowing tyres like you would not believe.

The Hon. M.R. Buckby interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: You need more than two. The member for Light said that you need to take a couple of spare tyres but, with the way the roads are now, you need a truck following you with spare tyres. I felt sorry for one person who, in one day, blew four tyres—they were not just flat tyres but blown apart—on his four-wheel drive, and his family were trying to have a holiday. I also wrecked one of my tyres, and I feel like sending the bill to the Minister for Transport and his department. If they are not serious about maintaining the roads, I say to the public of South Australia, when you go out there—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mawson should address the chair, and members on the government side should not interject.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: —send the bill to the Labor government, because these roads are becoming a disgrace very quickly.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Yes, they do deteriorate in seven months. The government is saying, 'What are you saying? Seven months and they have deteriorated already?'

Mr O'BRIEN: I rise on a point of order, sir. Standing order 128 directs that the subject matter of the debate be relevant to the issue at hand. What we are talking about is the Great Australian Cattle Drive, not the condition of the roads in the north of the state.

Mr Williams interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for MacKillop is testing his relationship with the chair. The point of order has some validity. The member for Mawson is straying a little but, if he links his remarks to the great cattle drive and how cows use tyres, I guess there is some linkage.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am disappointed that the government has tried to block my points on this, but the locals will reinforce what I am saying in terms of further Great Australian Cattle Drives, having an opportunity to destock their properties now they are in drought, and having an opportunity to capitalise on the work that the Liberal government did in providing toilets and showers along the way. I again congratulate the local people up there who have done so much work to maintain those showers and toilet facilities from Marree right up through the track. If those things that have been put there as basic infrastructure for the Great Australian Cattle Drive for the Year of the Outback are to be positive opportunities for the future, this government must look at South Australia not only as the metropolitan area but also as a state that goes from the Victorian border to the Western Australian border and to the Northern Territory and Queensland borders. Those people up there are now very concerned about whether they will be able to capitalise further on the great success that they have seen with the Great Australian Cattle Drive.

I also want to talk about one other special person up there whose birthday I had the privilege of attending two weeks ago on his station, and I am talking about George Bell. Just to give an example in the few seconds I have left, 70 years ago, when he was 13, Mr Bell and his family walked from Adelaide to their station north of Marree. They are still on that station and are still looking after the environment in the Outback, generating a lot of money for the local area when they have good times and also putting a lot of revenue into state and federal government coffers. It is people with the tenacity, foresight, commitment and ability to be great pastoralists, such as Mr George Bell, the Bell and Oldfield families and many others, whom we should be very proud of in South Australia.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I rise to support this motion. This whole thing has a very good feel about it for South Australia. It was a very positive event. All those who attended came back talking in glowing terms about their experiences, and most want to repeat the experience. I congratulate the former minister, now the member for Morialta, for moving this motion, because it is important that this house recognises and congratulates those who brought about this very successful event.

I did not have the pleasure of going but, as the member for Stuart said a few moments ago, my son did. I am not sure who is not telling on whom but, from the reports I got back from the member for Stuart and my son and his party, they had a wonderful time, experienced true Outback hospitality and witnessed a unique event. I hope it is able to be run again, because the work has been done.

I know that strategically it was very difficult and complicated, but the first one is always the most difficult. I also

realise the difficulty nowadays with public risk insurance and compensation, and I hope that does not stand in its way. A few weeks after the event, four MPs went to Marree. The member for Stuart took the members for MacKillop and Morphett and me up there. We met the team boss of the cattle drive, Mr Eric Oldfield. What a character he is! Eric is an elderly gentleman and he was still suffering the pain of weeks in the saddle, but you could see the pride in his face. The experience to him was one of his life's greatest moments, one of the highlights of his life. It was great for us to meet the team boss or muster leader at Marree. We had a cup of tea with Eric and relived a lot with him.

There has been a great record of this event, both on video film and in photographs. I think this event is excellent for tourism, particularly for our state, because our tourism assets in the outback are unique. Anything that causes another country to put these views on their TVs has to be good news indeed. We do have a marvellous asset. There is nothing quite like it for people living in the crowded areas of this world to come into our Outback. Strategically, it was very important to see teams driving cattle down a dusty road and it showed that we Australians appreciate our Outback.

Previously, I have raised the issue of the state of the roads. The most important thing with an event such as this is that, if it comes in rainy—and we have had one musical event washed out because of weather—we must have good roads. Our roads, generally, are good. It concerns me that we are now cutting back on roadwork teams in the Outback. This worries me because so many people rely on these roads. If we put on an event such as this and the weather turns bad, we have a strategic problem.

The eclipse will occur soon. Thousands of people will be at Lyndhurst and Ceduna, two unique places, on 4 December (which is not far away), and the eclipse will be a rare event. So, these roads need to be up to scratch. There is nothing worse than an overseas visitor having an unfortunate experience on bad roads.

The question has been raised this morning: will this event take place again? I hope it does. The question has been asked: have we any answers yet? I hope that the event organisers, or even Major Events, will pick this up and do a feasibility study about running subsequent events—certainly a second one. Many people, including me, would be there for the next one. The excellent media coverage given to, and the excellent reputation gained by, the first cattle drive should ensure that any subsequent drive is a sold-out success. I hope so, and certainly I will be there. I congratulate those who had the vision to put on a different event such as this. There has not been anything quite like this before on this scale and magnitude.

It was strategically difficult to move the hospitality camps with the cattle drive, but it was achieved well. I congratulate those who made it happen, because so much work was put in and many of those involved were volunteers. Guests from overseas fell in love with the event, the people and the place and, again, I congratulate those who made it happen. I also congratulate those who organised the concert after the event, which, by all accounts, was also great. My son has given me a great account of what happened. It was a great night with true Australian hospitality; and the entertainment was excellent. Finally, I congratulate the member for Morialta, first, for bringing this motion to the house and, secondly, for her enthusiasm and involvement which, at the time, was contagious. Most members of the house were aware of this event, and the member for Morialta certainly got involved.

She was up there for several days involving herself, first, as minister and, secondly, as a member. Anything that highlights our wonderful, natural, great assets has to be supported. I certainly support this motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Goyder, I point out that at least one member may have spoken twice on this motion. The chair has been guilty of that in the past. The chair points out that there is a deficiency in the electronic database at the moment, so members need to check hard copy of *Hansard* if their memory has failed them.

Ms Breuer interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Giles will be exploring the Outback soon if she is not careful!

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): I speak in support of the motion, which I move to amend as follows:

Leave out all words in paragraph (d) and insert 'suggests that the possibility of staging a similar event in the future be explored.'

The little that I have read in support of the motion tends to indicate that those individuals who were lucky enough to experience the event had what could be considered to be a once in a lifetime experience. The event was nearly sold out, with 95 per cent of positions taken up. It generated more than \$900 000 in visitor package sales; it had a significant economic impact on the tourism industry in South Australia; and a large number of tickets were sold interstate, which was good in that it brought tourist dollars into South Australia.

Further revenue generated through sponsorship and in-kind sponsorship amounted to in excess of \$1.27 million. The event attracted an additional 10 000 visitors to the Outback and generated significant amounts of money for this region. The event also generated over \$7 million in media exposure and gave the Outback of the state an international level of recognition. It also raised more than \$50 000 for a variety of charities, including the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Frontier Services. In this respect it was fairly significant. It also brought about a \$6.7 million commitment over three years by the state government for Outback infrastructure, and it will continue to ensure that the region delivers on the expectation of visitors. The estimated economic impact of the event is in excess of \$7 million.

Following on from members of the opposition who have spoken to the motion, I congratulate those individuals who were largely responsible for the success of this venture. I congratulate cattle driver/boss driver Mr Eric Oldfield and his driving team; horse trainer or tailer Mr Shane Oldfield and his team; event coordinator Mr Keith Rasheed; and all staff who worked on organising this massive event. I also thank the key sponsors including Qantas, Jacob's Creek, Telstra Countrywide, Channel 7, Mazda, SA Brewing, A H Plant Hire, Peter Cochrane Transport, R.M. Williams, Bonnett's Saddlery, Elders, Michell Leather and Wesfarmers Landmark.

I think we should give some recognition to the valuable international media coverage that the state received as a consequence of staging this event. The event achieved extraordinary media exposure across Australia and overseas, positioning South Australia as the gateway to the Outback. Publicity generated by the event has been conservatively estimated at worth more than \$7 million, with more than 120 press and electronic media from around Australia covering the drive.

In relation to the amendment that I moved, I would just like to briefly explain why we are taking a slightly different

tack to that suggested by the opposition. The event was largely staffed by volunteers and I have been informed that the doctor who was with the event for seven weeks volunteered his time and skills. Similarly, one of the most invaluable personnel components of an event like this, the blacksmith, came from Victoria and also gave up seven weeks of his time. The material and calculations that have been put to me indicate that without this incredible level of commitment by volunteers the event would not have been financially viable.

The government believes that it is extremely unlikely that individuals could make that level of time commitment on a voluntary basis each year and it would be unfair to expect them to do so. For that reason, we are looking at similar events but probably of a shorter duration and structured in a slightly different manner so that the impetus that has been gained by the running of this event is maintained. I am a little disappointed that I did not go along myself, being a keen traveller through rural and outback Australia. The fact is that it is just impracticable, unfeasible and financially impossible to replicate an event like this on an annual, biennial or even triennial basis. So the government is seeking to take the best that this cattle drive had to offer and remould it so that it can be run on a reasonably regular basis, satisfy the objectives that were sought with the first Great Australian Cattle Drive, and ensure that it continues on an indefinite basis.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): I am very pleased to support this motion moved by the member for Morialta. I thank the honourable member for moving it and I congratulate all people who have been involved in the Year of the Outback and the Great Australian Cattle Drive. I note that the honourable member for Napier has moved an amendment to replace the fourth paragraph in the member for Morialta's motion, which urges the state government to financially support the concept of a similar biennial event in the future, with a paragraph suggesting that the possibility of staging a similar event in the future be explored.

The member for Morialta's paragraph had more force, and my comments are based on my belief that one of the most important parts of the honourable member's motion is that paragraph. Nevertheless, I acknowledge that at least the congratulatory aspect of the member for Morialta's motion has been retained, and I thank the honourable member opposite for retaining that, and I believe that there is at least an opportunity to explore the staging of a similar event, so I can support the motion in the amended form, as well.

The key issue is that events such as the Year of the Outback and the Great Australian Cattle Drive do more for regional Australia—other than the usual products that come from regional Australia such as grain, cattle, sheep and associated primary produce—than any other activity. It is not just me who is saying that. A former premier identified that in the area that is now my electorate many years ago. That former premier was Don Dunstan. He made those comments to Keith Russack, the former member for Goyder—who may have been the member for Gouger at that time—when Keith told Don Dunstan that they needed more industry in that area. Don Dunstan made the comment that we have got a natural industry right before us, and that natural industry is tourism. To promote tourism you need special events, and I know that Don Dunstan was a great promoter of the Cornish festival—the Kernewek Lowender, as we know it locally. I remember that, only a few years ago, well after he had resigned as

premier, I was pleased to speak to Don Dunstan at that festival.

In the same sense, the cattle drive was a new initiative by the former government to bring tourists into the Outback in the way that they had not gone there before. I have heard many speakers to date say they wish they had been there. I was very pleased that the member for Morialta was able to go, and members may recall that she had to have leave from this house to attend, and I thank the government whip and the government for granting a pair, because the member for Morialta in her role as minister for tourism had done so much to promote the event that it was great that she could be present for at least part of the drive. In response to the member for Napier, that is part of the reason why most of us were not able to go, because parliament was sitting, and that is the case with so much of the day-to-day life that occurs beyond these walls.

Whilst I congratulate everyone involved, I thank them for the magnificent work they have done and I thank the government for the support that it has given. At the same time I was extremely disappointed to read in my local paper last week that government funding for the Cornish festival, the Kernewek Lowender, for 2003 has been cut from \$25 000 to zero. Not one penny will go towards the Cornish festival! That is the first time since the event began that no money has been provided by the government. That is a festival that the former premier, Don Dunstan, promoted so heavily, and he was a premier whom the present Premier has named as a man he would like to emulate in many ways. He has praised him; yet I assume that this Premier, who is in charge of the present government, is aware that his government has decided to give zero to that festival.

It is particularly hard for the volunteers to make the decision to go ahead, despite the fact that the festival is down \$25 000 before it starts, especially in light of the fact that public liability insurance has increased significantly, to such an extent that some of the events in the festival have been cancelled. It is a 10-day festival, not a three-day festival, and it is staged over two weekends. It is very distressing. I am amazed that the government has made this decision after the huge success of the Great Australian Cattle Drive. One would think that it would have learnt from it.

I am also amazed that, at about the time this announcement was made, the Premier was probably travelling around the state saying, 'I'm here to see what's happening in rural areas. I'm here to try to help rural areas.' What has he done to my rural area? The Premier did not say this, but the implication is, 'Whilst I know that funding will be that much harder to get from local businesses', many of whom are farmers who will not have the money this year, 'I'm also going to cut \$25 000 from you.' I hope that this decision will be reviewed, because it really worries me. Some 80 000 people visit the Copper Triangle area during this biennial event. If we cannot afford to run it, that is 80 000 fewer tourists coming into the area, and it really would be a tragedy for the area.

If the people who organised the event were all paid I could understand and say that we have to cut costs. But they are all volunteers; they do it for nothing—in fact, they give of their time not only for days, weeks and months but, in some cases, the full two years to put this event together. People should not think that these events just fall into place normally. One of the proposed events taking shape is a 60-voice male composite choir that is coming from Cornwall to perform at the

Cornish festival. I would think that a 60-voice male choir would not come cheaply.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Depends on how they sing.

Mr MEIER: I am very disappointed that members of the government laugh at aspects of what I am saying.

Members interjecting:

Mr MEIER: I will be happy to have this printed in my area. If members want to pursue that, I will be happy to—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Goyder has the call.

Mr MEIER:—mention the reaction of individual members. Obviously, people such as those who are members of the male choir have to be, at the very least, accommodated, and in some cases we have to pay for that. Certainly, they would not want to do it all gratis; there are expenses. But, in the main, they do most of this gratis. I do not even know whether they are paying their own air fares. I assume that the organisers of the Cornish festival will seek to subsidise their air fares—that is the least they could do. Certainly, they would seek to provide accommodation. But that does not always come for nothing: one often has to pay for it.

In supporting this motion, I ask the government not to overlook festivals in rural and regional areas. They are great opportunities for industries that we cannot get in other ways. For that reason, I support this motion. I hope that the government will not go back on the magnificent tourist achievements that have been undertaken in the past few years.

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): I support the amendment and the motion. I particularly want to support the amendment, because it seems to me that what so many speakers have said has, in fact, emphasised why we should not conscript so many volunteers to put in this magnificent effort every two years, but should consult extensively with them and with the relevant tourism authorities and local government bodies involved to see when it might be appropriate to undertake such a massive event again. It seems to me, from looking at the number of people involved, that they have given extremely generously of their time and I—and, I am sure, all members of the house—wish to thank them for giving so freely of their time and, more particularly, their skills, to bring such a magnificent event to the state.

It is quite clear, from the newspaper reports and the comments of members opposite, that this event enabled our great Outback to be showcased not only to our city dwellers—although some of us have ventured out there occasionally—but also to the rest of the world. But it is also important that, when we are showcasing the Outback to the rest of the world, it is done in such a way that packages are provided that enable people to safely visit our Outback. Even though we grow up with it on our back doorstep, we are not always safe in the Outback and, unfortunately, all too often we hear of tourists, who come from places where villages are about three steps apart, being quite overcome by what is happening when they visit the Outback, and there is the occasional tragedy. Events such as the cattle drive and similar promotions enable people to visit the Outback safely. And the Great Australian Cattle Drive was just that—a great event.

The steering committee consisted of Mr Keith Rasheed from Wilpena Pound; Mr Paul Victory, the cattle drive director; Ms Lisa Davies, event coordinator; Mr Brendon Eblen, Royal Flying Doctor Service representative; Mr David Brook, owner and manager of Brook Proprietors; Mr Eric Oldfield, boss drover; Mr Shane Oldfield, horse tailer; Daryl Bell, Birdsville Track pastoral representative; Reg Dodd,

Arabunna Aboriginal liaison; and Donald Rowlands, Wangkanguru Aboriginal liaison. All those people are contributing to their own lives, and one would expect that they are actively engaged in very busy lives. Again, we thank them, but with the recognition that they should not be conscripted to undertake this event every two years. By far the more sensible approach is to consult, liaise, plan and develop a way of undertaking a similar event in the future—or maybe it will be a scaled down event, because if we have them all the time we do not really have the great cattle drive.

I also would like to briefly address some of the remarks made by the member for Mawson. It was really nice to hear about his holiday recently, but I wondered whether he was in a time warp. He seemed to be suggesting repeatedly that, somehow, the current state of the Outback roads is the responsibility of this government. My understanding is that Outback roads generally deteriorate after considerable rain or considerable traffic. Over the past few months we have not had considerable rain or considerable traffic. The other part of the member for Mawson's time warp seems to relate to the amount of time over which these roads might deteriorate. This government has been in power only since March this year; if it had been a much longer period (as would have been my fond hope), we would have been able to manage the state much better than the previous government did. However, we have been in government only since March, and I cannot understand (although I acknowledge that I am not a road traffic engineer) how the state of the Outback roads at the moment could be the fault of this government, and I wonder what the previous government might have been doing to care for the roads in the Outback.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The house is getting out of order.

Ms THOMPSON: If members opposite would like to tell me that I do not have much of an understanding of Outback roads and how they deteriorate, I would be interested in their principles, but—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon interjecting:

Ms THOMPSON: Yes. But I do feel that I have a bit of an understanding of these issues. I have seen a few submissions about roads and other matters as a member of the Public Works Committee, and six months does not seem to be the normal time for deterioration—particularly without rain. Another reason why I expect that the previous minister might want to repeat the Great Australian Cattle Drive is that it was, in fact, a good idea. When we look at the other ideas the previous minister had, we can see that not too many of them were good ideas. There was one other, and that was the Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under; that was a pretty good idea. But there were other ideas connected with things such as soccer stadiums and wine centres that were not all that good at all. So, we can understand why they might want to repeat one of the two good ideas they had. The Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under is continuing. It is a great event, involving lots of people. It again brings the focus on South Australia—and I really enjoy the focus it brings on the south and the wine areas there. But that is something that does not take the sort of organisation (which is undertaken mainly by volunteers) that was involved in the Great Australian Cattle Drive.

I strongly congratulate those who gave so generously of their time and talent to create such an excellent event, and I also strongly support the amendment moved by the member for Napier that we deal with the future of this event and the

possibility of a similar event in a sensible, consultative way and not by conscription.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

COAST PROTECTION BOARD

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. W.A. Matthew:

That this house calls on the government to amend the charter of the Coast Protection Board to become one of coast preservation and further calls on the government to replenish sand at Hallett Cove to help preserve the coastline.

(Continued from 18 July. Page 906.)

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I support this motion. My electorate of Morphett includes the beaches of North Brighton, Somerton, Glenelg, Glenelg South, Glenelg North and, by adoption almost, West Beach. I was at the opening of the Adelaide Sailing Club season on Sunday at West Beach. It was a fantastic afternoon and it is my pleasure to inform the house that it was opened by the Hon. John Olsen. His wife Julie was also there to christen some of the new boats. The Adelaide Sailing Club facility at West Beach is magnificent, thanks to the former government.

However, the former government, and governments over many years, have had to cope with the management of sand along our coast. In fact, the problems of our coastal beaches—whether at Hallett Cove, Glenelg North, Tennyson or anywhere along our coastline—are not going away. The money that has been spent in the past is not insignificant: in fact, it is an exceptionally large amount when you add it up. I was looking at some of the amounts spent and budgeted for by previous Liberal governments and back in 1995 I understand we budgeted for \$5.1 million under minister Wotton. I am not going to say that the Labor Party does not appreciate our beaches because, certainly, I know how passionate the member for Colton is about his area of West Beach and Henley. We in this house have to be bipartisan about it.

The beaches along our coastline vary from the boulders and rocks at Marino and Hallett Cove to the beautiful expanses of the wide flat sands on both this side of Gulf St Vincent and the beautiful beaches on the other side. However, the problem with the long strip of metropolitan development is that everybody wants to live at the beach and, as a result, there has been intense housing development along the coastal strip which has interfered with the natural replenishment of the sand dunes that the founders of this state saw and climbed over. In fact, my house at Glenelg was built in 1886 and the elevations on the original plans drawn in 1884 show a dotted line on the northern elevation that shows the original sand dune line. My house is a two storey house with 16 foot ceilings, and it is a pretty tall house. It is probably 50 metres—perhaps a maximum of 100 metres—from the high water mark and the sand dune line would be 4 metres or 5 metres high, so members can imagine the volumes of sand that have been removed by the intervention of Europeans since 1836. It is a shame that the damage has been done, but reversing that damage is just about impossible. Certainly, we need to examine, very carefully, reducing the rate of degradation of our beaches.

South Australia generally has very thin beaches. There is no sand at some of our beaches around Hallett Cove and Marino, whereas Tennyson has wide, flat areas of deep sand. Glenelg and areas north and south of it have very thin beaches with a layer of beautiful white sand—very fine sand when you look at the size of the particles—over limestone

and, I believe, although I am not a geologist, some ironstone underneath. These beaches are subject to a natural south-north littoral drift and this, coupled with the short, sharp wave action in the gulf—we do not have the big ocean swells such as they have around Eyre Peninsula and the east coast—means that the beaches can change dramatically. With the thin layer of sand, the rocks will be exposed quite frequently. Maintaining them as nice, sandy beaches for people to walk on, lie on and enjoy themselves on is something that this government and previous governments have faced and will continue to face. The money that will have to be spent is in the millions of dollars but every taxpayer in South Australia will have to share that burden, and on a per head basis I think that the cost is well worth looking at. In my maiden speech I said that you can put a value on something but you also have to ask yourself what it is worth. The value of maintaining our beaches runs into the millions of dollars, but we have to ask ourselves what it is worth. I strongly encourage this government to continue the work of previous governments of all persuasions and do its best to maintain our beaches.

It is interesting to note that when the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club was founded many years ago it was known around Australia as the surf life saving club with no beach because it was all rocks. Now, when you go out the front of the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club, you can count four steps leading to the beach before you reach the deep sands—and I say ‘deep sands’ because if you move the sand there are 17 steps, not just the four that show at the moment. So there is plenty of sand at Glenelg beach in front of the Holdfast Shores development.

One of the proposals to manage the sand depletion of our beaches is to instigate a method of moving that sand back south. In the past, there have been huge dump trucks on the beaches and through the suburbs taking sand back to the southern beaches and dumping it, only for the south-north littoral drift to take over again, and the sand comes up again. Perhaps a system of permanent pumps—and I have seen plans for these over the years—could be instigated and, while the cost is certainly not insignificant, the outcome is something that would be worth while.

One of my constituents, Mr Lyell Wilson, came to me with a proposal to help manage the south-north drift which envisages using a robotic device to dredge channels at an angle to the coast. I do not know the full technicalities of this system but I have approached the minister, on behalf of Mr Wilson, with an invitation to examine this new method. It is a bit of lateral thinking and something that may be worth while, and I encourage the government to examine any new proposal, because it is something that the people of South Australia deserve.

Our beaches are beautiful. Visitors from overseas who are asked about our beaches say that we should be proud of them. I live at Glenelg, and this morning when I got up I looked out at the beautiful water, which is starting to clear now—at this time of the year it changes to a beautiful azure blue—and saw a seal frolicking around about 100 metres off shore. We had a seal resting on the beach the other day, and I say that it was the ‘seal of approval’.

We often see penguins along our local coastline. The problem relating to penguins, though, is one of my other favourite topics—feral cats, which live in the rocks. They were giving the penguins a hard time and, fortunately, the RSPCA removed the penguins. Perhaps we should be removing the cats! The cat problem is something that I will

keep on about in this place, but not now. Our beaches are more important at this particular time.

Ways of moving the sand vary from just trucks, pumping and dredging, and all methods need to be examined. I should point out that the beautiful white sands, the very fine sand that is moving rapidly north, has been slowed down a bit at Brighton and North Brighton because, with the dredging of the sand from Port Stanvac some years ago, the particles of sand that were put on the beach then were a slightly larger size, so that drift has slowed down.

The beaches have been preserved and, I understand, about \$1 million has been saved in respect of the cost. Mount Compass sand has been used to help replenish the beaches, as I understand it, but certainly preserving our beaches is something we need to do at all costs.

An honourable member interjecting:

Dr McFETRIDGE: The honourable member interjects that perhaps the sand from the Murray Mouth could be used. It might be a bit far to take it. But, if there is a way of doing it, it is something we could examine. Nothing should be overlooked because our beaches are the finest in the world. We have a wonderful opportunity here to maintain the South Australian environment in the condition that it is at the moment—pristine. I congratulate the proposer of this motion and look forward to watching the government perform in maintaining our beaches for all South Australians to enjoy, because that is what we need.

Mr CAICA secured the adjournment of the debate.

McKENZIE, DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER NEIL

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Brokenshire:

That this house congratulates the recently retired Deputy Police Commissioner Neil McKenzie on his 43 years of diligent service to the South Australia Police and wider community and commends his efforts in supporting a safe community and safe use of roads.

(Continued from 18 July. Page 908.)

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Police): I rise to speak briefly on this, given that the actual date of retirement was on 28 June—such is the progress of matters in this place. I would like to genuinely congratulate former Deputy Commissioner Mr Neil McKenzie. I note the last resolution congratulating the Outback cattle muster and, if that was opposition members speaking in congratulatory terms, I would not like to see them whingeing, because they did nothing but whinge about everything except the Outback cattle drive for what seemed to be about 40 minutes of my life that I will never get back.

Mr McKenzie left the South Australian police force in June, after 43 years of distinguished service. As the current minister, and on behalf of the many who have preceded me—and there will certainly be more to come after me—I thank Mr McKenzie for his service.

Mr McKenzie joined the South Australian police force in 1959. In 1977 he was awarded the National Medal; in 1978 he was the Nuriootpa Divisional Inspector, where he commanded the search for the Truro murder victims; between 1980 and 1982, he was Officer in Charge of the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and Special Crime Squad; between 1982 and 1990 he was Officer in Charge of the Criminal Intelligence Unit and Regional Commander of the Western metropolitan coastal region; in 1988 he was awarded the

Australian Police Medal; between 1990 and 1993 he was the Operations Coordinator managing intelligence and planning areas for major events, including the Australian Formula One Grand Prix, the 1992 royal tour, the Gulf War crisis and the War Crimes trial security; in 1993 he became commander of the Internal Investigations Branch; in 1994, he was made Officer in Charge of the Strategic Development Branch; between 1995 and 1997 he was the Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support; and in 1997 he became Deputy Commissioner. That is an absolutely outstanding list of service to the community.

Mr McKenzie told the *Advertiser* that in retirement he planned to become a spectator and enjoy time with his family, playing golf and discovering more South Australian wines. We congratulate him on that. I offer my sincere thanks on behalf of the government, and I can say that, during his 43 years of service, he had an almost entirely unblemished record. There is one blemish in that I am advised that he is a Crows supporter! But, I think with 43 years of otherwise entirely unblemished service, we can all join in congratulating Mr McKenzie.

The only other thing I would add to the record is that I hope he is enjoying all of those pursuits. I am sure that he would have enjoyed and was also anguished by the finals series, as much as I was as a Port Power supporter. I hope he has a very long and happy retirement, as I am sure he will.

Mr McKenzie has been replaced by John White as the new Deputy Commissioner but, for the past week, he has been the Acting Commissioner in very trying circumstances. I place on the record our gratitude for the work that Mr White has done as Acting Commissioner this week.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I rise to support this motion. I am urged to because I spoke to John White last night in this house, and I would like to congratulate him on his recent appointment. John is a great guy. He has been a police officer for 38 years and certainly, to use the minister's words, is a highly committed and motivated police officer. I offer my congratulations to John.

At the same time, I would be very remiss not to congratulate Neil McKenzie on his retirement. The South Australian police force is the third oldest police force in the world. It is interesting to see that it started out with foot patrols, horses and pushbikes. I would like to congratulate the former police minister who was recently exonerated and certainly shown to be an exemplary parliamentarian and politician. He instituted pushbike patrols at Glenelg, and they are absolutely fantastic to have around the place.

The police officers on these bike patrols stop and talk to people, so the community is receiving good policing. Certainly the foot patrols are there all the time, and the horses will be back during the summer months. It is great to see that the South Australian police force is maintaining the exemplary standards and degree of proficiency that it has shown over many years.

At Glenelg recently, we have had four police officers who have been congratulated for particular acts of bravery. Both pairs of police officers featured on the front page of the *Police Journal*. I cannot remember their names, unfortunately, as I would like to be able to put them into *Hansard*. However, two officers tackled a knife-wielding crazy man at Jetty Road, Glenelg, amongst people in a packed restaurant. Alfresco dining is something that everybody enjoys but, when there is a fellow on the loose with a knife, you need people like these police officers to come in, take over and restore

order. The two officers did that with great proficiency, professionalism and expediency.

Another two police officers were involved in rescuing a lady who collapsed in a burning house at Glenelg North. They are on the recent cover of the *Police Journal*, and I congratulate those two officers for risking their lives in that situation. One has only to look at recent events in Bali to see the damage that can be done by smoke and heat in any fire, and for somebody to risk their own life and rescue somebody from a burning building is something to be commended. Without thinking of their own personal safety, these two police officers got in there and did the job, and this lady is alive and well. I congratulate them, as I congratulate all police officers of all ranks in South Australia for their fantastic efforts, particularly under very trying circumstances such as we have seen in the past week. They put their lives on the line, and it is under the leadership of people such as John White and Neil McKenzie that these officers could have confidence that operational affairs would be conducted with the utmost precision and that the strategies and the tactics that were employed would be successful.

Neil McKenzie gave 43 years of diligent police service and has a very proud record. He joined the police force in 1959 and was promoted to the rank of detective at the young age of 22. We are all acutely aware of the Snowtown murders and the horrific events that are being revealed. We have even seen a book banned in South Australia because it contains some details that are sub judice at the moment. Bob Ellis went over the top in many of the things he said about members opposite and other affairs of this state, but I will leave that for them to judge. He goes above and beyond Babylon.

As a young detective of 22, Neil McKenzie was involved in the investigation of the Truro murders, which shocked this state and which helped to give it a very unfair reputation of being a dangerous place in which to live. If anybody had been listening to my previous speech on the beaches and our wonderful lifestyle in South Australia, they would realise that certainly the media in this state should not be negative.

The Hon. S.W. Key interjecting:

Dr McFETRIDGE: I know the minister was listening, and she is a wonderful person to have in Labor's ranks, because she certainly adds some class to that side of the house. For the *Hansard* record, I am talking about Minister Key—a good member and a good minister. I would hate to be seen to be dividing the Labor Party in any way; it does a pretty good job by itself.

However, I return to the main point of my speech and that is to congratulate Neil McKenzie—a fine police officer. Neil was promoted to Deputy Commissioner in 1997 but, before that, he was promoted to Superintendent in 1982, quickly rising to the rank of Chief Superintendent in 1983. A good friend of mine, Peter Marshman, and I sail and have a few beers together. Pete has retired now, but he was a chief superintendent. He certainly has told me many stories about being in the Anti-Larrikin Squad, the Truro murders investigation and the history of the South Australian police force. Neil McKenzie was a pivotal officer. He was somebody who could be looked up to and who could be followed. He is an excellent manager, a highly competent operational officer and, as we have just heard a moment ago, an avid Crows supporter!

It is important that this government continues to support the South Australian police force, so that officers of the calibre of Neil McKenzie and John White can continue to

provide the South Australian public with the highly competent and professional police service that we now enjoy. Certainly, recent events exemplify the fact that we all live in a changing world. We need police officers we can trust and on whom we can rely.

The integrity, honesty and ability of South Australian police officers is never questioned. We only have to look across the border to Western Australia to see the horrific stories of the corruption that is occurring there. We have seen Queensland and New South Wales and we hear similar stories coming out of Victoria—but never out of South Australia. The South Australian police force is beyond reproach.

I hope that this government continues to allocate funds to allow officers to be trained in all aspects of their service, not only walking the beat down at the Bay, which must be the most pleasurable part of their duty. I will not mention the nickname for the patrols in which they are involved, but I think they rather enjoy looking at the various shapes and sizes on the beaches. However, I will give them that; they deserve every bit of pleasure, because dealing with some of the people that they do is something that I would not like to experience. I would not have minded being a fireman, because that, too, is a very honourable profession. Certainly, being a police officer is a role which I hold in great regard but to which I would never aspire, and it is a role that should be held in high regard by members of the public.

Often it is a very thankless task, and that is why I congratulate Neil McKenzie on the fine effort of 43 years in the police service. I hope that John White can do as good a job, and I say that because I know John is capable of doing a fantastic job, too.

It is with great pleasure that I support this motion. I go home at night knowing that the state has been, and indeed still is, in good hands. If this government continues to fund the South Australian police force as the previous government did, I know it will continue to be in good hands. I support the motion.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): In rising to support this motion, my first confession to the house is that I have never had the pleasure of meeting Neil McKenzie, but I do not think that detracts from my desire to be involved in adding my congratulations to him and my support to this motion.

As the previous speaker, the member for Morphett, has just said, policing is very important to this state and it is very important to every citizen. We are indeed blessed with a magnificent police force. As the same member also pointed out, it is the third oldest police force in the world. In terms of man's history, the function of formal policing is not very old at all. The evolution we have seen in law and order, the rule of law and policing is quite a modern phenomenon in that context. Having such an old police force is one of the reasons why we have such a very good force.

I am sure that those who have shared the responsibilities of office in this parliament over the years have been able to modify the relevant legislation as and when required to ensure the efficient continuation of the police force. As the member for Morphett pointed out, this parliament has allocated appropriate funds to ensure the ongoing work of the police in South Australia.

I have consulted several of my colleagues and the philistines have not been able to help me one little bit, but I think it was Noel Coward who immortalised the words, 'A policeman's lot is not a happy one,' and that indeed is—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Thompson): Gilbert and Sullivan.

Mr WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam Acting Chair. I am pleased to see that somebody in the chamber has some culture. I think the words, irrespective of their source, reflect the thoughts and feelings that a lot of us share about the work that is done by our police force and by police forces throughout the world. It is a very difficult task. By the nature of their work, they are associated with those people in our communities and our society with whom it would most uncomfortable for many of us to deal. The tragic events of the past week have shown that that is the sort of situation with which police officers continually find themselves associated.

Over the years, I have known many people involved with the police force; I have at least one relative who is a serving police officer in South Australia at the moment. In my conversations with him over the years, I am absolutely certain that he enjoys his work. However, it is not a job to which I would aspire and it is not the sort of work that I would enjoy. He has spent most of his time in country South Australia and that seems to suit him. Nevertheless, it is serious work, which often brings little reward, because the people you are dealing with are not generally thankful for the dealings you have with them.

I add my congratulations to Neil McKenzie. From my calculations, based on some other figures put around the house by various members speaking here, it seems that he joined the South Australian police force at the ripe old age of 17 years, or he may have been just 18, when he joined the police force back in 1959. He joined the CIB at the age of 22 and at the age of 34 years in 1976 he became a commissioned officer. Obviously, over the ensuing years, he continued to rise rapidly through the ranks, becoming a superintendent in 1982, Chief Superintendent in 1983 and eventually becoming the Deputy Commissioner of the South Australian police force in 1997.

His rise through the ranks indicates the exemplary nature of Neil McKenzie not only, I am sure, as a police officer but also as a person and as part of our community. In my opening remarks I said that I had never had the pleasure of meeting him, but his name has obviously been in the public arena from time to time and in more recent years very often. Therefore, I am and have been aware of what he has done in the police force and that he is held in very high esteem by not only those with whom he has worked but also those people he has come into contact with both through his work as a police officer and in the wider community.

In conclusion, people such as Neil McKenzie have been willing to dedicate their working lives to the police force and to the community they serve, and that is what police officers do: they serve their community in trying circumstances. He has dedicated his life to that work; he has dedicated his life to ensuring that South Australia does and will continue to enjoy policing and a police force of the very highest standard. I congratulate him on his retirement.

I am sure that the example he has given to many of the younger officers coming through the ranks of the police force will ensure that we will continue to have such a highly regarded and highly efficient police force into the future. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

FLINDERS CHASE NATIONAL PARK

Adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. I.F. Evans:

That this house requests Her Excellency the Governor to make a proclamation under section 43(4) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 to vary the proclamation made under Part 3 of that act on 14 August 1997 so as to remove the ability to acquire or exercise pursuant to that proclamation pipeline rights under the Petroleum Act 1940 (or its successor) over the portion of the Flinders Chase National Park described as section 53, Hundred of Borda, County of Camarvon.

(Continued from 11 July. Page 721.)

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I am very pleased to support the motion moved by my colleague the member for Davenport some time ago. The house will note that this motion is identical to one that I moved earlier this week as part of a set of four motions, the effect of which will be to stop mining and exploration for mining purposes in all parks on Kangaroo Island, except, I think, for a small section of Seal Bay where there is an existing sand mine, which will be allowed to operate into the future. From memory, that sand mine has been in operation since 1988 and, in that time, I think about \$50 000 worth of sand has been extracted. So it is not a major mining enterprise.

The impact of the motions that I have moved, if they are passed through this house, will be to stop mining and to stop exploration for mining on Kangaroo Island, and that will be a great achievement from not only an environmental point of view but also, I suggest, from a tourism point of view. Tourism is one of the greatest economic drivers for Kangaroo Island, and that would help sell the message.

I support the motion moved by the member for Davenport, because it is obviously consistent with the four motions moved by me. If we can get it up a couple of months earlier, I am happy to see that happen. However, I do say to the member for Davenport that, in standing here supporting this motion, I hope that the opposition will also support the three motions moved by me in relation to the other parks on Kangaroo Island. I hope that this is not just a bit of game playing by the opposition but a sincere commitment to protecting Kangaroo Island's reserves from mining and mining exploration.

Mr McEwen interjecting:

The Hon. J.D. HILL: No, I can't do it. Statutory provisions require that it has to be on the table for a certain number of days.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): I rise to support the motion and commend the comments of others who have contributed. The motion recognises the view held by the opposition that Kangaroo Island is a jewel which must be preserved—a view which, I am sure, is shared by members opposite.

In fact, as shadow minister for tourism, I want to take a few moments to talk about Kangaroo Island, having visited the island last week and met with members of the local tourism board, a number of small business people involved in the tourism industry, representatives of Sealink and the council and other community groups. I had the opportunity to visit the Flinders Chase National Park, Seal Bay and a number of other destinations on the island.

I remind members just how special Kangaroo Island is. One might ask why it is that we achieve only something like 4.7 per cent of international visitor nights in South Australia while states such as Queensland, New South Wales and even the Northern Territory achieve quite outstanding results by comparison.

I put it to the house that one of the reasons is that we have failed to develop internationally significant iconic destinations as well as some other states have. For example, Queensland has achieved an outstanding result with its development and promotion of the Barrier Reef. Few people realise that, for large periods of the year, you cannot swim up and down the coast of Queensland; the weather is quite miserable during the December-January-February period; and stingers prowl up and down the coast, ruling it out for swimming.

However, Queensland has managed to establish itself as the surf and sun destination for international tourists. It has promoted the reef brilliantly, as indeed has the Northern Territory promoted Uluru and Kakadu. Sydney, of course, with the Opera House, stands out as the primary entry point for tourists.

If we are brutally honest, what do we have here in South Australia that registers on the radar screen as an internationally significant destination? I think the answer to that question is that one of those iconic destinations is Kangaroo Island. In fact (and I saw this for myself last week) in the space of a day on Kangaroo Island you can visit the Flinders Chase National Park mentioned in this motion and see some of the most spectacular flora you will see anywhere in this country. It is absolutely brilliant at the moment being in full bloom at the end of spring.

In the same day, you can visit two principal destinations and see two varieties of seal at both Seal Bay and Admiralty's Arch to the west of the island. You can see aquafuna, if you like, in its native state in the most fabulous of settings. You can then move on and see penguins, kangaroos, wallabies—an amazing variety of wildlife—all within the space of a day. There are very few destinations in Australia where you can enjoy those experiences if you are an international or interstate visitor. Kangaroo Island stands out, not only because of this diversity, but also because of the accessibility of these attractions within very close proximity, such that you can see it in a day or two days. It is indeed an iconic destination, and I think this motion, which seeks to ensure that the Flinders Chase National Park is not carved up for purposes of mining or petroleum extraction, is a wise move. We would be unwise to damage this iconic tourism attraction so as to render it less important to our tourism industry which, after all, employs in the order of 42 000 to 43 000 South Australians and generates over \$3 billion worth of revenue for the state. In fact, it is one of our principal businesses.

The infrastructure on Kangaroo Island has undergone a very significant upgrade as a consequence of a decision by the former government to spend a very substantial amount of money on infrastructure—many millions of dollars—over the last few years. The roads, I must say, are in excellent condition; not only the bitumen roads, but also the unpaved roads have been well graded, well prepared, and there is very good signposting. A lot of the tourism destinations are well signposted, with plenty of explanatory signage for tourists to see which explain what it is they are experiencing. The port infrastructure, although there is more work to be done, at Penneshaw and Cape Jervis is generally in good shape, as well as the airport infrastructure although, again, there is much more to be done there. I will talk about that at another time. Generally, I think the former government did a pretty good job in getting Kangaroo Island into a very attractive state for tourists.

It is with great regret that I note in the current budget that this government has chosen to cut tourism by \$16.6 million

and, in particular, that during budget estimates the minister made a point of explaining that the infrastructure work going on at Kangaroo Island, having been commissioned by the former government, was of course coming to a close. Obviously, part of the reason why they had chosen to cut back the expenditure was that the good work we were doing was now over and there was clearly no need to do anything further. I find that very lamentable and, from the discussions I have had with the industry on Kangaroo Island over the past week, so do they. This is not the time to take the focus off Kangaroo Island; to take the view that, 'Well, the money has been spent on Kangaroo Island. Let's move on elsewhere.' It is a time, in fact, to reinforce that success by investing further in Kangaroo Island, particularly in the way of marketing, to ensure that we get the tourists here.

The message for tourism is that you need some bait to get your internationals and your interstaters into South Australia: you need a reason for them to come. There are some other tourism destinations in this state which are first class but you really have to be brutally frank and ask yourself what it is you have that is unique. There are some experiences that you can have in South Australia which tourists can experience in their own state or country, but there is nothing like Kangaroo Island, and there is nothing like Flinders Chase National Park. That is what we must recognise; that is what we must promote; that is what will bring tourists to South Australia. Having got them here, we can then entice them to stay longer; we can then encourage them to visit some other destinations in this state, but you need a drawcard. I put it to the house that the three reasons for people to visit this state involve the potentially iconic attractions of Kangaroo Island, the Outback (including where the Outback meets the sea) and our wine regions.

I have no difficulty in supporting the motion, as it will protect that fabulous tourist attraction. The member for Davenport is to be commended for putting it forward. It shows that the former government, and the now opposition, showed the lead on environmental matters and set a standard that the current government will find difficult to match. When you look at the results achieved on the ground in terms of conservation and preserving our environment, you see that the former government has good reason to stand proud.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): I also have great pleasure in rising to support the motion moved by the member for Davenport way back on 11 July. Obviously everybody in the house would be aware that the member was the minister in the previous government and was working towards this end. That is why he was keen—even with the change of government—to bring in this measure, because of the previous work he had put into it. I have not spent a lot of time on Kangaroo Island. I know that a lot of present and previous members have spent and do spend a lot of time there, and I know that a lot of South Australians visit Kangaroo Island on a regular basis and love it.

I had the very fortunate opportunity, along with you, Madam Acting Speaker, to visit Kangaroo Island as part of the Public Works Committee when we went to inspect the site for the new business centre. That was very elucidating for me, and I note that, as the member for Waite just pointed out, the previous government has spent a lot of money, particularly on the tourism infrastructure on Kangaroo Island.

On that trip we drove from where we landed way down to the western end of the island on a magnificent sealed road of the type I know a lot of my constituents would like to see in

my area, and I was very envious of that. Nevertheless, it reflects the importance that the previous government put on the tourism in general and the tourism industry in Kangaroo Island in particular. At that stage, quite an amount of money was projected to be spent on the new visitors' centre in the Flinders Chase National Park. I was delighted to read recently that that project is now complete, and there has just been an official opening of the new centre. I am a little envious of that.

One of the disappointments I have—and I possibly share this with you, madam Acting Speaker—is that, as I am no longer on the Public Works Committee, I do not get invitations to go along to the openings of some of the projects in which we were involved at the planning stage. That is one I am delighted has come to its completion, and I am hoping that one day in the not too distant future I will get back to Kangaroo Island and have a look at it.

The Hon. I.F. Evans: It's worth a look. It's fantastic.

Mr WILLIAMS: The member for Davenport tells me that it is fantastic. He obviously was at the opening, and I expected from the plans and the artist's impression and everything that we saw when we were looking at the project on that committee that it would be fantastic. It will, indeed, make that a more pleasurable experience for those tourists who venture onto the island. I do not imagine that too many who ventured onto the island would not end up at the western tip of the island at the Flinders Chase National Park. It is important. One of the things I quite often hear and read about from conservationists around the state is that a lot of our parks have proclamations that could allow other activities in and on the parks.

Certainly, when we have an icon such as the Flinders Chase National Park it is worthwhile protecting. Not only is the park recognised as an icon but it attracts a huge amount of human activity. We can easily argue that there is already enough human activity within that park just through the numbers of tourists who go there, and we all recognise that we cannot have that sort of activity anywhere without its having some impact. To have this further proclamation to lessen any other impacts on that park is a matter which I wholeheartedly support. I am delighted with the attitude of the new minister's accepting that the previous minister—

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: Yes, and I am getting to that point. The member for Davenport points out that, subsequent to the member for Davenport moving this motion, the new minister also moved a motion that was very similar, if not identical. I noted in the press either late last week or maybe even this week a government announcement that it was going to do what this motion has been trying to do ever since 11 July. I am delighted that, at the end of the day, the new minister decided not to play petty politics with this and recognised the work that the previous minister had put into this, and then accepted that that work should be capped off by his name appearing as the mover of this motion. I also commend this motion to the house.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport): I will not hold up the house long. I thank those members who contributed for their comments. It was in the opposition's election policy that we would move to get rid of pipeline access to Flinders Chase National Park. We have held true to that promise by moving this motion. Similar to the motion concerning the Gammon Ranges, where we moved to ensure that there was no mining in the Gammon Ranges National Park, we as an opposition

have now successfully moved to ensure that there is no mining in Flinders Chase National Park. In government we successfully moved to ensure that there was no mining in the Naracoorte National Park.

For the information of members, 12 out of the last 15 parks—whether they be recreation, conservation or national parks—proclaimed by the previous government had no mining access, which is an interesting point for the conservation movement and others to note. I thank government members for supporting this motion, as they did with the Gammon Ranges motion. We will be giving due consideration to the other three motions the minister has moved in relation to other parks on Kangaroo Island. It is pleasing to see the house support this motion, and I am sure future generations will thank us for that particular act.

Motion carried.

BAROSSA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Venning:

That this house supports the internationally acclaimed Barossa Music Festival, which has provided millions of dollars of economic benefit and spin-off for the Barossa and its surrounding regions, and calls on the government to reconsider its decision to cancel government funding, without providing appropriate consultation and time for the festival board to refocus the festival or to find alternative long-term funding.

(Continued from 6 June. Page 555.)

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): Again, this matter has been on the *Notice Paper* for a long time. I think that we should endeavour to progress some of these motions and have them dealt with by the house. That is why I am particularly keen to speak on this at this time. I also want to refer to a matter mentioned in the Auditor-General's Report (which was handed down this week) which has significant relevance to this motion.

Like many South Australians, particularly the member for Schubert and his constituents in the Barossa Valley area, I was shocked when the government announced that it would withdraw the paltry sum of \$200 000 in funding for this icon event in South Australia. The Barossa Music Festival has become very widely known and is one of those things that we are trying to present as a state in a series of images. If with the slightest hiccup we pull the rug from under these icon events that build the image we are trying to present to the people whom we are trying to attract to come to this state—in the first instance tourists and those people who would come here as investors or to work—and do not keep building these images and keep supporting them, we have lost the way.

I was reading during the break the draft tourism document, which sets out the directions for the tourism industry in South Australia for the next five years. I noted that currently Tourism SA has calculated that the tourism industry in South Australia is worth about \$3.4 billion a year to our economy. That is a very significant industry. The other point is that the draft document sets out a series of strategies which it hopes over the next five years will grow it to a \$7 billion industry. Not only is it a significant industry now and a significant portion of our total economy, but the aim of Tourism SA is to grow it not only to be a bigger industry but also to be a bigger portion of our economy.

It is worthwhile noting that we will do that only if we foster events, activities and destinations that will attract tourists. For the benefit of the state we want to attract inbound tourists from either across our borders from other

states or, better still, from overseas. Several times today and this week—and I have mentioned it myself in an earlier matter—the most unfortunate events of last week in Bali have been mentioned. That will induce a lot of people who would have toured there and/or to other destinations to take their holidays here in South Australia or in Australia. That also should not be lost on either our tourism operators and/or promoters, and we should take every opportunity to put before those who are casting their eye around to see where they will spend some time in their relaxation the fact that South Australia will be a terrific destination.

The mealy-mouthed government that withdrew the \$200 000 from this festival almost destroyed what had become, after 12 years of activity, an icon for South Australia. I am delighted that the people of the Barossa did not lie down after what the government did to them in trying to destroy one of their annual events. They scaled back the project, lowered their sights, got together, rebuilt and recently held a smaller scaled down festival somewhat different from what the Barossa Music Festival had grown to be. I remember reading some reports at the time, but I am told by the member for Schubert that it was very successful.

Mr Venning: An outstanding success.

Mr WILLIAMS: 'An outstanding success,' he interjects. I am sure it is hoped by the people behind the newly revived music festival that they will be able to grow it back to the icon it was and will use that to promote not only South Australia but also the other wonderful things they have in the Barossa.

Harking back to the draft Tourism SA document that I referred to a few moments ago, that document recognises that, without doubt, our wine industry is the single biggest tourism icon that we have in South Australia, and it goes on at length about how we must develop that part of our tourism industry. What fascinates me is the attitude that this new government has had to the National Wine Centre, when it acknowledges through Tourism SA the size of our tourism industry and the importance of the wine industry to that tourism industry. I can understand the government when in opposition, because in opposition it was very good at being negative, but I cannot understand why, having come into government, members opposite continue to denigrate and undermine the National Wine Centre.

The Hon. J.W. Weatherill: We couldn't save it.

Mr WILLIAMS: Save it? That is the last thing that anybody in this government has even attempted to do. They have done nothing but undermine it since day one. In fact, they started undermining it before it was even conceived. I come back to some remarks that the Auditor-General made. I issue a warning to some of the other organisations in South Australia as to what sort of fate they might suffer at the hands of this government, and I also ask a question of the relevant ministers and the Treasurer as to what they might do with regard to some facts that came out in the Auditor-General's Report. I refer to the amount of subsidy given to some other organisations within this state.

The Premier announced that one of the reasons for the withdrawal of the \$200 000, that mealy-mouthed act, was that the taxpayers of South Australia were subsidising each seat at the Barossa Music Festival to the tune of \$35.59. The Premier stood in this house and said, 'That is reason enough to withdraw the funding. The taxpayer should not be subsidising seats for people to attend the Barossa Music Festival to anywhere near that extent,' and therefore he was withdrawing the money. The Auditor-General's Report reveals that the

taxpayer of South Australia is subsidising every seat at State Opera to the tune of \$111.

The Hon. J.W. Weatherill: Now you're attacking the opera!

Mr WILLIAMS: I am not attacking the opera. I am warning State Opera what sort of government we have here, if it is at all consistent—although I do not expect it will be, because it is not consistent about many things that it does. I am challenging the government to explain what its attitude to State Opera will be, when it pulled funding from the Barossa Music Festival because the subsidy was \$35.59 per seat. In fact, in 2000-01 the State Opera subsidy went from \$35 a seat to that \$111 a seat. It is also revealed in the Auditor-General's Report that the State Theatre Company received a subsidy of \$43 for every ticket that it sold.

I would call on the Premier, the Minister for the Arts, to explain to the house why he withdrew the funding from the Barossa Music Festival, at \$35 a seat, and what is his attitude to State Opera and the State Theatre Company. I support the motion.

Mrs GERAGHTY secured the adjournment of the debate.

STATE ECONOMY

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Brokenshire:

That this house congratulates the South Australian community, business and the former Liberal government for their efforts over the past eight years to reposition South Australia to presently be one of the strongest economies in Australia.

(Continued from 29 August. Page 1450.)

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I applaud the South Australian economy. We do not need to listen to the doom and gloom merchants in the media, or even members of some of the committees this government has appointed. I will be interested to read the Economic Development Committee's recommendations that are about to be released—or have been released in the last 24 hours—because the chair of that board said that South Australians need to develop a positive attitude, but attitude can also be shown by leadership. Let us just look back a little, though, at what the government's own budget papers said about the South Australian economy.

I have spoken previously about the South Australian economy and, if they are interested, members can read my appropriation speech on 15 July and also a speech I made on the economy when I referred to remarks made by Mr Roger Sexton. I know that Mr Champion de Crespigny and Roger Sexton are fine, upstanding members of the South Australian community: I have no argument with that at all. But I do have a problem when they seem, not to pass the buck (no pun intended), to blame any potential downturn in the South Australian economy on poor attitudes of the voters.

Leadership starts with the government, and the budget papers show what fantastic shape the state's economy was in when the Labor Party came to power, unlike eight years ago. Yesterday, I think that the Treasurer said that, when the Labor Party came to power, the budget deficit—this fictional black hole into which he has been sucked—was the highest in eight years. Let me tell members that eight years ago there was a \$9.3 billion debt and that debt was not eliminated that quickly. I would never accuse the Treasurer of misleading the house but, certainly, my figure of \$9.3 billion is a little higher than the figures the Treasurer has been quoted, and Access Economics has even torn those to pieces.

Credibility is what it is all about when one is talking about facts and figures. It is easy to talk about cash accounting and accrual accounting but the average voter does not understand it: all they are worried about is their future. It is so important that this government, which wanted to be open and honest and to show leadership, does acknowledge the good work of the previous state governments and, certainly, the continuing good work of the federal Liberal government. Let us look at what Budget Paper 3 said. According to the government's own scribes (this is not Liberal Party propaganda, as people would call it), the Department of Treasury and Finance forecasts South Australia's GSP to grow by 2¾ per cent, while national GDP is forecast to increase by 3¾ per cent. That sounds pretty good in anyone's language. On a per capita basis, the South Australian economy has the second fastest growth of any state in the last six years. The Australian economy withstood the Asian downturn. It withstood 11 September. It will withstand the current stresses on the stock markets and the oil prices as a result of potential Middle East invasions.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I rise on a point of order, Madam Acting Speaker. I think that the time clock is stuck.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Thompson): Order! We will accept the Clerk's guesstimate on this. You may now proceed.

Dr McFETRIDGE: I know that I have been accused of speaking fairly quickly in this place, but I will need more than six minutes for all the information I have about the wonderful state of the South Australian economy that this government inherited. However, I will take the Clerk's word for it, because he is an outstanding officer of this place.

I refer to the facts and figures that the government put out in its own papers. In Budget Paper No. 3 we are told that we should value South Australian overseas merchandise exports. Wine exports have increased by 19.2 per cent from \$888 million to \$1.059 billion. It is not just wine or motor vehicle parts or the fact that Holden's has put on another shift or that Mitsubishi has expanded. It is more than that: it also involves wheat, wool, grain.

The Premier said that he knocked heads together and that he sorted out Outer Harbor. I am more than supportive of anything that we can do to promote South Australian industry, but I think it is very shortsighted to say that we are going to put a grain terminal at Outer Harbor when new generation cape ships, which draw 17 to 19 metres and weigh between 195 000 and 200 000 tonnes will come in to take wheat out of this place but they cannot berth at Outer Harbor because it is only dredged to 14 metres.

What is the answer to that? They say that Port Stanvac is too dangerous for ships going out to sea and that ships will not be able to berth. I suggest that the Premier on one of his trips to visit Mr Beattie look at some of the berths in Queensland. Those berths go 1½ miles out into the Pacific Ocean. They take wheat, iron ore, sugar and coal out of Queensland. No wonder the Queensland economy is going so well when that sort of thing is allowed to happen. The Queensland government supports everything, including the redevelopment of the Gabba. We did not get a similar thing here. The stingies here cut out the redevelopment of the Adelaide Oval. We could lose the cricket academy from Adelaide to Brisbane because the Labor government in Queensland redid their oval and it is now a better facility than the Adelaide Oval, which, although beautiful, needs support.

This government needs to take its head out of the sand and stop looking for shortsighted media grabs. We saw the

Premier walking along the fence with that poor farmer during the drought. There certainly are problems there, and I congratulate the government on the money that it is putting up in that respect; they did slash a fair bit out of the economy. However, the Premier must realise how much the state relies on our rural economy. We saw the Premier on television at 6 p.m. walking along the fenceline and being blown away with the sand. He should have spoken to Premier Bracks, because at 10 o'clock that night on the channel 10 news there was Premier Bracks doing exactly the same thing on the other side of the fence with a different farmer.

They have to work out their media shots better than that. It was such a coordinated and contrived media grab. It is disappointing to see the government looking for these media shots all the time. It must concentrate on the main game, look at what it inherited and not blow the budget, not blow what it has. This is a terrific state. Look at the facts and figures; it does not involve just wine, cars or aquaculture.

Let us look at aquaculture, another fantastic thing that the state is doing. Look at what we have on the West Coast. They need a holiday over there to be able to sit back and look at the fantastic things that they have. The Oysterfest which took place on the last long weekend was a fantastic event. They even have the eclipse of the sun over there—that is how good an area it is—and this government was dragged kicking and screaming to put money in there. So, let us look after South Australia.

In the South-East at least they got a holiday, and they will be able to have a holiday down there because the economy is going so well, thanks to the local member for MacKillop and other people down there who are putting in innovative primary industry projects. I want to congratulate some of the producers in that area. They have tuna worth hundreds of thousands of dollars going out from the West Coast. Down in the South-East they have Waghu cattle being flown live out of Adelaide Airport on a new, extended runway—

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The house will come to order.

Dr McFETRIDGE: They are getting \$60 000 a carcass for the cattle going out of there. It would be fantastic, at \$60 000 a head, if we could get that expanded.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I have tolerated quite a bit, but it has become a little excessive. Will everyone please allow the member for Morphett to continue uninterrupted.

Dr McFETRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker. One more thing: let us see what these eco-zealots on the other side will do about expanding Beverley. Will they stop the expansion of the Beverley uranium mine? Will they stop the expansion of Roxby?

An honourable member interjecting:

Dr McFETRIDGE: I think it was \$600 million or \$600 billion—a fantastic figure. Will you stop the expansion of Roxby because it produces a bit of uranium? The gold coming out of that is absolutely amazing. This government really needs to look around, take the glasses off, stop looking down the camera lens to see what the next shot will be, turn off the microphone for a little while and get in touch with reality. This is a great state.

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

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): I support the motion and remind the house that a lot of good work has been done over the past eight years to redirect the state economy.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Waite will pause a moment while the house comes to order and settles down.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: It is helpful to remember where the state was in 1993. There was a debt of \$9.6 billion hanging over the state's head, which amounted to almost \$6 600 per citizen; and unemployment had peaked at 12 per cent in 1992, when the current Premier was minister for employment—or should we say the minister for unemployment? State exports were stagnant, the economy was regarded as a rust bucket economy, our state bank was bankrupt and our state was bankrupt. The Labor government at the time was running a deficit of \$300 million per year; it was spending \$300 million per year more than it was getting in. A range of other problems, from the environment, through to police, transport and education, were critically undermining the state's ability to go forward.

Eight years later the debt had been reduced by two-thirds to \$3.3 billion and unemployment was at 6.8 per cent, and I note that it is now 6.6 per cent—a further carry-on from the good work of the previous government and the federal government. Exports grew by 32 per cent in the 12 months leading up to the election alone, more than twice the national growth rate, and the value of South Australian exports more than doubled under the Liberal government, to a point where today they are worth around \$9 billion per annum—spectacular growth. The previous government handed over an economy that was in pretty good shape.

Mr Koutsantonis: That's not what Access Economics says.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: In fact, Access Economics recently produced a report which underpinned that steady and strong performance and which put the lie to the government's claim that there was a massive budget black hole. In fact, Access Economics confirmed that a revenue windfall was delivered to the government and that the budget was in remarkably good shape. Members opposite would know the chaos they left behind them, and they would know that, compared with what we inherited, they certainly are on easy street. That is not to say that we do not need to do more; we do need to do more. The economy in effect needs reinvention, and I look forward to the release next week of the Economic Development Board's paper or report on the future of the state. I am very anxious to read the contents.

We have an economy which has been built on the back of our farmers, mining and exploration, and the regions of South Australia. The vision of the Playford government ensured that vital industries, in particular manufacturing industries, were established in the city—building on growth that occurred during World War II and building on that manufacturing and infrastructure base. The Playford government also ensured that adequate water was provided to fuel that economic growth, and there was an absolute boom in immigration into the state to provide the work force to add further value to that economic potential.

However, times have moved on. That manufacturing base, and indeed that regional economy, now need to reinvent themselves for the future. We need to find new industries for the future. That leads us to ask the question about what are our strengths. We need to recognise that our strength is our people and the ability of our people to innovate and be

entrepreneurial, and to seize and grasp new opportunities. The way to do that is to change the culture within the state so that it embraces a culture of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation so that we add value to products; so that we invent and develop new products; so that we differentiate from competitors in the international marketplace, on the basis not of doing things more cheaply, reducing the costs of labour or approaching the bottom end of the market but, rather, of producing high quality products that are innovative and at world-leading edge and that everyone in the world wants to buy because they are the best available.

We want an economy and a state in which people can be paid high wages, and we want an economy and a state that produces world-class products. We do not want an economy full of 'me tooism', trying to produce tee-shirts and clothing to compete with Fiji and Pakistan and trying to produce cars of a type, model and quality which seek to compete with countries that produce cars with lower factor costs of production, such as car manufacturers in South-East Asia or other nations where the cost of labour is very cheap. We need to produce products that compete on the basis of quality. There are examples to follow. The Germans and Scandinavians have no problem producing motor vehicles that are world-leading edge, for example, Mercedes, Porsche, BMW and Saab. They have competed on the basis of quality and innovation. We need to recognise we need to go down that same road.

We need to put real investment into education—not just throw public money at education—which is linked to industry and to performance and real outcomes. We need to build the vital infrastructure that is so necessary to sustain that economic growth. It has been difficult to do that in the past eight years with a \$9.5 billion debt and a \$300 million per annum deficit to deal with. It is staggering that the former government was able to keep the state alive in the eight years that followed the State Bank collapse. We need to find ways in which to attract that infrastructure. I think the previous government did a good job building freeways and a railway to Darwin, expanding airport infrastructure, rebuilding the port, and commissioning a range of new infrastructure proposals—most importantly, new power stations. Of course, our arts and cultural precincts' infrastructure was also developed by the former government to match that investment in crucial transportation and freightage infrastructure which are so vital to the economy.

We have achieved an outstanding result in the last eight years considering the mess that the former government inherited from Labor. How do we now go forward? I look forward to the Economic Development Board's proposals on that. I think that the government has been quite clever in commissioning the Economic Development Board. Along with most South Australians I shudder at the idea of the Labor Party alone, sitting behind closed doors, trying to direct that economic growth. At least I have had the good sense to get together a group of people who know what they are doing and can provide cogent advice to the government. I only hope that the government is prepared to commit the funding and provide the determination to make those plans a reality, and we all wait with bated breath to see what those plans may be.

However, they will build on eight years of good solid work by two Liberal administrations, getting the books back into balance, in particular, by getting rid of the debt, which was only made possible by the sale of vital electricity assets. I would be really interested to hear from the government how it might redirect the state economy if ETSA had not been

sold, if it still had the \$9.5 billion worth of debt and it was now here trying to balance its budget. What an interesting debate that would be.

Time expired.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): I am pleased to support this motion to congratulate the South Australian community, businesses and the former Liberal government on their efforts over the past eight years to reposition South Australia to presently be one of the strongest economies in Australia. Those congratulations are heartily and well deserved by all concerned, not least of all—

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: The member for West Torrens likes to interject.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Thompson): Order! The remarks made by the member for West Torrens were unparliamentary and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Which remarks were they—the remarks about being hypocritical or how he betrayed his electorate?

The ACTING SPEAKER: There is no need to repeat them.

An honourable member: All of them.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: All of them? I will withdraw all of them.

Mr WILLIAMS: Thank you. There has been a change of government and we have seen some pretty interesting things happen in South Australia, but, as previous speakers have said, it is important to go back to 1993 and recognise the condition that this state was in then. In 1993, the Liberal Party came into power in this state and inherited a debt of over \$9 billion. It inherited a budget position where the government of the day was spending \$300 million a year more than it was receiving in revenues. There was no fictitious black hole, no smoke and mirrors—an absolute disgrace! Who was one of the chief architects? Who was sitting at the cabinet table? Today's Premier was sitting at that table and his deputy, the Treasurer, was one of the chief advisers to the then premier. That is who is running the state at the moment, and what the people of South Australia now have is a government of rhetoric.

Mr Goldsworthy: Empty rhetoric.

Mr WILLIAMS: As my colleague said, empty rhetoric. It is very good on rhetoric but very short on delivering, and I am delighted that the Treasurer has come into the chamber because I want to help the Treasurer and add to some of the comments that he made in question time yesterday. In answer to a question from the Leader of the Opposition, the Treasurer quoted from Standard and Poor's recently released paper, as follows:

The government's medium term strategy for aiming for zero net borrowing on average over any four-year period by fiscal 2006 is a good start.

That is what the Treasurer quoted. What he did not quote was what followed next:

Although on current projections the government has more work to do.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: I said that.

Mr WILLIAMS: No, you did not.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: I said that.

Mr WILLIAMS: Well, it is not in *Hansard*. I am just trying to help the Treasurer: honesty in the house also includes fulsomeness. Another thing that the Treasurer said

in the house yesterday, in answer to a further question, was as follows:

... because we will do what members opposite could never do in eight years: provide good, solid, strong, stable financial management.

What a joke—from the position that we inherited from the Treasurer (who was then chief adviser to the then premier) and from the current Premier, sitting around in the cabinet. How can anyone compare what we inherited with what we left at the beginning of this year? Let me also quote—

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: The member for West Torrens—well, he is not hard to ignore, but he wanted to hear some quotes from the Access Economics report, and I am more than happy to provide them for him. The report states:

Two separate factors explain the expected doubling of this year's complete government net operating deficit since February's mid-year review. First, the new Labor government...has opted to defer the previous government's window dressing of the 2001-02 accounts until this year. Specifically, over a quarter of a billion dollars in 'special' dividends from the state's public financial corporations... have been shifted out of the 2001-02 accounts...Secondly, on assuming office, the government discovered the proverbial budgetary 'black hole', with February's mid-year review seemingly understating this year's complete government expenses by some \$210 million.

The report further states:

...the new government also inherited a revenue windfall...an offsetting understating of revenues...last year's complete government income is now expected to be some \$300 million higher than estimated in February's mid-year review...On a net basis, the previous government's legacy to the new one was therefore a \$115 million better than expected starting point.

An honourable member: So much for the black hole!

Mr WILLIAMS: So much for the black hole! The report continues:

What is clear from succeeding state accounts, however, is that the new government started with a whopping \$620 million improved starting point in the complete government sector this year.

I would love the Treasurer to come in here today during question time, or at his convenience, and answer the question put to him by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday about how he can reconcile his fictitious black hole with the reality of what is happening. And thank God we have some independent bodies such as Access Economics and Standard & Poor's that are looking over the Treasurer's shoulder—a whopping \$620 million improved starting point, and the Treasurer has the temerity to suggest that, over the last eight years, we did not provide any sound financial management. Let me remind him that we inherited a \$300 million a year structural deficit in the budget on top of that \$9 billion deficit. We got on top of that and got it back to about \$3.2 billion—

Mr Koutsantonis: What's this 'we' business?

Mr WILLIAMS: This is the Liberal state government.

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: You have a lot of facts wrong there, Tom. I will have to remind the member once again that it was my vote in the House that allowed the long-term lease of the electricity assets to pass this chamber. So, I did have a little to do with it, and I can tell the member that I am very proud of it, too, because I am damn proud of where this state is today.

Debate adjourned.

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

SHOP TRADING HOURS

A petition signed by 8 320 electors of South Australia, requesting that the house not support legislation which may seek to extend shop trading hours, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Kotz.

Petition received.

COBBLER CREEK RESERVE

A petition signed by 65 electors of South Australia, requesting that the house act to prevent the land subdivision in the eastern section of the Cobbler Creek Reserve, Golden Grove, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Kotz.

Petition received.

EDUCATION, ADULT AND COMMUNITY FUNDING SCHEME

A petition signed by 140 electors of South Australia, requesting the house to review cuts made to the Adult and Community Education Funding Scheme with a view to urging the government to reinstate these important social inclusion programs, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Kotz.

Petition received.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (TATTOOING AND PIERCING) AMENDMENT BILL

A petition signed by 325 residents of South Australia, requesting the house to adjourn any further consideration of the Summary Offences (Tattooing and Piercing) Amendment Bill until the South Australian Tattoo Association has been consulted, was presented by Mr Scalzi.

Petition received.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the annual report of the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee for the year 2001-02.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Joint Parliamentary Service—Report 2001-02

By the Minister for Education and Children's Services (Hon. P.L. White)—

Regulations under the following Acts—
Fees Regulation—Overseas Students

By the Minister for Environment and Conservation (Hon. J.D. Hill)—

River Murray Catchment Water Management Board—
Report 2001-02

Soil Conservation Boards—Report 2001-02

South Australian Soil Conservation Council—Report
2001-02

South East Catchment Water Management Board—
Report 2001-02

Torrens Catchment Water Management Board—Report
2001-02.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The SPEAKER: I direct that the written answers to the following questions on the *Notice Paper*, as detailed in the

schedule that I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 7, 9, 16, 17, 22, 26, 32, 36, 37, 43, 46, 49, 53, 56, 58, 60, 62, 63, 66, 70, 75, 76, 79, 80, 81 and 108-112.

DNA TESTING

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I wish to clarify a number of misconceptions that have arisen in the past few weeks about this government's position on DNA testing and to place on the parliamentary record an explanation of where we have come from and where we are going on this issue. I can understand why members opposite are so uncomfortable, given that their government would not even DNA test Bevan Spencer Von Einem. This is important because some sections of the media, assisted by the shadow attorney-general, have not been given the full story. To begin, I think it is important to understand some of the history concerning DNA testing in this state.

My first point is that when the Liberal Party was in power in this state, under the provisions of their Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Act 1998, there were two distinct groups of people from whom DNA samples could be gathered:

1. Those convicted of offences carrying a penalty of five or more years' imprisonment after 1998.
2. Those suspected of offences carrying a penalty of two or more years' imprisonment but only where a magistrate was prepared to grant an order for the collection of a DNA sample from them.

Those provisions did not apply retrospectively, so even our most notorious murders, such as Von Einem, were not required to provide DNA samples under the former government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Attorney-General will leave it to the Premier to make statements to the house for which he has leave. The Premier.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The effect of its policy and its law was to limit our DNA database to about 300 convicted offenders. That is where it stood when we came to office.

An honourable member: Weak on crime.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Yes. In fairness to the opposition (because I always try to be fair), before the last election it changed its policy and it moved to adopt Labor's position that all convicted prisoners should be DNA tested. I point out, however, that no party went to the February election suggesting that those suspected or convicted of all summary offences should be DNA tested—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN:—apart from the honourable Speaker, I am advised! There was, and remains, one compelling reason for that approach. For some years now, the commonwealth has been preparing a national forensic database called CrimTrac. The database is yet to become available, but it is expected to come online within six to 12 months. The commonwealth will allow our forensic database to interact with its database only under certain prescribed conditions. The principal condition is that South Australian forensic procedures legislation is consistent with the commonwealth's model legislation (which has now been followed by a number of states and territories).

The model legislation with which we are being asked to comply provides for what is described as a 'serious offenders index' as part of the definition of what constitutes the DNA database. The advice to our Attorney-General, my learned friend, which was confirmed by the commonwealth Attorney-General's Department was:

It would be stretching the legislation beyond breaking point to suggest that there was scope to prescribe all offences as single 'serious offences'. Although a state like Tasmania just passed muster with a definition which provided all indictable offences were 'serious offences', I do not consider I could safely recommend recognition of a state law with no threshold at all as being a corresponding law for the purposes of the national DNA database system.

In my view, this is the most important issue in this debate. The capacity to access the commonwealth DNA database is a threshold issue in assessing our own South Australian legislation. If we are not able to access that database, I do not believe we will gain full benefit from the resources we are committing to DNA testing in this state. You cannot fight crime in this day and age if you live in isolation. Clearly, there are interstate and international crime links, including with outlaw motorcycle gangs.

We need to be mindful of what access to CrimTrac will do for South Australia, as well as how our ability to provide other CrimTrac compliant states with information will help them to fight crime. It follows that this government, so long as the commonwealth maintains its restrictions on access to the CrimTrac database, will not expand the law further and legislate for the blanket testing of all offenders.

However, I want to turn now to what this government is doing. At the outset, I said that there were two groups of people who had been required previously to provide DNA samples: prisoners convicted after 1998 serving terms of five years or more and people suspected of committing a crime carrying a penalty of two or more years.

The legislation currently—and I emphasise 'currently'—before the house expands both these groups and also makes it easier for the police to seek samples from those suspected of committing offences. As far as convicted prisoners are concerned, our proposed legislation would test every prisoner in every South Australian gaol, regardless of whether or not they were convicted before 1998, or whether they were or are serving a term of more than five years. This means that killers like Bevan Spencer Von Einem and the Truro murderer will be DNA tested. We are doing exactly what the former government refused to do. With suspects, we are making it easier for police to take a DNA sample from them by allowing the taking of a mouth swab to be authorised by a senior police officer, rather than a magistrate.

Ms CHAPMAN: I rise on a point of order.

An honourable member: Soft on crime!

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bragg's point of order is—

Ms CHAPMAN: Under standing order 118, provision is made for a member not referring to debate on a question or bill in the same session unless that question or bill is currently being discussed. To the best of my knowledge, the forensic procedures bill is still before the house and, in the circumstances, I would seek your ruling, sir, that this is pre-empting debate for whenever that measure may subsequently be withdrawn by the government or debated.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: No. It is new legislation next week.

Ms CHAPMAN: At present, it is still before the house and I seek your ruling, sir.

Mr Koutsantonis: You couldn't take it, could you!

Ms Chapman: Von Einem is already in prison. He doesn't need a DNA test.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: This is new legislation that we are introducing next week.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The member for Bragg just advised the house—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bragg raises an interesting point of order in that, whereas I had always believed that a bill had to be under consideration, I now understand from careful consideration of the wording of the standing order that, as long as notice has been given, debate of a measure cannot be anticipated in a ministerial statement. I therefore uphold the point of order.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I rise on a point of order, sir. We have just announced that we are introducing—

The SPEAKER: So long as the Premier does not stray into the area of debate, the Premier may make such other remarks as are appropriate in the statement for which the house has given him leave.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am announcing what we intend to introduce, not what we have introduced.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I have to tell the Premier that the same applies: notice has been given.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Okay sir, but it is interesting that the member for Bragg says that she did not believe it was necessary to DNA test Bevan Spencer Von Einem—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: That shows the difference between us.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Does the Premier have any further remark to make on the matter?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Thank you, sir. I will avoid any discussion of legislation but say that I have recently met with the Police Commissioner of this state, and we have also had discussions with the Police Association. I am pleased to be able to announce today that, following discussions with the Police Commissioner, South Australia Police, the South Australian Police Association and its head, Peter Alexander, and the Forensic Science Centre, we intend to move to allow a senior police officer to authorise the taking of a DNA sample from people suspected of certain summary offences as well as indictable offences. The offences are: assaulting police—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I know that members opposite do not support our DNA testing laws.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We all know that this legislation is on this week's program for debate today. We know that the Premier is defying the Speaker's ruling. The fact is that this is a ministerial statement specifically relating to legislation before the parliament. Although the government might have now decided to change that legislation, it is still legislation currently before this house. Therefore, the standing order clearly prohibits a ministerial statement as being delivered by the Premier now.

The SPEAKER: Can I tell the deputy leader that I took the remarks I was hearing from the Premier to be a reflection of the level of consultation the government had undertaken, rather than deliberately referring to what I believe is item No. 2 on the *Notice Paper*, and that is an assumption I have to make. I am listening very carefully to what the Premier is saying, and some printed material that has been furnished to me, were he to proceed along those lines, would clearly be out of order. However, I allow the Premier to continue since I do not find offence in what has been said thus far since my ruling.

Mr BRINDAL: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Let me just point out that the Police Commissioner said to me on Monday—

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley has a point of order.

Mr BRINDAL: Mr Speaker, will you go away and consider if, as a result—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Attorney-General might find himself contemplating the opening remarks of that famous *Hamlet* soliloquy.

Mr BRINDAL: If as a result of the statement made today, whatever that be by the Premier, the government then introduces amendments to the bill before the house which can clearly be considered to have been pre-empted by this statement, will those amendments be ruled disorderly?

The SPEAKER: No.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Sir, I will not refer to any legislation. I do not intend to refer to any legislation. I can understand why members opposite are embarrassed—they are soft on crime and soft on the causes of crime.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will resume his seat.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I seek clarification on that point of order, Mr Speaker. Therefore, if any member wishes to ask a question or make a statement about proposed amendments or matters that may arise as amendments to legislation, even though that legislation is currently before the house, under your ruling, sir, you will now allow that to occur?

The SPEAKER: No; only so long as it does not anticipate debate.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The SPEAKER: The member for Newland has a point of order.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: Yes, Mr Speaker, I do have a point—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: The point of order relates to the last comments made by the Premier. He began by referring to the consultation process, but then started to identify in his ministerial statement the offences that will relate to the actual bill in the parliament at the present time. The Premier did not just talk about consultation: he started to identify a list in a series. That is pre-empting the legislation before this house.

The SPEAKER: Whilst I accept the sincerity with which the member and previous members have raised their point of order, I see that rather as a subjective judgment as between her assessment and mine. Although I am not convinced, I will err on the side of caution, on balance, and direct the Premier that, if he has no further information which does not anticipate debate—in other words, it must not anticipate debate in his ministerial statement—he ought to draw to a close.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Thank you, sir. I will draw it to a conclusion. I was aware of statements made publicly by the Police Association and also by the Police Commissioner.

The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The deputy leader will listen to this and—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The deputy leader will come to order.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The Police Commissioner and the Police Association have made comments in recent weeks about their views on DNA testing. I met with the Police Commissioner earlier this week and he told me that he believed that police should have the power to DNA test people who were suspected of assaulting police, of possessing or using firearms, or of carrying offensive weapons—

Ms CHAPMAN: On a point of order, I suggest that this still offends against standing order 118. The Premier is attempting to put the substance of debate and anticipate amendments based on alleged statements by the Police Commissioner, which have all been statements made in the context of the debate out in the community. All that that is attempting to do is conceal the substance of this debate by allegedly quoting other persons. I suggest that this is a subject that is before the house and I ask you to seek that the Premier conclude his statement unless he has any other statement to make that does not touch on the bill or proposed or anticipated amendment.

The SPEAKER: I do not know that I want to tell the member for Bragg that I think I understand where she is coming from, but let me tell her that I do not know that every member in this place is motivated by Machiavellian precepts. Whilst that may be a construction that some members would put upon the report the Premier is giving of the conversation he has had with the Police Commissioner, I do not think it anything other than the subjective appraisal of the member as to whether such a conversation took place or not. I accept from the Premier, as I do from all members, that the remarks they make in this place are made sincerely. If the Premier believes it proper to report to the house what the Commissioner said to him, I accept that. I will allow him to complete that litany, if you like, of material as a distillation of the remarks and propositions put to him by the Commissioner.

Ms CHAPMAN: I seek your clarification on that point of order. I want to make quite clear that I am not in any way suggesting that the statements being quoted were in any way defective or inaccurate, and I want that to be absolutely clear. I was not suggesting that—

The SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. If the member seeks a personal explanation, that is another matter, but it is certainly not a point of order to make such an explanation.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I cannot understand the—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier must return to the statement or take his seat.

The Hon. M.D. RANN:—political genius of the member for Bragg. She is clearly using tactics that may be more appropriate in the JPs' court than in the parliament. The police have indicated to us that they believe that those suspected of a range of summary offences should be able to be DNA tested, not just those suspected of indictable offences but also those suspected of summary offences, including—and I would have thought that members opposite would understand this—assaulting police; possession or use of firearms; carrying an offensive weapon; duty to register a

firearm; possession of a silencer; the illegal use of motor vehicles (even for a first offence); unlawful possession of property; being unlawfully on premises; possession of indecent or offensive material (that is, child pornography); gross indecency; and creating false belief.

It is my view and the view of cabinet that the police are right. It is my view and the view of cabinet that DNA testing is the fingerprinting of the twenty-first century. Therefore, I would like to think that on fighting crime there would be some bipartisan support. I would like to think that there would be some bipartisan support for giving our police the tool to do the job. I find it unbelievable that we have been told today that killers should not be DNA tested.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REVIEW

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Emergency Services): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I wish to advise the house that the government has formally instituted a review of the management of emergency services in South Australia. The review will be conducted by the Hon. John Dawkins, the Hon. Stephen Baker and Mr Dick McKay. These three men have a unique combination of experience for this review of the efficiency of management of emergency services, and I believe that the South Australian community will benefit greatly from their knowledge and experience. The review will focus on the management and governance arrangements in emergency services and whether these arrangements most effectively support the work done by the agencies and the government's priority of community safety.

I have spoken about this review on a number of occasions in the past, so I will not comment further, but I will, as an open and accountable minister of the government, table the terms of reference for the review of the management of emergency services.

SCHOOLS, TANUNDA PRIMARY

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I rise to make a statement regarding the progress of the sale of the former Tanunda primary school site. The previous government closed the Tanunda primary school in July 1998. It has been 3½ years since negotiations began between the former department of education, training and employment and the Barossa council over the sale of that site to the Barossa council. The land was declared surplus by former education minister Malcolm Buckley in September 1998.

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will refer to members by their electorate.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The member for Light. At that time, the anticipated proceeds from the sale were factored into the department's capital works program. However, these funds were never realised and left a hole in the department's capital works program which was met by the former government through slippage of other projects from year to year.

The denial of those land sale proceeds to the state government's capital works program has been of concern to me. Shortly after taking office in March this year I wrote to the Barossa council (on 21 March and again on 27 March) in

an attempt to progress this matter for the benefit of both the state government's capital works program and the local community which had become disenchanted with the long saga in relation to the sale. I am happy to advise the house that agreement appears to have been reached and that I anticipate a quick settlement from this point.

EDUCATION, CAPITAL WORKS

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I seek leave to make another ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Yesterday, in a question without notice to me, the member for Bragg quoted figures in relation to the forward estimates of the Department of Education and Children's Services' capital works program. I wish to clarify those figures and how they apply to the estimates. I believe that the honourable member has misunderstood the information provided to her. The member for Bragg stated that \$81 million was the figure for new works in schools in 2001-02 (*Hansard*, 16 October). That is not correct. That \$81 million was the figure the former Liberal government put on the total cost of those projects over the life of the projects; it was not the amount to be invested during the year.

The member then went on to compare this total cost estimate with later cash flows. One important thing to remember is that the cash flow figures the honourable member was quoting are several months old and out of date. The crux of this matter is that, in its latest state budget, the government increased its capital program over the former Liberal government's forward program. The \$71.2 million in 2002-03 announced by the new Labor government is \$10 million more than the \$60.7 million of the previous government's forward estimates for 2002-03.

MURRAY MOUTH

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Members will be aware of the rapid deterioration of conditions of the Murray Mouth over the past two months and the predicted consequences for the Coorong if the mouth were to remain closed over summer. On 8 August I asked the Murray-Darling Basin Commission to take appropriate action to keep the mouth open.

I am pleased to be able to advise the house that a project to remove some of the sand from inside the mouth was approved by the commission at its meeting on 17 September 2002. I have recently forwarded to all members a booklet summarising issues associated with potential closure of the mouth and a brief summary of the project. The \$2 million project is being funded through the MDBC with contributions from the governments of the commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. A team of coastal engineering experts specialising in estuarine systems developed the project, which aims to:

- reduce the elevated water levels in the Coorong;
- restore, as far as possible, tidal activity to a level that occurs when the mouth is not severely congested; and
- design a channel cross-section with the maximum stability.

The engineers estimate that approximately 400 000 cubic metres of sand will need to be removed to achieve the project

objectives. The contractor, a South Australian company called Maritime Constructions, commenced work on 5 October this year. A cutter section dredge is currently operating to remove the sand and pump it to the disposal sites on the ocean sites of Sir Richard Peninsula and, later, Younghusband Peninsula. Production rates of 2 000 to 2 500 cubic metres a day are expected by working 24 hours a day, with the total project expected to be completed in eight to nine months.

The sand is being pumped into an area where it can be redistributed by tidal processes and will replenish the adjacent beaches. It will be deposited at least one kilometre either side of the mouth to limit the amount of material that will be redeposited inside the mouth by the longshore drift. Nonetheless, it is clear that some of this sand will wash back into the mouth and will need to be dredged.

A public information session about the project was held in Goolwa on Thursday 26 September this year to inform residents of how the works will be undertaken. The project was well received by the 100 people who attended. Subsequent public meetings have also been held in Milang and Clayton. Signs are displayed at prominent locations near the project to inform people of the purpose of the works and the exclusion zone. Due to the potential danger to the public during dredging works, the National Parks and Wildlife Service will enforce exclusion zones throughout the project. Buoys and signs will define these areas.

Additionally, four-wheel drive access along the beach of Sir Richard Peninsula will be closed three kilometres from the mouth, although pedestrian access will be maintained. The Ngarrindjeri community has been extensively consulted about the project and during the course of the project are advising on Aboriginal heritage issues in the Murray Mouth area. Ngarrindjeri cultural rangers will be employed to undertake heritage monitoring, inform people about the exclusion zone surrounding the dredging works and provide information about the project to the public.

If we did nothing, the link between the Coorong and the ocean would cease, leading to a disastrous impact on tens of thousands of migratory wading birds that fly up to 10 000 kilometres to the Coorong each summer from the Northern Hemisphere. These birds feed all summer on the tidal flats in the Coorong. Without the tidal variation that wets and dries the mudflats, the food supply for these birds would be severely reduced. Additionally, if the mouth closed, the lack of cool, oxygenated seawater flowing into the Coorong with the turn of each tide would also have disastrous effects on the marine ecology. Water temperatures increase and salinity levels would increase as the Coorong evaporated, and oxygen levels would decrease. Such a scenario would not bode well for the ecology of the Coorong—a RAMSAR listed Wetland of International Significance.

This project is an excellent example of South Australian government departments working together quickly and effectively to progress an urgent project. The project steering committee met for the first time on Wednesday 21 August this year. To begin dredging works only six weeks later is a credit to the way the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, the Coasts and Marine and National Parks and Wildlife sections of the Department of Environment and Heritage and SA Water have worked with the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and the commonwealth department Environment Australia.

In closing, it must be stressed that the work being undertaken is not the solution to the problems at the Murray

mouth. The dredging will maintain the mouth opening for a period. However, a long-term sustainable solution can only be achieved with more flow coming down the River Murray for environmental purposes.

URANIUM MINING

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism): I table a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Mineral Resources Development in the other house.

EDUCATION, HIGHER

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: State and territory ministers with responsibility for higher education met last Friday in Ballarat with Minister Nelson, the federal minister. The aim had been to discuss the future of rural and regional higher education in light of the review of higher education being conducted by the commonwealth. We were disappointed that Minister Nelson was unprepared to discuss the review process outcomes that will impact on states and territories. Instead, over recent weeks, we have been subjected to several diversionary issues ranging from a tax on students who gain credit for TAFE courses for university entry (when, under the circumstances, we might well praise their achievements), to suggestions of shifting the financial responsibility of university education from commonwealth to state governments, as well as some debate about low growth states such as ours and the effect that that might have on fully funded HECS places.

I might say that, in our situation, although we might have a low population growth, the issue is not the number of people reaching the age of 18 but the fact that we clearly have reduced need because of the poor extension of children's education to year 12. With only 57 per cent of young people reaching year 12, it is quite clear that we have unmet need, if not unmet demand. So, we would argue against that proposition.

Rather than examine how we could enhance rural and regional higher education, as we had intended, the commonwealth's agenda for the meeting was to discuss the redistribution of university places and to establish national protocols for university governance. State ministers rather firmly argued that these discussions could not take place before the review findings were announced, and without assurances from the commonwealth that university places would not be cut from low growth states such as ours, and that overall funding for higher education should be increased as an outcome of the review. I am pleased to say the minister did confirm that he would not cut our present numbers of HECS fully funded places, but clearly believed that any growth in numbers should be titrated against population growth compared to other states, a position that would put us at a severe disadvantage in the light of our low school retention figures and our need to upskill, re-skill and retrain adults.

Before we met, Minister Nelson issued a statement accusing state and territory governments of stripping payroll tax from universities. Apart from this being a diversion, the statement was entirely untrue. All states, I understand—and, in particular, ours—provide more funds to their universities than are collected in payroll tax. Indeed, in the year for which

we last have figures, the 2001 year, we distributed \$24 million to our universities—

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: Sir, I rise on a point of order. I appreciate the copy of the minister's statement, but it does not appear to be anywhere near the statement that the minister is reading out. Has she given us the wrong statement to be tabled?

The SPEAKER: What the minister says is a matter for the minister. She has leave of the house to make a statement. What the member may read on a piece of paper has nothing to do with whether or not the minister has leave to make a statement. That is purely a courtesy which in the past has been extended to honourable members but is not included in standing orders.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: We distributed \$24 million to our universities, far more than the \$20 million we receive in payroll tax. This is, yet again, a blatant attempt by the commonwealth to shift costs to the state, as, indeed, might be the deregulated HECS system which would shift costs to the student. We expressed concern that the payroll tax charade was designed to deflect attention from the \$3.5 billion cut from the higher education sector since the Howard government came to office. At Ballarat, ministers condemned the commonwealth minister for failing to address issues, including:

- the \$3.5 billion cut in commonwealth funding since 1996;
- unmet demand of 54 000 university places nationally;
- the increased financial burdens on students, particularly if HECS fees were deregulated, which would be a matter of equity in that young people without substantial funds would never again be able to get into courses that can incur higher HECS fees, such as law and medicine;
- a massive drop of over 13 per cent in indigenous commencements since the commonwealth cut Abstudy payments;
- a rise in teacher-student ratios from 1:14 to 1:20 since 1993; and
- providing support for economic opportunity in rural and regional Australia through strong local universities.

While higher education is the responsibility of the commonwealth, state and territory ministers, we agreed that the reform of higher education is a shared responsibility for both levels of government. We reiterated, again, that payroll tax is in the domain of state government, and the responsibility for paying for HECS fees and university support lies with the commonwealth government. If the opposition wishes to take on that burden and fund universities, as the federal government would wish, then only the universities will suffer and the burden will be shifted.

We argued in our submissions to the review that the commonwealth needs to restore realistic levels of public funding before sensible discussions can be held as to how that money is to be distributed. Anything less will adversely affect universities in this state where, indeed, we occupy the role of regional universities because there are no universities based in regional and rural South Australia, only campuses. It would significantly disadvantage young South Australians and university students.

Our government understands that higher education is, indeed, a public benefit and not a private advantage and hopes that the opposition would support the government in registering our complaints.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Emergency Services): I seek leave to table the final paragraph of the terms of reference that I tabled earlier today on the review into emergency services because it was inadvertently omitted. Leave granted.

FLINDERS CHASE NATIONAL PARK

The SPEAKER: Earlier today, the house passed a motion relating to the Flinders Chase National Park. That motion is identical to Notice of Motion No. 3 on the *Notice Paper* held in the name of the Minister for Environment and Conservation and was listed for debate on 2 December. Although it is competent for the minister to give such notice before the identical motion was agreed to this morning, the house cannot consider the same question in this session, and I therefore direct that the minister's notice of motion be withdrawn from the *Notice Paper*.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I have a point of order. I am happy for that to happen. There is another motion which is identical to a previous motion which was considered in the past by the house in relation to the Gammon Ranges which you might also wish to direct to be removed at the same time.

The SPEAKER: That had escaped my attention and I will check that. If it is found to be so, it shall also, by the same direction of the chair, be withdrawn from the *Notice Paper*.

QUESTION TIME

ELECTRICITY PRICES

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): My question is directed to the Minister for Energy. Why has the minister endorsed a 32 per cent increase in household electricity charges, breaking one of the Labor Party's key election promises? On the opening day of the state election campaign, the now Treasurer pledged: 'If you want cheaper electricity, you vote for a Mike Rann Labor government.'

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Energy.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): I look forward to answering this question. I have looked forward to answering a question on electricity all week. So, bear with me if the answer takes some time, because it is clear to me that the opposition needs some instruction in its understanding of this matter. I am grateful that the shadow minister has screwed his courage to the sticking point and stopped sniping from the sidelines and that he has fronted up in the parliament with this question. We have heard questions on rats and mice all week and not on this topic. First, even in asking the question the opposition spokesperson continues to make mistakes. He asked why I endorsed a 32 per cent increase. Well, I have done no such thing. First, I have seen findings, indicative costings, from the Essential Services Commission; I have seen AGL publish a tariff; and, if he had followed this debate with anywhere near the acuity it requires, he would know that I referred those published tariffs to the Essential Services Commission for examination under a published set of criteria—not endorsing it.

I hope you will bear with me, because, in answering this question, I will come back later to why it is not genuine and why these people have absolutely no concern about this

increase in price. Let me explain a few things about our approach; what we have done; what we have done in response to; and why it is necessary to have done what we have done. You would be well aware—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Mr Speaker, I am happy for them to chatter as long as they like, but I will put on the record what is an extremely important issue for South Australia and why this government has had the political courage to do what it has done. It is no secret to anyone in this place—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: No, I will come back later to why they really do not care about the price increase.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Yes, I will come back to why you do not care about prices going up.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: You wait for it. You will enjoy it.

The SPEAKER: I have nothing to wait for, let me assure the minister.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: They should wait for it. It is no secret that, despite a very clear pre-election promise, the former premier of South Australia John Olsen came to this place and indicated he would privatise electricity. Despite a very clear promise, he did that—supported by Rob Kerin, supported by Wayne Matthew and (I will leave out the two Independents) supported by all on that side.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for MacKillop.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: It will pain them, but they will have to listen to this. When they broke that promise to the people of South Australia—something of which we have clear evidence—they sought to maximise the sale price of electricity—all the assets. They did that in the first instance. We know from their own records that they did that in the first instance to maximise the price of the generating assets. They turned their back on the Riverlink interconnector. Unfortunately for them, there are documentary records. They did that without advising the head of ETSA; they did it without consulting their former partners; and they did it, much to the distress of the former head of ETSA, Mr Clive Armour, who wrote to them. When NEMMCO knocked off the interconnector, because the code needed to be changed, they took advice from their consultants about how they could delay the code change, which would allow the interconnector to go ahead.

Why did they do that? It was because they wanted to maximise the price for the generation assets. It is absolutely clear. They maximised the price for the transmission network. They maximised the price for the distribution system and they maximised the price for selling the retailing asset by selling it to a monopoly. They had the choice of selling it to a number of retailers; they knew they would get the biggest price if they sold it to one, so what did they leave us with? A monopoly retailer.

I heard the opposition spokesperson just two months ago talking about how we have not done enough to bring in competition. Perhaps the then government could have sold it to more than one retailer. It is absolutely disgraceful. For them to be asking us about a price increase in electricity would have been like us, after losing in '93, asking them what they were doing to fix the State Bank debt. It is laughable.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: They maximised the price everywhere, and what do you do when you do that to the private sector? The private sector is in it to make money.

Mr BRINDAL: I rise on a point of order. Mr Speaker, you would be aware that a member, in answering a question, is not supposed to offer argument or opinion. I ask you to rule whether, in fact, the minister is offering argument and opinion, which is properly the matter for debate in this house and should be able to be answered by this side.

The SPEAKER: I understand where the member for Unley is coming from. The solution is in the hands of the opposition.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I do not know how it is anything but an inescapable fact that the opposition, when they were in government, maximised the sale price of electricity assets. It is also an obvious fact of commercial life that people in the private sector are in the business of making a return on their investment. When you set out to maximise the price you set out to make sure those businesses will have to take a higher return to pay off their investment. It is simple mathematics.

I refer to one of the other things that I heard the shadow spokesperson talk about, just as an illustration of the fundamental misunderstanding and the difference in our approach from theirs. Their first criticism was that we did not have enough competition. Of course, they sold it to one retailer. We will have that competition very soon after 1 January. The other complaint was that the average spot price is low, therefore there is no justification for a price increase. I have two things to say about that. The first is that if it is the view of the opposition spokesperson on electricity that retailers buy their electricity in the spot market, then I think I begin to understand why we have inherited a disaster. Of course they do not. He is either being the most incompetent shadow spokesperson on electricity or he is dissembling, if he suggests he really believes that. Let me explain why.

If we had four hours of peak demand at volume over a hot summer—in the coming summer—the retailers would lose, within four hours, about \$30 million. That is why they buy on investing contracts, and if you do not understand that you do not understand much about the market.

The other point is that the shadow spokesperson for electricity says he cannot understand the high price increase. What we are seeing on 1 January is the final washout of the privatisation of FRC for small customers. What we saw a little while ago was the price increase for the last round that became contestable. It was, on average, 35 per cent. I spoke to OneSteel in Whyalla where the price increase, for an industry so vital to that town which already has great needs, was 46 per cent. I did not see the spokesperson running around then saying, 'How could this be?' What they did was impose this when they went out and maximised the price of assets.

I will return to the point that I made earlier when I said members opposite should not be believed when they say they are concerned for the people of South Australia, because we have some documents from when they were in government, and what we know is this. They would sell ETSA in 1997. They got stuck up by the Legislative Council. It became intractable. They tried to bash Nick Xenophon into supporting it, but they could not get there. They wanted this sale to fix holes in their budget because, as we now know, they were appalling budgetary managers. They needed the sale, they were desperate for the sale. What did they do when they could not get it? Early in 1999, they went to their consultants

and to ERSU and do you know what they did? They drew up plans for an increase in tariff of 30 per cent to make—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: They then turned that into a draft cabinet submission. We have the draft cabinet submission. When they could not get the sale, they were going to put up the price by 30 per cent themselves. They finally got what they needed in the Legislative Council through a couple of people who ratted on South Australia. They finally got what they wanted and they abandoned the proposed 30 per cent increase. However, it does not stand in one document or two documents: there was a series of documents working it up and it was only abandoned when they sold it. Instead of getting \$100 million by increasing the price by 30 per cent, they got it by maximising the sale price. They wrote this price increase for South Australians. They did it with complete disregard for South Australians. I am happy to answer a question on electricity in this place every time, and I hope you bring on some more.

BALI BOMBINGS

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): Will the Premier inform the house whether the commonwealth has accepted South Australia's offer to provide forensic expertise to help identify victims of the Bali bombings?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): Members would be aware that on Sunday, following approval by the Minister for Health and me, Lear jets which carried three teams from the Royal Adelaide Hospital, two trauma teams and also a specialist burns team were deployed; and these chartered Lear jets were some of the first on the scene to offer assistance. I know that has been greatly appreciated by the commonwealth government, but it is also indicative of the support of the whole state in terms of the rescue effort for those who are injured. Of course, we have seen that team ferrying injured people from Bali to Adelaide for specialist treatment.

On Monday, I spoke with Alexander Downer, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and offered him any resources necessary that the South Australian government could deploy to assist the rescue effort in Bali, in terms of those who were injured and in any other way. I also suggested to Alexander Downer that in South Australia we have extraordinary expertise not only in terms of trauma care management and specialist care in terms of people suffering terrible burns injuries but also forensic pathologists and forensic science experts who are second to none. I have now been advised that the commonwealth will take up the offer that we made to Mr Downer on Monday, and that Superintendent Andy Telfer of the South Australian police force will be leaving for Bali later today to provide urgently needed expertise in the tragic task of helping to identify victims of the bombing that occurred outside the Sari Bar on Saturday night.

I am sure all members would recognise that Superintendent Telfer has a national and international reputation in the area of disaster victim identification. As Chairman of the National Disaster Victim Identification Committee, Andy Telfer has been coordinating the response for Australia in conjunction with the federal police. As I have mentioned, South Australia has already contributed three medical teams. I want to congratulate Dr Bill Griggs and all the teams from the Royal Adelaide Hospital for their hard work and contribution in what has been a national emergency, and I look forward to meeting and thanking them on behalf of us all tomorrow morning.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): My question, again, is to the Minister for Energy. Will the minister assure the house that the proposed electricity price increases announced by AGL are justifiable, and does he agree with statements made by independent electricity expert Dr Robert Booth, who has described the increases as 'outrageously generous'? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will briefly explain the question.

The SPEAKER: I think the question is clear enough. The minister.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): The one person that members opposite now invoke in their defence is Robert Booth: the person who defended Labor's position on electricity and who was vilified for his position by the former government. Please! The truth is that, again, the shadow spokesperson simply does not understand even the basics. It is not for me to justify the increase: it is for the Chairman of the Essential Services Commission. A bill passed in this parliament two months ago established that, supported by the opposition: his independence was supported and his appointment supported. This fellow, the member for Bright: was ever anyone so well named? He is midway between a tortured genius and a simpleton: he is a tortured simpleton. The truth is that it would be contrary—

The Hon. W.A. Matthew: The truth is that you dropped the ball.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: The truth is that it would be contrary to the laws of this state, the laws that you voted for two months ago, for me to set a justified price. Can you at least be honest on this: do you think Lew Owens can do the job or not? If you do not, why did you appoint him as an Industry Regulator? Why did you support us when we appointed him as Chair of the Essential Services Commission? Do you think Lew is capable of making a judgment? You cannot simply hide and snipe from the sidelines any more. In government you vilified Rob Booth for years, and you now want to invoke his name in your defence.

The Hon. R.G. Kerin: You've got to take some responsibility.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Let me explain again. I know the Leader of the Opposition does not pay a lot of attention, but he sat there about three months ago and supported the passage of the essential services legislation. I will explain it for him so that he understands. There are certain prices that are beyond the capacity of the state to alter. There are the contracts written with generators; there are the transmission charges set in place by the former government; and there are the distribution charges set in place by the former government.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: And they're going down, he says! They are 30 per cent higher than the Victorians', but they are going down! They are high because the opposition, when in government, maximised the sale price. I ask them at least to be clear about what they think we should be doing instead. Should I be changing the law so that I set the price? Should I be directing Lew Owens rather than giving him a set of terms of reference? Should we be setting a price for electricity that is cheaper than the price at which the retailer bought it? Is that what we should be doing?

Let me remind this chamber that, if the former government members had not got their price increase this way, if they had not been able to sell ETSA, they were going to legislate for

it themselves. They had a draft cabinet submission for a 30 per cent increase. They had a set of documents imposing on the people of South Australia a 30 per cent increase. They did not impose it that way: they imposed it a different way, by selling the asset. Answer me this: would you have it that this government set the retail price lower? Would you have it that we set the retail price lower than the price at which the electricity retailer bought the electricity? Would you have that? Yes or no? Move your head up or down.

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will come back to the substance of the matter.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: That is what they did in California, as one of you, I hope, would know. And let me tell members what happened in California once they set a retail price that was lower than the price the retailer paid for the electricity. What happened when the retailer went broke? The government of California purchased the entire output from privatised generators and on-sold it. The best conservative estimate of how much this disaster cost the government of California is US\$12 billion (A\$20 million). We inherited a situation where they maximised the price for access. They turned their back on the Riverlink interconnector which might have given us cheaper electricity. They got consultants to draft crafty plans for them to slow down the change in code that would have allowed the Riverlink interconnector. They set high sale prices for the transmission of distribution assets. I now ask them this simple question: do they believe that we should cut the price so low that the retailer sells it more cheaply than it bought it?

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister does not ask questions: he answers them.

DOG CONTROL

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): My question is directed to the Minister for Environment and Conservation. What progress is the government making in relation to its 10 point plan to reduce dog attacks in South Australia?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I thank the honourable member for the question and acknowledge his great interest in this issue. Members will be aware that in July the government released a dog ownership strategy discussion paper which contained a 10 point plan to reduce dog attacks. This strategy was released in the context of a number of high-profile attacks on citizens (in particular, a number of small children). Members would know that it is estimated that every year about 800 cases are reported to public hospitals in South Australia of serious injury caused by dog attacks, and no doubt many more attacks are not reported.

The consultation period for this draft paper concluded on 15 October. I am pleased to inform the house that 500 submissions were received from interested parties, councils, breeders and individual community members. Clearly, there is a great deal of community interest in the issue of the management of dogs in our community. Submissions have been received from community groups, including pet owner groups and key stakeholders such as the RSPCA, industry groups such as pet shop owners, security patrol companies and, of course, local councils.

The Hon. I.F. Evans: And the board?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The board is helping with the assessment process. The majority of submissions have been received from individuals such as, for example, dog owners concerned for the freedom of their pets and people who have

been attacked or who fear a dog attack. I would like briefly to quote from a submission from a family in Belair, as follows:

I have seen first-hand the impact a dog attack can have on the confidence and sense of safety of a child. Six months it took before my child stopped having nightmares and gained the confidence to explore outside her home. Still she suffers from 'dog fright' when encountering an unrestrained dog. Many dog owners think her response is 'silly'. Her fear is real and the impact immense. Her voice should be listened to—don't let 'dog rights' overthrow 'children's rights'.

The draft 10 point plan is a step in the right direction. Already it has been endorsed by the Adelaide City Council with (I am pleased to say) Councillor Michael Harbison stating publicly:

I am very pleased we are going to back the government's new legislation. That's really going to make the dog rules pretty uniform across the metropolitan area. I think it's great news for all local councils.

Every submission will be read and included in a summary report of the community's response which will inform the dog ownership strategy that the government will adopt. The strategy will be put to cabinet later this year and legislative reform is likely to follow.

AGL

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): Will the Minister for Energy assure the house that South Australians will not be subsidising AGL losses in New Zealand, and that South Australians will not be underwriting lower price increases in Victoria? Recently, AGL New Zealand's operations lost more than \$300 million. In Victoria, AGL applied for an increase of 15 per cent in retail electricity price, which was refused by the Victorian government; instead, only a 4.7 per cent increase was granted. In South Australia AGL applied for a 32 per cent retail price increase for summer peak and this was approved.

The SPEAKER: Before I ask the minister to answer that question, I point out to the house that there are two standing orders that should guide us as to how we should conduct question time. Standing order 97, in simple terms, means that the asker must not offer argument or opinion; and standing order 98 points out that a minister may not debate the matter. That does not necessarily mean the minister should not offer an opinion as part of the answer, but it is getting a bit wearing to find that neither the askers nor the people giving the answer seem willing to observe the standing orders. I invite the minister to contemplate what I have just said in the course of giving his answer to the question from the member for Bright. The Minister for Energy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Energy has the call.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): Again, we see the opposition unwilling to front up to the truth of this issue. If the shadow spokesperson has not seen or does not understand the terms of the inquiry that we have asked Lew Owens to undertake, if he has not bothered to inform himself to that extent, I will give him a rough precis on this occasion. What we have said over and over—what we have said in our terms of reference for an inquiry—is that AGL can only be allowed to pass on the costs it actually has and costs prudently incurred, if I can paraphrase it.

We want to know the contract price it pays for electricity. It is simply not enough that it paid that price: it has to have been a reasonable business practice. We have said throughout

that we have inherited a private sector industry. We have to allow people to make a reasonable return on the investment; otherwise they will go out of business. It is not in the interests of people in this state for them to go out of business. People will make a reasonable return and they will not be protected for bad business decisions.

The terms of reference that have gone to Lew Owens make it absolutely clear that it is impossible—unless AGL is dishonest and Lew Owens does not understand the figures—for AGL to be compensated for losses elsewhere. The things that are measured are the actual costs of buying electricity in South Australia and selling it to a retailer. I cannot be more plain about this. The member for Newland is saying that somehow the government has not got this right. I ask the opposition to at least be clear about what it is we should be doing instead and what the criticism is. If members opposite say that the terms of reference are wrong, could I ask the opposition spokesperson and perhaps the member for Newland to apprise themselves of those terms of reference and, if they are wrong, say where they are wrong? If they are not wrong, they should stop going on about that.

I would then ask them, if the terms of reference are not wrong, whether it is the competence of Lew Owens to do it that is wrong. At least be honest about what the criticism is. If they say that we should be capping the price through government action, without any regard to those matters, at least say that, but say what they think the alternative approach should be.

Mr Williams interjecting:

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

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: No price has yet been determined by the inquiry. Above all, if the shadow spokesperson honestly believes that those matters are wrong, that approach is wrong, and that AGL is scalping here, can he explain to this chamber why his government did nothing about the 35 per cent increases—up to 90 per cent increases? If AGL, according to their spokesperson, is scalping on those figures, what was it scalping when it increased the average price by 35 per cent and as much as 90 per cent, and why did his government think it was acceptable for it to do that, and now claim that we have dropped the ball? We will drop asking our questions and let this fellow ask questions about electricity all day. I am happy to answer a question about what we have done to improve prices. I hope he does something about that. I am happy to talk about this all day, because I can guarantee that we finally have a government in South Australia that is concerned about the effect of the privatisation of our electricity assets on South Australians.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): My question is again directed to the Minister for Energy. How can the minister justify increases of up to 32 per cent in household electricity prices from 1 January 2003, despite the fact that South Australia's wholesale electricity prices are now competitive with other states and the distribution charges have been reduced?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier will come to order. The minister will get his chance in a moment.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Weekly analysis of electricity spot prices undertaken by NECA (National Electricity Code Administrator) show that, for the past

16 months, South Australia's wholesale electricity prices have been lower than in New South Wales and Queensland and only slightly higher than in Victoria. ETSA Utilities has publicly stated that its charges have been steadily reducing, with the cost of using distribution networks less than what they were 12 months ago.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): I will take the last point first. I note that, of course, ETSA is to be trusted when it says that it is charging less. All I know is I have seen figures that suggest that transmission and distribution charges are roughly 30 per cent higher than in Victoria. But let me come to the fundamental point—and I cannot stress this strongly enough. If the member for Bright—the former minister, the shadow spokesperson—believes that retailers buy electricity on the spot market to sell on, I understand how he and his colleagues managed to completely wreck electricity prices in South Australia.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Don't put words in his mouth.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: 'Don't put words in his mouth' is the interjection from the member for Newland. He got up and asked, 'Why aren't prices lower, because here is the average spot price?' It is because they do not buy electricity on the spot market, and let me explain why. It is because South Australia has the peakiest summer demand in Australia. The maximum spot price has gone to \$10 000 a megawatt hour. So, you can go from an average of \$30 to \$10 000. If a retailer were on the spot market, with four hours involved, at maximum demand in summer, they would lose \$30 million. Fortunately, retailers are a little smarter than the member for Bright and they do not do that. They buy vesting contracts.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Again, if the member for Bright wants to make a submission to the Chairman of the Essential Services Commission saying, 'We should base the price that AGL is allowed to charge on the average spot price over the last 16 months,' I invite him to do that. He would be the laughing stock of electricity in Australia. Again, I invite them to say what should happen, make a submission. Do they think that we should allow AGL to charge contract price or do they think that the chairman should set it on the basis of the average spot price? I invite you to do that and show yourselves up for the laughing stock you will be.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: The point keeps coming from over there, that we are letting down the people of South Australia with a 25 per cent price increase.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Of course, the business people of Australia, under their stewardship, in the process they set in train, had average increases of 35 per cent, up to 90 per cent. This government has done more in seven months to address electricity prices than the former government did in four years. We are intervening in the National Electricity Tribunal to get Riverlink built. What did they do with Riverlink? They got clever advice from highly paid consultants as to how sneakily they could delay a code change that would allow it to be built. We inherited a mandated gas pipeline that was inadequate for the needs of South Australia and would have had only two monopoly users. We had it doubled in capacity so that in a year's time South Australia will have double the capacity of gas that it has ever had. It will have competition. We said, 'We didn't do it.' Well, it is a funny thing because, let me tell the house, the Hon. Rob Lucas, who started this mess in the other place, just a month

ago said—forget who mandated the original process—that we should be going out and encouraging the participants to double the price of the gas pipeline. He said that is what we should do, and that is what we did. In fact, when he said it, we were already doing it. We have doubled the capacity of gas in this state. We have introduced competition for the first time, and 70 per cent of electricity is generated by gas. I am the first minister, despite all the time the previous government had, to go to the ACCC and take on generators about gaming the market—the first minister!

The Hon. W.A. Matthew: And what's happened?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: And what has happened? We are a lot closer to an answer than you ever were. We have done all those things because it is the responsible thing to do. We can change the future for South Australians, and we will, but we cannot make the past go away. We cannot rewrite the past. These people privatised our electricity assets, and they wrote in massive increases which we will get down over time, but we cannot make the past go away.

CRIME PREVENTION

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Attorney-General confirm that the \$600 000 allocated to fund crime prevention programs in this year's budget will now be used purely to wind down existing programs? Despite the Attorney's having made several references to the fact that this money will be used to maintain some of the existing programs, I have been advised by officers of crime prevention programs in several district council areas that they have been told, by representatives of the Crime Prevention Unit of the Attorney-General's Department, that a decision to wind down the programs was made some time ago and that this year's allocation of \$600 000 will be used solely to wind down and close existing programs.

The SPEAKER: Order! A short time ago, I tried to help the house understand the meaning of standing orders 97 and 98. The use of the word 'despite' in the explanation in that instance is clearly a pejorative term used in debate and is not a term necessary to explain the meaning of a question. Such explanations will immediately mean, in future, that leave to make the explanation will be withdrawn forthwith.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): It is a pertinent question worthy of a considered answer and I shall obtain one for the member.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Can the Attorney-General advise the house how he will ensure that successful programs such as security cameras in retail areas, the youth umpire scheme in Port Augusta, the graffiti program in Marion, the retail theft program in Campbelltown and the break and enter project in Unley will be able to continue beyond December 2002? I have been advised that, due to lack of government support, programs such as these will cease to exist by the end of this year. Yesterday, we asked the Attorney-General whether he was aware of the impact the government's policy would have—

The SPEAKER: Order! Leave is withdrawn. The Attorney-General has the call.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: This is a responsible government that stands by its budget decisions. Our priorities are police numbers and the timely prosecution of home invasion offences.

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): Can the Minister for Education and Children's Services advise how many children are expected to remain at school as a result of the increased school leaving age and how many extra teachers, if any, have been allocated to cater for this? Legislation has been passed in this parliament to require children aged 15 years to remain at school until aged 16 years. On 6 August, the minister was asked how many children would be involved, in the sense of those required to stay at school. She provided no answer. On 22 August, I specifically asked her to advise the house of the new programs that have been proposed to engage the extra students. She said in her answer:

I said I would shortly be announcing—

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. The member is clearly debating the question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I have warned the member for MacKillop. He may turn out having a midsummer night's dream in mid afternoon if he persists. The explanation is quite legitimate: it explains the reason for the member's asking the question. The member may continue.

Ms CHAPMAN: The minister said:

I said I would shortly be announcing the details of programs to target students above the age of 16, and I will do so.

Perhaps that should have been 'above the age of 15' but, in any event, that is what is in the transcript. Nevertheless, there has been no response. It is now October, and I seek some clarification of both the number of children and the number of extra teachers required.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): As the member well knows, around this time of year, schools are making their estimates of future enrolments for next year. Those numbers will come in over the next three weeks or next month, and at that stage we will know the estimated numbers in our public schools for next year. When you know the numbers, you know how many teachers you require.

Obviously, it is not a simple question of just adding up how many 16 year olds are in the state because some children leave the state, some children migrate to the state, some children go from private schools to government schools and, indeed, some students go the other way. So, those numbers will come in, as the member should well know, over the next three to four weeks.

HOPE VALLEY PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): Can the Minister for Transport report on the status of a project to install a pedestrian crossing on Grand Junction Road at Hope Valley?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport): I thank the honourable member for her question and also for her work in promoting this project. I am aware of the situation referred to by the member for Florey. Transport SA has concluded that a pedestrian actuated crossing is needed on Grand Junction Road, Hope Valley, adjacent to the Lutheran Homes Retirement Village. To that end, Transport SA has been working for many months with the developer of the Hope Valley shopping centre and the Tea Tree Gully council on a design that integrates the pedestrian crossing with roadworks associated with extensions to the shopping centre. Both the owner of the Hope Valley shopping centre

and the Lutheran Homes Retirement Village have committed contributions to the pedestrian crossing portion of the project.

Transport SA has been working with the developer and the council to gain council approval for the project. Council's traffic committee has now approved the project, and full approval is expected at the council meeting on 22 October of this year. Recognising the importance of the project for residents, Transport SA has acted to develop an alternative design that can go ahead irrespective of the shopping centre extension. I have been advised that a survey team has already commenced on site in preparation for the works. Transport SA has advised me that the crossing could be finished as early as December, depending on the weather and the absence of unforeseen delays. Again, I acknowledge the outstanding work of the member for Florey, who has pursued this project actively, has worked closely with her local community and has demonstrated what strong representation can achieve. I congratulate her on that.

TEACHER NUMBERS

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services explain why the criteria for determining the teacher number entitlement has changed for year 10, having the direct effect of reducing teacher entitlements? Historically, the teacher number entitlements have been based on the number of children enrolled in years 8, 9 and 10 at the commencement of the academic year, together with an average of the number of students enrolled over the year for years 11 and 12.

The application of the averaging for year 10 students will have the direct effect of reducing the number in teacher entitlement. I have been informed already by one school (and I note the minister's answer to a previous question) that it has been advised that, as a direct consequence of this new arrangement, it has been scaled down by one teacher and, because of the extra students that are anticipated over 15 years of age, it will get one teacher back—net, nil teachers.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): That sounds like a bit of misinformation. I will read *Hansard* and I will ask my department whether there is any substance in the member's assertion. However, teacher entitlement is dictated by an industrial agreement. So, I am really a little perplexed that the member for Bragg is suggesting that it is allocated in some other way. Clearly, this is an industrial matter. Enterprise bargaining agreements are in place; one has just been renegotiated. I respectfully suggest that the member's information is not correct. However, out of an abundance of caution and goodwill I will question my department.

SUPERANNUATION, SAME SEX COUPLES

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Will the Treasurer advise the house if he has fully costed the impact of the same sex superannuation legislation passed in this house yesterday? Will this information be made available prior to the bill being debated in another place? Currently, we have two bills relating to superannuation entitlements before the parliament. On 21 August—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is not explaining the question: he is already engaging in the expression of opinion or debate. It is not necessary to tell the house what is on the *Notice Paper*. That insults what should be a given, as all members know what is on the *Notice Paper*.

Mr SCALZI: On 21 August, I wrote to the Treasurer requesting that costings for one of these bills be undertaken. To date, I have not received these costings, and I am concerned that the bill that was passed by this house yesterday has not been costed either.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer): We have had the costings done. Actuarial assumptions always have to be dealt with carefully but, over the 34-year period, the recurrent cost may get towards the half a million dollar mark at some point in the future, depending upon the number of people involved. Over 34 years, the outstanding liabilities, of course, in the superannuation are counted in the billions. I am advised that this may result in an unfunded liability of around \$20 million. Your bill, the subject of your correspondence, would be \$100 million.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I have been advised that the member for Scalzi's bill—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer will refer to honourable members by their electorate, not their father's name.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The member for Hartley. Did I say the member for Scalzi? I apologise. Treasury advised me that the member for Hartley's bill would have cost five times more and would have increased unfunded liabilities by \$100 million. We reject it outright.

RETAIL DEVELOPMENTS

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): When does the Minister for Urban Development and Planning intend to advise developers that the government will be restricting the number of shops to be built in South Australia? The Minister for Small Business has advised a business forum meeting in the south that limitation of new retail developments is on the government's agenda—no more development in South Australia.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Urban Development and Planning): I do not intend to provide any such advice.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COUNCIL

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland): Will the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing give the house an assurance that the commitment of a grant of \$245 000 made to the South Australian Olympic Council for the 2004 Athens Olympic Appeal and a further commitment of a grant of some \$80 000 made to the organising body for the Paralympics Appeal will be honoured by this government? From 1996, the previous government allocated funding for the South Australian Olympic Council and the Paralympics Games campaign, providing absolute certainty to the organising bodies at the outset of their campaigns.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): Obviously, I need to check on the specific detail but, in general, the type of number that the member for Newland is talking about is familiar to me. Some time ago, in the early days of this government, I recall representing the Premier at the South Australian Olympic Appeal dinner. Certainly, as part of representing the Premier, I talked about the commitment of this government with respect to ongoing funding in a similar way—providing that bipartisan support, as I am sure the opposition does, with regard to the Olympic appeal dinner, which now incorporates

the Paralympics as well, as the shadow minister has indicated in her question.

I am sure all members of the house would welcome the inclusion of the Paralympics in that Olympic appeal financial arrangement. It is also worth noting the outstanding work done by Rob Gerard and his committee with respect to that, together with the wonderful work of Marg Ralston, who has recently retired from her position. We all wish her well. I will come back with the specific detail concerning the figures, but I think it is within the ballpark that the shadow minister has mentioned.

SCHOOLS, LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Can the Minister for Education and Children's Services advise the house why school community library assistant hours have been cut, in some cases by 20 per cent? Community school libraries on Eyre Peninsula have been advised of a revised staffing formula, whereby community assistant hours have been cut by 20 per cent. This is despite population statistics showing small increases in population. Community libraries in regional areas are a vital resource for all community members, providing services above and beyond the simple lending of books, and these cuts will impact harshly on those services.

The SPEAKER: Whilst I am in sympathy with the remarks the member for Flinders makes, it is an expression of opinion and in direct contravention of standing order 97. I invite the minister to respond.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I am not aware that any such thing has occurred but, now that the member has raised it with me, I will investigate.

SOUTH-EASTERN FREEWAY

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): Can the Minister for Transport advise—

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Still with us, Malcolm?

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY: Yes, despite your utterances before the election. Will the minister—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY: Yes, actually I have. Will the Minister advise the house what recommendations have been made to the government by the police following the recent truck rollover on the South-Eastern Freeway?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport): The shadow minister is certainly with us. He brought a deputation to my office before lunch, but that is a story for another time. With regard to the question that he raised, I would be happy to get that detail and bring it back to the house.

CENTRE OF CRICKET EXCELLENCE

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland): Can the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing advise the house what action the government is taking in relation to moves by the Australian Cricket Board to expand the Adelaide-based Cricket Academy into a Centre of Cricket Excellence? The states have been asked to nominate for the new Centre of Cricket Excellence which the Australian Cricket Board wants to have in place by 2004. The Cricket Academy in Adelaide has been a most successful institution for cricket producing, as we all

know, wonderful first class and international players. Having had the Cricket Academy in Adelaide for over 10 years, we have the facilities, the administrators, curators and a world focus right here in Adelaide. I am advised that experts believe that other states, particularly New South Wales, are working very hard to get this new centre relocated.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): This government is doing the same as the other governments to which the member referred. The shadow minister referred to the Centre of Cricket Excellence and the academy here in South Australia. I think all members would share that view. The Cricket Academy in South Australia has, for a number of years, had a proven track record. We do have a Centre of Cricket Excellence here in South Australia. Quite clearly, we have established our bona fides. I do hope that the Australian Cricket Board does take account of that.

We have provided \$20 000—I am pretty sure that figure is correct—to assist SACA in putting forward its submission. At an officer level, we are providing support in administration and helping to put together that package, and certainly the government is very supportive of SACA in regard to its continuing with the—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: Certainly, the government is very committed to the approach that SACA is taking to ensure the ongoing success and future viability of a cricket academy in South Australia. As I said at the outset of my answer, we believe that we have demonstrated, over a long period of time, that the academy should remain here in South Australia.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TAPESTRIES

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): Will the Premier confirm that the Women's Centenary Tapestries will remain accommodated in this chamber and will require—

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colton has the call.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Can I ask you, sir, why you ruled that question out of order?

The SPEAKER: The Premier has no responsibility for what happens in this chamber. I call the member for Colton.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr CAICA (Colton): Can the Minister for Energy please explain to the house what the government is doing to provide South Australians with information about the introduction of full retail competition into the electricity market in this state from 1 January 2003?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): If the opposition did have a genuine regard for the interests of South Australians in relation to power, there are two things it would be doing: first, it would be listening and, secondly, they would not have been trying themselves, all those years ago, to write in a 30 per cent increase before they sold ETSA.

In the difficult times we face, it is necessary for us to do everything we can for the people of South Australia, coming up to full retail contestability. We are committed to doing that and we are doing it. On Monday, we launched the education

campaign about full retail competition. Unfortunately, as you might expect, the tragic events of the weekend overshadowed that and it got very little attention. Be that as it may, it was in the timeline to do it then and it is continuing. It is an education program jointly formulated and funded by the government and the Essential Services Commission. It is to advise people what will and will not happen after 1 January.

We have had a long day, and I have yelled a bit myself, so I will not say too much on this matter, but the central message is this: people do not need to do anything in particular on 1 January. They do not have to worry about continuing to get electricity supplied to them. They do not have to rush out and sign a contract with a retailer, either new or old. However, what they should do is inform themselves about the use of their electricity and consider the offers that might be coming in the market over time. One of the few positives that we see in electricity are the announcements by TXU and Origin that they will be competing for electricity customers. We believe they will compete aggressively for customers. People need to understand, however, that it is not necessary to do anything. If they do not go out and sign a contract, they will not lose their electricity. They will continue as normal, getting their electricity in the same way, albeit (and we await the answer from Lew Owens on that) that it does appear that it will be at a higher price. We have spoken about that at some length, and I will not go into it again.

There will be a hotline number for people; there will be pamphlets; there will be radio adverts; and there will be a website. Also, we will be taking this opportunity to engage in an education campaign about unnecessary demand or use of electricity because it was found in California that, after their crisis and a voluntary demand management campaign, they were able to reduce—without anyone turning off anything they did not need—demand by 8 per cent and 6 per cent on peak days.

It is a very important time to be getting that message across. I notice that my friends at the *Advertiser* ridiculed me somewhat for getting that message across, but I will cop the ridicule. As long as I can get the message on the front page of the *Advertiser*, I will do a deal with them. This is a very important issue for South Australians. It has gone unnoticed in the big news of this week, but the government is acting to look after South Australians.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

ELECTRICITY PRICES

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): In question time today this Labor government has deserted battling families in South Australia. It has turned its back on battling families and totally deserted them. I do not believe any member of this chamber, be they Labor or Liberal, was convinced by the minister's so-called responses to questions. I dare say his constituents would be most unimpressed if they were to read what their representative had to say in this chamber about electricity prices.

This government has fumbled; it has bungled; and it has now dropped the ball on the electricity issue. South Aust-

ralians are in for a very dire time if this minister continues to operate in the way that he has so far. I remind members of a statement that was made by the government on the first day of the election campaign for the last state election. Through their now Treasurer they said:

If you want cheaper electricity, you vote for a Mike Rann Labor government.

They do not have cheaper electricity. In fact, from 1 January next year, South Australian householders will be hit with a whopping 32 per cent slug on their electricity prices, and in off-peak periods 22 per cent—25 per cent overall. We have heard the minister try to justify that in this chamber today and, clearly, judging by the facial expressions of his colleagues around him, he did not have their support for his statements. Is it little wonder? We only need to refer to the expert comments of Dr Robert Booth, who on 30 September—the same day that AGL announced its impost on South Australians—on 5AA said:

There is no fundamental reason why SA power costs should be going up any more than something near the rate of inflation, which is 2.5 per cent, not 25 per cent.

Dr McFetridge: What did he say?

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Dr Booth said, '2.5 per cent, not 25 per cent'.

Mr Williams: One tenth.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: One tenth of the rate that Labor has delivered to South Australians. Dr Robert Booth went further and described Labor's proposed increases as 'outrageously generous'. That is the expert commentary from someone who understands electricity issues, which is in contrast to the way in which this government has bungled the entire issue. It is also important to see how another Labor government has handled this matter. I am no great supporter of the Bracks Labor government in Victoria—I believe it has bungled in many areas—but it is interesting to see how it has tackled the electricity issue in contrast to the Rann Labor government. Victoria also has a deregulated market which it entered from this year, and it has the private sector operating its power system.

AGL also retails in Victoria. AGL applied for a 15 per cent increase in Victoria, but the government knocked that back and it got 4.7 per cent. It is quite a contrast to what happened here. AGL applied for 15 per cent in Victoria and got 4.7. It applied for a 32 per cent increase in South Australia and got it. It must have thought all its Christmases had come at once under this Labor government. It was not only AGL that was knocked back in Victoria but City Power also applied for a 16 per cent increase; it only got 2.5 per cent; Pulse applied for a 17 per cent increase and got 4 per cent; Origin Energy applied for 21 per cent and got 4 per cent; and TXU applied for 19 per cent and got 4.7 per cent. This government has the power to stop the increase of 32 per cent.

What is the minister's response today? He has asked for an inquiry. There is only one reason the minister has asked for an inquiry by the Essential Services Commission and that is as a result of the public pressure that was placed on him after the event. When the 32 per cent increase was announced and understandably South Australians expressed their displeasure over this impost, the minister, under pressure, then thought 'What the heck can I do?' What did he do? The answer is: what the Labor government has been doing since it came to power—another review, an inquiry. The opposition

has put a submission to that inquiry and we sincerely hope the Labor government takes note of it.

Time expired.

GRAFFITI

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): I am amazed that we have listened again to the member for Bright—or as some might call him 'the member for not so Bright'—talking again about—

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The member for Reynell reflected upon me by endeavouring to abuse the name of my electorate, and in doing so abused my constituents whom I represent by referring to me, in her words, as 'the member for not so Bright'. That is not only unparliamentary, but in attempting to—

The SPEAKER: Order! Taking a point of order does not require debate. It is unparliamentary to refer to members' electorates in a derogatory manner. I did not hear the remark made by the member for Reynell. If she made the remark, she must withdraw.

Ms THOMPSON: I am very happy to withdraw. I want to make the point that it was not the members of the electorate to whom I was referring. However—

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In making that statement, the member has indicated that she has made reflections upon me and I request that she withdraw those reflections unreservedly.

The SPEAKER: 'Not so bright' means dull, and neither of those terms is unparliamentary. If the member did not refer to the member's electorate, it is not something which I would believe was unparliamentary. If, however, the member was playing on words, the member should withdraw and apologise and get on with it.

Ms THOMPSON: Sir, I am not sure where I stand, but I am happy to withdraw anything and apologise about anything if it is offending because I want to get on with my grievance.

The SPEAKER: Yes, the honourable member has the call.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The member for Reynell has indicated through her contribution to date that she has reflected upon me and I request that she withdraw—

The SPEAKER: She has and she has apologised. The member for Reynell has the call.

Ms THOMPSON: Could I ask that my time be extended? I seem to have been the victim of some strange points of order.

The SPEAKER: Yes, it will be.

Ms THOMPSON: My contribution today relates to a matter of great concern to members of my electorate; that is, graffiti. I have addressed this matter in the house previously, because I find that many people who come into my electorate office are concerned about this and, indeed, during our short break from our parliamentary duties when we were able to focus more on our electorate duties, I held a couple of open house functions at my office to which members of my electorate were invited to raise with me any matters they wished, and several of them again raised the issue of graffiti. They were concerned that, despite laws passed last year, there is still an amazing amount of graffiti around the area. The situation certainly has not improved as a result of those laws; indeed, it may have worsened.

I referred them to the work about which I have spoken in this place previously. It is research undertaken by Mike Halsey and Alison Young of Flinders University in response to sponsorship from some very responsible organisations, including the City of Onkaparinga. I have previously referred to reasons found for graffiti writers indulging in the writing of tags. They were particularly: acceptance, membership of a group, recognition and, unfortunately, fun and passing time. I think a reassuring finding of this study was that there was no reason to think that the use of violence or illicit drugs is any higher or more serious in those who engage in graffiti than in other groups within the community.

I know that many of my constituents fear that graffiti is a sign of violence and lawlessness, but the findings were consistently that, unfortunately, these poor young people involved in graffiti find that it is fun and that it is a bit of an adrenalin thrill, rather than an attempt to condemn or attack society. It is more about their not being able to find their place in society. I thought it was particularly interesting to see what some of these young people thought they might do in the future. Many of them thought that they would like to undertake a job or develop a business that in some way related to the skills that they believed they developed through the more artistic forms of graffiti, which they call 'pieces'.

One person wanted to develop a sculpture business and another person wanted to develop a business in printing T-shirts, and so on, using the graffiti style of writing. However, two other ambitions were interesting: one wanted to be a police officer and one wanted to be a soldier. The fact that one of these people whom we currently see as vandals wants to be a police officer really highlights the complexity we face in trying to deal with the issue of graffiti in our community and developing methods for early intervention and prevention of graffiti.

The study suggests that we really need to engage some of the graffiti writers in trying to find ways of dealing with this. The study suggests that we should in no way tolerate mass tagging or any form of graffiti that is racially or in any other way offensive to our community, but some of the stuff that we see as mindless we need to develop ways of channelling into more productive signs in our community. Murals, particularly murals addressing issues of interest to some of the young people in our community, such as some of the environmental issues and some of the peace issues, were seen as ways of engaging some of these young people in constructive events.

Time expired.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): I would like to use my five minutes this afternoon to talk about some extraordinary things that have been happening in regard to the government's management of business in the house. We have a government that has told the people of South Australia how much business it has to conduct and how important it sees the house sitting on four-day weeks, yet we find ourselves day after day having little government business to conduct. I believe that the government itself is highly embarrassed at the situation in which it has now found itself. We had the extraordinary circumstances today where minister after minister came into the house to take up the time of the house in endless ministerial statements so that they would not be too embarrassed by having a lack of legitimate business to carry on with.

We had a ministerial statement from the Minister for Emergency Services, and I do not think he told us anything that was not in the public arena already. We had a ministerial statement from the Minister for Education, followed by another ministerial statement, and in at least one of them there was some new information. We had a ministerial statement from the Minister for Environment and Conservation, and I do not think there was anything new in that. I do not think there was any important information on public policy or information that was not already in the public arena. We had a ministerial statement from the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education and, yet again, I do not think there was any new information.

The most incredible thing is that we had an extensive ministerial statement from the Premier on a matter that is before the house. I note your rulings on the points of order that were taken during that ministerial statement and I do not want to cross the bounds, Sir, but it has not escaped my notice that earlier in the week, when I looked at the program the government was proposing that the parliament discuss during this week's sittings, the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill was scheduled to be discussed today.

Dr McFetridge: The DNA does not appear.

Mr WILLIAMS: The DNA does not appear. The government, for reasons best known to itself, decided to withdraw discussion of that piece of legislation today, but it did not want to leave it at that. The Premier came in here and made a most extraordinary statement, under the guise of a ministerial statement, about the government's supposed position. I want to talk a little bit about the government's supposed position. This morning the shadow Attorney-General put out a press release headed 'Liberals want DNA tests for all suspects' and, lo and behold, what does the Premier do? Every single thing that the Premier does inside and outside this house is designed to get media coverage: every single thing he does is governed by the spin he can get.

So, what does 'Media Mike' do? 'Media Mike' pulls the discussion, pulls the debate on the forensic procedures bill and comes in here and makes an extended ministerial statement, which develops the fifth position that this government has taken on this matter in the past month or two. The Premier knows not where he wants to go with this. The government is in disarray. It cannot organise enough business to keep the house going all day, and the Premier comes in here and puts down a fifth position because he does not want the opposition to win any kudos on this. Yet again, he has shifted position. I do not know what he has been doing with his backbench, but he has shifted position for the fifth time in as many weeks.

Time expired.

TREE CONTROLS

Mr SNELLING (Playford): I rise today on the issue of significant trees, under the provisions of the Planning Act. I have been approached by a constituent who lives in Para Vista and who has a large, rather unsightly pine tree growing in her front yard. If any members here are familiar with pine trees—and the member for Davenport might be—they will be aware that nothing grows under pine trees. Their needles fall on the ground and kill any other form of life. This particular pine tree that is growing in my constituent's front yard is not only unsightly but also a threat to the structural foundations of the house. Understandably, she wants to have

it removed. In trying to have it removed she was informed that she would need to apply for planning approval to the Salisbury council, because the tree had a trunk circumference of greater than 2½ metres.

She dutifully went and did this, only to have Salisbury council, under the provisions of the Planning Act, refuse planning approval to remove an unsightly, dangerous pine tree from her front yard. In my discussions with officers of Salisbury council, they assure me that they are just enforcing what they have to under the law. I think they are probably being a little overzealous. I am sure that when the parliament initiated the significant tree provisions under the Planning Act it was not its intention for there to be a blanket ban on the cutting down of any tree just because it had a trunk circumference of 2½ metres. However, in the case of my constituent, that has been the effect. I think it is ridiculous.

If you have a tree in your front yard, within reason you should be able to do with it whatever you want: cut it down, sculpt it, whatever. Of course, certain trees may have some particular aesthetic or historic value and perhaps there is a role for those trees to be protected. But what we have is a blanket ban on the cutting down of any tree in a property owner's yard. That is a significant infringement on the rights of property owners. If the previous parliament had the good sense to give property owners the right to protect themselves on their property with respect to criminals, why is it that property owners are rendered defenceless when it comes to plants?

SCHOOLS, DISADVANTAGED

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I want to speak on a matter that is of serious concern not only to my electorate but also to many electorates and communities in this state. I have received letters from and had telephone conversations with the Chairpersons of the Governing Councils of the Mount Barker South and Nairne Primary Schools expressing their dismay at this government's recent policy changes relating to the recategorisation of disadvantaged schools. I think it is fortuitous that the minister has walked into the chamber.

The Nairne Primary School is currently a category 3 school, which entitles it to extra funding to offset what is regarded as a disadvantage. It is entitled to a .82 full-time equivalent school counsellor and a .32 disadvantage salary and other smaller grant amounts and to reduce its junior primary classes to 20 in 2003. Over 41 per cent of the students of this school (approximately 150) are eligible for school card support, which indicates that a significant number of students come from a low socioeconomic environment. The letter from the Chairperson of the Nairne Governing Council states (in part):

The social issues in and around Nairne are complicated ones and present great challenges for our staff. Nairne does not have ready access to social infrastructure support.

The letter states further:

We fail to understand, despite explanations from DECS how we can be categorised as part of the second most affluent group of schools in the state. We believe the . . . system of data collection used by DECS does not paint an accurate picture of the needs of our community.

I also received a letter from the Mount Barker South Primary School which states, in part:

The effect of this reclassification could mean a loss in funding of around the \$80 000 level annually. This would ultimately mean the removal of our School Counsellor position and a reduction in the number of learning programs we offer our students. This will be

particularly evident in the area of Special Education. Mount Barker South Primary School has a reputation in the community of having a very high level of commitment to helping students with special needs.

I support those comments because I have visited this primary school. I think it is an absolute hypocrisy that this government can implement policy changes that bring about drastic effects on primary schools in real need. I remind the house of the pledge that the Hon. Mike Rann made in the lead-up to the election. The third pledge on this pledge card, which is signed by the present Premier, states: 'Better schools and more teachers'.

It astounds me how the then Leader of the Opposition in the lead-up to the election could pledge to the community and the state of South Australia that he was going to deliver better schools and more teachers when his now Minister for Education and Children's Services and her department have brought in policy changes that will further disadvantage already disadvantaged students. The minister might think that in the electorate of Kavel we do not have any low socioeconomic areas, but that is not the case. I urge the minister to review this whole process before students in these schools, where needs are real, are damaged by this ill-conceived policy introduced by this government.

Time expired.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr RAU (Enfield): I rise today in this grievance debate as a result of having heard the member for Bright's contribution to the parliament during question time and a grievance speech on a related topic. As I listened to him, I was reminded many years ago when studying history of one of the books that I was required to read by an Austrian (later German) author entitled *Mein Kampf*. In that book, the author said, 'The bigger the lie, the more likely it is to be believed.' I am reminded of that author and that book because the lie (if I can put it that way) or the—

Mr Snelling: Do you think they know who it is? You'd better tell them.

Mr RAU: No. Let them work it out; they can do some research. The important thing is that the member for Bright and others are asserting that the present predicament in which South Australians find themselves in relation to electricity has somehow been made by this government. I remind members that this government has been in office for only some months—a little later than it should have been perhaps; nevertheless it has been only a few months. The fact is that the suggestion that this government has anything to do with the electricity mess in which South Australians presently find themselves is absurd.

Reverting to the book to which I referred earlier, it is the equivalent of ranting on about November criminals. It is textbook stuff. I urge members to look at the facts, which are as follows. National competition policy was introduced many years ago when some genius woke up one morning and thought of an idea and, unfortunately, it was picked up. As a result of that we have had economic flat earth bean counters going through every facet of life. At the end of this process, we have a state government that goes to the people promising not to sell ETSa (the largest single asset of the state), but it straightaway proceeds to try to sell it, pumps up the price by tinkering at the corners so that the monopoly that it is handing over to private enterprise is more profitable than it might otherwise have been—and, surprise, surprise, private

enterprise tries to recover some of the money out of the monopoly that it has obtained. One can hardly blame them for that; that is what private enterprise does.

Private enterprise has shareholders; it tries to return money on capital invested; and it borrows in order to buy capital. So, that should not surprise anyone. The fact that we have electricity price rises coming up in the near future has absolutely nothing to do with the present government and everything to do with the former government. What does have a lot to do with the present government—it is something that I urge the present government and the minister in particular to take into consideration—is this: many South Australian consumers who will be asked in January next year to enter into this so-called competitive market for domestic power will be confronted with a series of offers. For many years I have tried to understand mobile phone plans but I do not understand the way in which they will pan out given my usage. Likewise, I would be very surprised if most consumers have any idea whatsoever of how different energy plans will apply to them.

The rules should be: first, the alternatives should be written in plain English by all the contractors; secondly, they should be written in apples-for-apples language (in other words, you should be able to compare offers), not written in a confusing range of alternatives; and, thirdly, there should be exit clauses so that ordinary people can get out of these contracts if they find they are not what they thought they were getting into. We have to load the dice back in favour of the consumer because even though they are going to be skinned on price they should not be stuck with retail contracts for years and years and be expected to understand them straightaway. Finally, the statement I heard on the radio the other day by Mr Owens to the effect that there would be some sort of engine supplied on the internet is of little value to my constituents, most of whom are not on the internet and are not computer literate.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND AUDIT (AUDITOR-GENERAL'S POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 22 August. Page 1295.)

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): On 7 May the Premier made a ministerial statement in which he foreshadowed the introduction of a series of legislative amendments to be known as the honesty and accountability in government series of acts. This series of acts was to implement the Labor Party's election promises encompassed in the honesty and accountability 10-point plan. In making this ministerial statement, the Premier gave an undertaking with respect to the office of Auditor-General as follows:

The office of the Auditor-General is one of the most important checks on the use of government moneys. Legislation to be introduced shortly will enhance the independence of the Auditor-General and will contribute to much more open and accountable government. To be effective, the Auditor-General must have sufficient legislative powers to perform his duties. My government is committed to ensuring that the Auditor-General has sufficient legislative authority to investigate all government contracts and all dealings with private business. It is vital that the Auditor-General

have the ability to properly and rigorously scrutinise all publicly funded projects and government contracts.

Today, we further consider the legislation foreshadowed by the Premier. The Deputy Premier's second reading explanation incorporated in *Hansard* on 22 August stated that this bill had one critical element, that is, to widen the powers of the Auditor-General. The Deputy Premier pointed to the necessity for the parliament to pass the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium (Auditor-General's Report) Act 2001, in order to permit the Auditor-General to carry out an examination under section 22 of the act, as one example of the need to give the Auditor-General the additional powers contained in this bill.

Confirmation of this need is given by the Auditor-General himself in his report for the year ended 30 June 2002, tabled in this house on 14 October—several days ago. The Auditor-General, under the heading of 'Public Governance', recorded observations as follows:

In my opinion, there have been a number of disquieting features in public administration in this state in recent years that raise concerns regarding the propriety of the exercise of executive power of government in certain matters. In a legal system based on the rule of law, the executive power of government must be exercised only for the public good and not for improper purposes. The political and legal safety of the South Australian community is at risk when a culture of disregard for proper standards is practised by those who are responsible for the exercise of the executive power of the state. . . . Good government is directly dependent upon the performance of the public sector. In my opinion, the conduct on some occasions of a certain few members of the executive government vis-a-vis the public sector during the past several years impaired its capacity to discharge its responsibilities in some matters. Instances of policy failure in recent years have, in my opinion, been the result of inadequacies in public governance arrangements and processes. The objective of good governance is to establish an appropriate framework in order that policy objectives can be thoroughly analysed and achieved economically and effectively. Audit reports over the past few years have detailed a number of instances where the appropriate framework was either inadequate or not followed to ensure that policy objectives were achieved. Policy failure has occurred with consequential financial costs to the community.

The Auditor-General's concerns are also picked up in the government initiated report titled 'Public sector responsiveness in the 21st century', co-authored by the Hon. John Fahey, Hon. Greg Crafter and Mr Rod Payze. The task force in presenting its views on issues concerning cabinet committees stated:

In the past, a number of standing and issue-based cabinet committees have been established to provide a focus for high level deliberations on key issues prior to their consideration by cabinet. Several comments to the task force indicate that, overall, the cabinet committee system has not been sufficiently robust to adequately support cabinet. The task force was informed that, while some cabinet committees worked well, others have not. As a case in point, the task force is aware of the Auditor-General's criticisms of the cabinet committee established for the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium.

While the criticism relates to the functioning of cabinet committees, it is also a reflection of the positive impact the reforms contained in this bill will ultimately have on the performance of cabinet committees. The Auditor-General himself has been consulted on the drafting of this bill. He nominated the following as issues: difficulties with section 32 of the act relating to examinations conducted by the Auditor-General at the request of the Treasurer; presentation of the Auditor-General's Report to parliament; and the accountability of the Auditor-General to the parliament. The bill amends the following sections of the Act: section 24 to clarify the Auditor-General's independence and to make his appointment consistent with other officers of parliament, such as the Ombudsman; and section 31 to increase the Auditor-

General's investigative powers as part of his role of auditing accounts.

Currently, section 31(2) allows the Auditor-General to examine, as part of auditing public accounts, the efficiency and economy with which a public authority uses its resources. The amendment will broaden the powers of the Auditor-General by allowing him to consider and report on any matter relevant to the proper management or use of public moneys that should, in his opinion, be considered in the public interest when he is auditing the accounts of a public authority.

Section 32 will be amended to broaden the investigative powers of the Auditor-General where he undertakes examinations requested by the Treasurer. It is important to note that the additional powers apply only to examinations requested by the Treasurer. Under these amendments, the Auditor-General can examine the accounts of publicly funded bodies, accounts relating to publicly funded projects, and any other matter relating to or relevant to public finances or the use of public resources. He is also given the power to conduct the examination in such manner as he thinks fit, with a right to impose time limits or other conditions and make determinations or draw conclusions in the event of non-compliance. He can include the material he sees fit in his report of the examination. A time limit of 14 days is set for challenges to the way in which the Auditor-General undertakes an examination. The amendments are designed to overcome situations where ministers have previously blocked and delayed the Auditor-General's examinations.

They are modelled on the provisions in the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium (Auditor-General's Powers) Act 2001, which clarified and extended to the Auditor-General powers when he found himself unable to complete his examination of the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium funding and management. In addition, a new section 39B will allow the Auditor-General, in connection with an audit or examination, to make findings of fact or of law and comment on matters that he is of the opinion should be commented on in the public interest.

Section 33 will ensure consistency with the amendments to section 31. Section 34 allows the Auditor-General to audit the accounts of a trustee partner or subsidiary of a public authority. Section 38 will repeal the section and substitute it with a new section 39A, which makes the provision for the delivery and publication of the Auditor-General's reports. The Speaker of the House of Assembly and the President of the Legislative Council must cause a report to be published immediately. If parliament is not sitting, the report will be taken to be published one clear day after its receipt by the relevant parliamentary officers, allowing the Auditor-General to make it available on his web site. I believe that this list of amendments which sit in this bill will significantly strengthen the role and independence of the Auditor-General and, in so doing, will enhance the governance of this state.

Mr RAU (Enfield): I know that this bill has exercised a lot of minds on both sides of the chamber. I have had discussions with members opposite and I know that, in the course of the debate in relation to this bill, a number of issues and concerns will be raised about elements of the bill. I do not wish to focus on those matters, because I am hopeful that discussions will ensue before the second reading and committee stages of this bill conclude, which may perhaps address some of the concerns. It is really the focus of my comments today in relation to this bill to look more at the need for the role of an auditor-general and the way in which this parliament should view the office of Auditor-General.

It has become apparent to me as a new member of the parliament that, when members on both sides of the chamber think of the Auditor-General, they think of Mr MacPherson. Of course, there is no doubt that Mr MacPherson is the Auditor-General, for the time being. But we are here dealing with the office, not the individual who occupies the office at the present time. However long his tenure may be (and I have no wish to see it cut short), sooner or later there will be another auditor-general and another and another. So, to view these provisions through the prism of one's personal views for or against Mr MacPherson is, with the greatest of respect to anyone who is tempted to view it that way, unhelpful. The way in which we should approach this matter is to look at the legislation and ask, 'In South Australia, is there a need for an office of Auditor-General? If there is a need for an office of Auditor-General, what powers, functions and duties should that officer, whomever that person might be, exercise on behalf of the people of South Australia?'

The office of Auditor-General is, in some respects, an office that, I regret, we need in our system. I say that because, in many respects, in a perfect Westminster system we would have scrutiny by the parliament of the activities of the executive arm of government to a point where such an office was, hopefully, not required or, if required, required in a very modest way. But that is not the way in which our present system operates. The South Australian parliament, like all Westminster system parliaments, performs many functions at the same time. It is an electoral college for the ministry—for the government. It is a home for the government. It is a place in which the government is subjected to questioning by members of the parliament. It is a house of representatives in the sense that we, as members of this chamber, are all representatives, and it is a place where the activities of the executive arm of government should be scrutinised.

Mr Acting Speaker, like you, I am a relatively new addition to this place (although you have obviously more quickly ascended the ladder than I), but I am still able to recall reasonably clearly, as a person who was not a member of the parliament, how I felt about this parliament and the officers who came to this parliament to answer questions over the last few years. I recall being frustrated and, in many respects, angry about what seemed to me to be a lack of accountability on the part of the executive arm of government. I do not make these remarks in order to incite or agitate individuals opposite. I am not pointing my finger at any individual opposite because, in my belief, the main culprit is, happily, no longer with us. But the fact is that the former government had problems with EDS, Motorola, Hindmarsh Stadium and the Wine Centre, and it quite probably had other problems of which I am not aware.

It is also clear that, were it not for the independence of some individuals on certain parliamentary committees (which is not the general practice in this parliament, as I understand it: as a general rule, parliamentary committees are controlled, effectively, by the government of the day), and were it not for the fact that some committees were unpredictable during the course of the last government, many of the issues to which I have just referred might never have become contentious issues in the public domain. It is a tribute to the fact that there is some vestige of a Westminster functioning representative government left in South Australia that those committees exposed problems in various areas, and that those problems were the subject of investigations by members of the parliament. I think that is a tribute to the last parliament.

But all this recognised that the fact of that having occurred was, in many respects, an accident of the personalities who were playing in those particular committees. Even then, it was still the role of the Auditor-General that was central to exposing some of the unsatisfactory dealings that occurred in relation to public finances, and in relation to promises being held out to individuals about contracts with government, and so on. I do not really care whether we are dealing with a Liberal government or a Labor government. The fact is that there are rules, and there is such a thing as propriety. It should be the case that the public is entitled to know, to believe and to expect a certain level of public accountability on the part of the executive arm of government.

This legislation will need to be discussed further with people. As I have already indicated, I know that members opposite have views about it, and I hope that those views are fully explored with the government in order to get the best possible legislation through the parliament. Having said that, it is very important that we, as members of this parliament, recognise the Auditor-General's role, given the inadequacies of our parliamentary system and the inadequacies inherent in our committee system. As the member for Davenport well knows, the Economic and Finance Committee, for example, is well nigh useless presently, for reasons which will be, no doubt, reported to parliament in due course.

Ms Thompson interjecting:

Mr RAU: Sorry, the all-powerful Economic and Finance Committee is not quite what it should be presently. So, we cannot rely on the parliamentary committee system to expose, investigate and report on all matters. There is an important role for the Auditor-General as an independent watchdog—somebody who looks into the propriety of expenditure of public moneys. My view is that, although the South Australian government sector may not be big enough to warrant it, there is much merit in the American system whereby contracts are vetted as they go through the process. We would not just look at the end of the process and try to mop up the mess and work out what has happened. We would have, as they have in the United States, an office of defence procurement and, as contracts are being worked through, there would be a constant checking process to ensure conformity with specifications and some quality control all along the path. As I have already acknowledged, however, I accept that the budget of the South Australian government is not to be compared with that of the United States and it may well be that that is a luxury that we cannot afford. But we cannot afford not to have an active Auditor-General's office.

I strongly support the idea that there should be an active, independent Auditor-General. I realise, in saying this, that there may be an occasion in the future when this government—and, indeed, any future government—will be discomfited by the fact that the Auditor-General has those powers. So be it. As long as those powers are exercised without fear or favour and impartially, and are properly defined in terms of the objectives to which those powers are to be directed, I am not concerned. The public needs to know not only that we have people of propriety elected to this chamber and the other place, but also that in the administration of government there is a degree of stricture imposed by the Auditor-General and the Auditor-General's capacity to get to the bottom of what might be improper or illegal or fiscally irresponsible activity on the part of government.

I conclude by urging parliament to support the bill. As I have said, I understand that members opposite have elements of this legislation that concern them and I encourage them to

do whatever they can between now and the time that this bill enters the committee phase to try to discuss with members of the government and, in particular, of course, the Treasurer, whatever concerns they have. I am in no position to say on behalf of the Treasurer that he will accept or not accept any proposition that is put to him, but I can say to members opposite that I find the Treasurer to be a very approachable fellow. He is amiable, he has lemonade and other soft drinks in his fridge and he occasionally has chips. He is the sort of fellow whom you can feel comfortable speaking to about these matters, and I am sure that he will listen. I cannot guarantee that he will accept, of course, what members might say.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport): I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition in this matter.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Promise me you're not going to do another marathon session when we come back next week.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The Treasurer suggests I might do another marathon effort. I cannot guarantee that I will not, to be honest. It is one of those bills that is important to the operation of the house. Mr Acting Speaker, earlier I indicated to the Speaker when he was in the chair that I will be seeking leave to continue my remarks at a later date, and I certainly will not be speaking long today. The reason is that the opposition still requires a number of briefings over the next three or four days in relation to this matter so we do not want to complete the second reading until we have had the opportunity to have those briefings. It also gives the minister's officers the chance to come back to me on the queries I raised in the briefing two days ago.

I think the member for Enfield raises the parameter for the debate, and that is that any Westminster system will need an office of Auditor-General and this whole debate is about the role, responsibility, power and procedures of the office of Auditor-General, whether that be the current Auditor-General or a future Auditor-General. The parliament, of course, naturally, has to go through, at some time or another, a review of those powers and procedures, and I guess that events under the previous administration have brought this debate to a head at this time and it is in that context that we enter the debate about the Auditor-General and his powers.

The bill sets out a number of matters for parliament to consider. Some of those matters are retrospective in nature, and the Liberal Party has always had concerns about retrospectivity. While we do not close our mind to the issues put before the parliament, we will need some convincing about those matters and the retrospective nature of them, and I guess the government will have to prove its case in relation to the retrospective matters. The bill also sets out the way in which the Auditor-General would be appointed in the future through a process involving the Statutory Officers Committee of the parliament, which is a new innovation for the purposes of the bill. Importantly, the bill sets out the powers in relation to how the Auditor-General can undertake and conduct an examination. In particular, clause 5(c) provides:

(1b) The Auditor-General may undertake and conduct an examination in such manner as the Auditor-General thinks fit and, without limiting any other power, may set time limits and impose other requirements and, in the event of non-compliance with any such time limit or requirement, make any determination, draw any conclusion or take any other step as the Auditor-General thinks fit.

That clause is very wide-ranging and has attracted the interest of a number of lobby groups within the community that have contacted us in relation to those particular powers.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Name them!

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The Local Government Association is one. I know that they have written to the Treasurer and I think they were meeting with the Treasurer yesterday or today.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: That is what they advised me, but maybe they were meeting with your officers. Certainly, the LGA has raised some of those issues with us. Members of the Law Society have contacted us in relation to that matter. I could go on, but we will save that for another day. But to give the office of the Auditor-General the opportunity to undertake and conduct an examination in any way the Auditor-General thinks fit is a wide-ranging power. I guess we will be posing a few hypotheticals to the Treasurer to test the meaning of that clause and what the government intends by it. There are also amendments in the bill that talk about giving the office of the Auditor-General the opportunity to examine a whole range of matters, as long as in the Auditor-General's opinion they should be examined in the public interest. Again, that broadens the Auditor-General's powers, and we will be seeking clarity from the government as to exactly what that power means. For example, does it open up the opportunity for the Auditor-General to investigate private organisations that may be running one program through some funding from government?

An example might be the South Australian National Football League, which receives a grant from the Office of Recreation and Sport. These clauses could be interpreted to provide that, while the Auditor-General is auditing the Office of Recreation and Sport, he audits the sports grants and he comes across the grant to the South Australian National Football League. He then audits that section of it because it is publicly funded. In the opinion of the Auditor-General, he or she at the time might believe it is a matter of public interest that they then go on to examine the whole operation of the South Australian National Football League.

That is one interpretation of those particular clauses. As I say, we are still consulting a whole range of groups. It may well be that is not the interpretation that the government confirms to us during the committee stages, but, on a reading of it, that is certainly one interpretation of those particular clauses. Significant extra powers are being made available to the office of Auditor-General. As I say, we are still consulting and we will be going through a whole range of questions during the committee stage to tease out exactly what the powers mean and whether that is the intended meaning of those powers.

The Treasurer was not present during my briefing, but I asked for a copy of the correspondence between government and Auditor-General and Auditor-General and government in relation to this bill—all of the letters to and from which refer to the bill and which show the justification, the request and the reasons given by the Auditor-General for these powers.

I accept that in its second reading speech the government has gone back to the legislation passed in the previous parliament in relation to the Hindmarsh stadium and has said, 'That is your justification.' However, not all of that legislation has been picked up in this bill. Some of the requirements in the bill in relation to the Hindmarsh stadium legislation that was passed by the previous parliament have not been picked up in this bill, and the opposition has been provided no reasons at all why those clauses or those things that were omitted from the last act are not included in this bill.

An example is that in the previous legislation a clause was inserted that provided that no public moneys could be spent on going to court, in effect. I note with interest that in this bill, if ministers are investigated they have the luxury of taxpayer funded appeals to the court, whereas in the Hindmarsh stadium legislation that right was taken away, in effect. I will not hold the house any longer. I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later date.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

GAS PIPELINES ACCESS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (REVIEWS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the house do now adjourn.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): In the *City Messenger* dated 28 August, I was interested to see an article entitled 'Lost in Adelaide from New York'. The article detailed the situation of a Manhattan New Yorker who was in Adelaide as part of her job selling Australian wine to the United States. This New Yorker:

... caught a taxi in the city of Adelaide on the night of Friday, 16 August, for what should have been a 10-minute trip to Glenunga. One hour later, after several U-turns and being taken towards Glenelg, the New Yorker had to take over the street directory and direct the hapless cabbie to her destination.

The article then states, 'Appalling and Embarrassing!' It brought back memories of two incidents that I had with taxis. I do not use them that often but, when I am in Adelaide, I use them occasionally. I had to go to the Royal Adelaide Show—not this last show but the one before. I caught a taxi outside Parliament House, or just adjacent. I hopped into the cab and said, 'To the Royal Adelaide Show, please.' The cab driver said, 'I'm sorry. Where is that?' I said, 'That's on Greenhill Road.' Of course, the next question came, 'Where is that?' I think I asked the next question: 'How long have you been driving a cab?' and he said, 'Only the last couple of weeks.' I said, 'Well, I'll show you how to get there.' So, we went up North Terrace, into King William Street, and it was not long before we got to Goodwood Road. I actually took him to the normal entrance-cum-exit; in fact, I gave the driver advice, saying, 'I suggest if you're here later in the afternoon today, you may pick up some business.'

So, I have had one of these examples, too, but not only one. A few weeks ago I caught a cab, again from Parliament House, seeking to go to Warradale. I said, 'To Warradale, please.' The driver said, 'I'm sorry, where is Warradale?' (and that has happened more than once). I said, 'Do you know Brighton?', and the answer was no. I therefore said, 'Do you know Brighton Road?' and, again, the answer was no. I said, 'Do you know Anzac Highway?', and he said that he thought he did know Anzac Highway. I told him to do a U-turn and go down to West Terrace, and basically I led him to that part of the city.

I was disgusted, to tell you the truth, because I have known a few people who have become cab drivers. It would be the better part of seven years ago now, but they had to undertake an intensive test. They had to know virtually every street in Adelaide. I remember that one person failed on the first occasion and had to do it again because they were not able to get from one area to another as they should have. I would therefore like to ask what has happened to testing for cab drivers.

I recognise that a few of these people have been in Australia for a very short time. In fact, one person said he had been here for only a few months. I have no problem with those people becoming cab drivers, as long as they are made to go through the same tests as anybody else wanting to be a cab driver. So, it was interesting to see this highlight in the *City Messenger*. It would be interesting to see how many other examples there are and, if there are too many, it is high time that what was the Passenger Transport Board—whatever the new government has brought in—undertakes appropriate training for these people or, at least, the companies do so if the Passenger Transport Board does not.

The second thing to which I would like to refer are the plans in today's *Advertiser* of Victoria Square Mark II. It is the latest plan to revamp Victoria Square. Without doubt, there are some very positive elements there. I like the look of all the trees, etc.; I do not think that it is a bad idea. Certainly, it looks as though it is people friendly. However, I have enormous problems in having the Wakefield Street/Grote Street through road cut off. I say that because, while I do not use that road very often, when I do use it the traffic always seems to flow smoothly. The exception was during the Festival of Arts, I think, earlier this year when big mounds of earth were blocking the traffic. I happened to want to use it two or three times during that period of time, and the traffic was phenomenally congested. I, and I think lots of other people, got upset because we could not get through as we wanted to. To deviate around was impracticable. I would therefore say be wary; be careful. Why should we create angry motorists when we do not have to and when, at present, that is not the situation?

Had Adelaide thought ahead years ago, we could probably have had this plan. By thinking ahead I am referring, first of all, to the proposed ring-route for motor vehicles that went

around Adelaide, so that if you wanted to get from one side of Adelaide to the other you could do so on a freeway system. Basically, that was incorporated in the MATS plan of the 1960s. However, it was dumped, and that was a wrong decision, not only for the area around Adelaide but for other metropolitan areas.

When I visit other cities such as Melbourne and Brisbane, and even overseas cities, I see how we are behind the eight ball. The other thing is that we do not have any underground trains, and we are certainly behind the eight ball there. If we had the underground trains we could have easy movement from one side of the city to the other.

Mr Snelling: How do you want to pay for it, John?

Mr MEIER: Certainly, it will be far too expensive now. Again, we should have undertaken some activities earlier. However, in response to the honourable member's interjection, I must say that I had the privilege of going overseas in the last few weeks and, interestingly, two of the cities that I visited were Copenhagen and Stockholm: both about the size of Adelaide. In Stockholm, they have nine underground tracks in an absolutely phenomenal system. It is absolutely incredible. This is in addition to their ordinary railways which, while I will not say it left ours for dead, had many more tracks than ours, and seemed to be very efficient, too. They were fairly expensive, but they seemed very efficient. In Copenhagen the first underground was due to be opened on 19 October—in two days' time—but they have delayed it for another week or two because it is not quite finished. Again, it is the same size city as Adelaide.

So, if a city such as Copenhagen in Denmark with a similar sized population can afford to do it, I guess we could examine it further. Before we do anything like that, however, perhaps looking at the existing tramline and seeing where that can be used in the first instance would not be a bad idea. I do give credit to our bus services, but they are not in the same category as underground services. So, because of our lack of facilities to cater for the fast movement of people around and through the city, I recommend to the Adelaide City Council that it be very careful before it adopts this new plan.

Motion carried.

At 5.07 p.m. the house adjourned until Monday 21 October at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 14 October 2002

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SPEED CAMERAS

7. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** At what metropolitan and country locations were speed cameras situated during 2000-01 and 2001-02, what locations are proposed and for each location during the same period:

- (a) how many road accident deaths have occurred there; and
- (b) how many motorists have been hospitalised as a result of road accidents.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: There are 2,860 speed camera locations operated by SAPOL throughout the state.

To obtain the information required would take one person approximately ten days and there is insufficient time available to retrieve the information prior to the government sitting.

It must be emphasised, however, that speed cameras are used as a tool to improve road safety in this state and to reduce road trauma and crashes. Speed cameras are only one part of the overall road safety strategy utilised in South Australia and the world. Speed cameras are used in conjunction with numerous other strategies and initiatives to make our roads safer for the community and should not be looked at in isolation. It is a combination of all initiatives that make our roads safer.

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) is particularly vigilant in the manner in which it operates speed cameras and is required to adhere to a policy with respect to the operations and use of speed cameras.

The policy stipulates that speed cameras are only utilised in areas identified as road safety risk areas. Portable 'Speed Camera Save Lives' signs are to be displayed at each location where a speed camera is deployed. The signs should be placed in a prominent position between 50 and 200 metres from the unit to advise motorists that they have passed a speed camera location.

Speed cameras are deployed as part of the strategy to reduce excessive speed and to establish a firm base for long-term change in driver attitude to speeding. Achieving these aims will lead to a reduction in the general level of speed, with a corresponding reduction in the number and severity of road crashes. The deployment of speed cameras is based on intelligence reports, crash data statistics and complaints from the general community. This intelligence is utilised either together or independently to identify locations for the deployment of speed cameras. It must be emphasised that speed cameras are deployed to areas identified as possessing a road safety risk.

In assessing the 'road safety risk' for a location police consider any/all of the following factors:

- whether the location has a crash history;
- whether the location contributes to crashes in other nearby locations;
- whether the location has been identified by SAPOL Road Safety Audits as having a road safety risk;
- where intelligence reports provide information of dangerous driving practices associated with speeding, especially speed dangerous;
- whether the physical condition of a location creates a road safety risk. A hill is not to be regarded as a physical condition.

To ensure that the road safety message is promoted within the community, speed camera deployment locations are advertised on a daily basis throughout the week. These are available on most media channels and also available on the police internet site at www.sapolice.sa.gov.au.

Speeding vehicles are a safety hazard on our roads and as a result many innocent members of the community are either injured or killed as a result of drivers irresponsible attitudes towards speeding and disobeying the road rules. If motorists do not listen to the government's road safety message then enforcement with appropriate penalties is the consequence.

In South Australia the number of casualty crashes has decreased over the past two years and to 7 August 2002 the number of fatalities

in this state for this year is 83 compared with 89 for 2001 with the three year average of 96.

Casualty crashes during	1999	7750
	2000	7507
	2001	7266

SA GREENPRINT

9. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the cost and timing of the publishing of *SA Greenprint*, and will it be distributed across all government departments?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Office of Sustainability is currently considering the information suitable for inclusion in the first edition of *SA Green Print*. The cost will be determined by the final format and distribution which is yet to be decided. It is not clear when the first edition will be released, however the Office of Sustainability can confirm that the document's readership will extend beyond the public sector, to include the private sector, local government and industry representatives.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

11. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. Where will all the officers and functions of the Department's Kensington Office be relocated to?

2. What is the expected cost?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. National Parks and Wildlife SA staff previously located at Kensington have been relocated to 1 Richmond Road Keswick.

2. The cost of the relocation (fit out and removalists) to 1 Richmond Rd, Keswick was \$525,000. This cost is offset by positive financial returns in the latter years of the lease and redirection of capital works expenditure that would have been required to relocate NP&WSA to an alternative site.

FOSSILS

15. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will new legislation for the protection of fossils be introduced?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Currently, there is no effective legislation to protect against the possession, trade and movement of fossils within Australia, and it is apparent that such legislation is required.

Accordingly, I can advise that, on 13 August 2002, I approved the preparation of a Discussion Paper for public consultation on the provision of legislative protection for fossils. This will be the first step in providing legislation that will afford greater protection to South Australian fossils.

LAND, CONTAMINATED

16. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will new legislation in respect of contaminated land be introduced?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Yes, new legislation in respect of contaminated land will be introduced.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PROGRAMS

17. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What Environmental Analysis projects will be undertaken in 2002-03, what are their individual budget allocations and what were the details for 2001-02?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The environmental analysis programs being undertaken in 2002-03 are:

- Biological Survey of SA
- Analytic input to the state's Coast and Marine Management program
- State Vegetation Survey
- River Murray water Use Efficiency

The total 2002-03 cost of work carried out under these programs is approximately \$1.8 million, of which state government contributes approximately \$1.0 million and the balance is made up by grants from federal government and other third parties. For 2001-02 these programs were managed by the Department for Transport, Urban Planning and the Arts.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION BUDGET

18. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** How will the Environment and Geographic Information and Knowledge budget allocation be spent and why is a decline in Section 7 statements anticipated in 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Environmental and Geographic Information (EGI) budget will be spent on the range of programs traditionally managed by that Division. The 2002-03 budget now includes an allocation for Environmental Analysis and Research unit staff transferred from the Department for Transport and Urban Planning.

A decline in Section 7 statements has been anticipated in the light of Department of Treasury and Finance forecasts for 2002-03.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

22. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** How many Park Rangers and trainees are currently employed in the National Parks and Wildlife Service?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: There are 97 rangers and 14 trainees currently employed in National Parks and Wildlife SA.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION SERVICES

23. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. What are the details of the 5 Biodiversity Conservation Services Research Papers proposed for 2002-03?

2. Who will determine the research topic?

3. Why has the number of papers been reduced from the previous year?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. Details for the proposed five research papers for 2002-03 have not been finalised. Topics for the papers may cover the ecology of the Common Brushtail Possum, the Botany of the Flinders Baudin Voyages and the last volume of a series of research monographs '*The Marine and Benthic Flora of Southern Australia Vol III*'.

2. Research topics are guided by wildlife management and conservation priorities within the department's strategic initiatives, and issues of broader community interest.

3. There has been no scaling back of research papers within the Department. The number of research papers published in 2001-02 reflects the final publishing date over which the agency has minimal control.

LAND, RESERVE SYSTEM

25. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Where are the individual locations of each piece of land making up the 232 hectares expected to be added to the Reserve System in 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Lands purchased and to be proclaimed in 2002-03 are:

- Eagle on the Hill Quarry
- Lake St Claire in the South East
- An area of native grassland near Taillem Bend
- Land on Kangaroo Island
- Wyndgate on Hindmarsh Island
- Land at Caroona Creek in the mid-north.

Additions to the Investigator Group Conservation Park and to Seal Bay Conservation Park were proclaimed this year. It is not appropriate to provide specific details on other lands that are under consideration for purchasing.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

26. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Which Associations will contribute to the extra 230,000 hectares expected to be added to the Reserve System?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Environmental Associations proposed to be added to the reserve system are:

- Mt Compass
- Claredon
- Mt Terrible
- Messent
- Moorlands
- Seymour
- Tilley Swamp
- Cortina

- Coorong
- Mongalata
- Terowie
- Yalunda
- Duck Island
- Mabel Creek
- Breakaways

PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM

28. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is a Protected Area System and how is it different to a Reserve System?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The Protected Area System refers to those areas protected and managed for biodiversity conservation under the *Crown Lands Act 1929*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*, *Forestry Act 1950* and *Fisheries Act 1982*, as well as Indigenous Protected Areas established through agreements between the Commonwealth Government and Aboriginal Communities, and to Heritage Agreements on private land established under the Native Vegetation Act.

2. The Reserve System refers to those reserves managed by National Parks and Wildlife SA and is therefore part of the Protected Area System.

PARKS SYSTEM

29. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. Which high priority sites are going to be acquired and added to the Park System?

2. Will any land be compulsorily acquired for the Reserve System?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. Until such time as a legal agreement to purchase a particular parcel of land is signed, the proposal to purchase the land is treated as commercial-in-confidence and therefore I cannot provide details on particular properties.

2. There is no intention to use the powers of compulsory acquisition to purchase land for addition to the reserve system.

PARKS, MANAGEMENT PLANS

31. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. Which Parks will receive management plans this year?

2. What will be the timing of each of these plans?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. Management plans for the following parks are expected to be adopted during 2002-03:

- Douglas Point Conservation Park
- Lincoln National Park
- Newland Head Conservation Park
- Coffin Bay National Park
- Avoid Bay Islands Conservation Park
- Whidbey Isles Conservation Park
- Mount Dutton Bay Islands Conservation Park
- Kellidie Bay Conservation Park
- Lake Newland Conservation Park
- Mount Remarkable National Park
- Ngarkat Conservation Park
- Mount Rescue Conservation Park
- Mount Shaugh Conservation Park
- Scorpion Springs Conservation Park
- Lake Gairdner National Park
- Innes National Park
- Flinders Ranges National Park
- Cobbler Creek Recreation Park
- Mokota Conservation Park
- Onkaparinga River Recreation Park
- Onkaparinga River National Park
- Brownhill Creek Recreation Park
- Gum Lagoon Conservation Park.

2. The timing for these plans depends largely on when I receive a recommendation from the Reserve Planning and Management Advisory Committee that a particular plan be adopted.

ARK ON EYRE PROGRAM

32. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What was the budget and actual expenditure of the Ark on Eyre Program in 2001-02 and will it

continue during 2002-03 and if so, what is the budget and details of individual programs to be undertaken?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The 2001-02 budget was \$473,391, consisting of \$157,500 from NHT, \$285,891 from State Matching and \$30,000 from organisations such as the Nature Foundation SA. Actual expenditure was \$379,356.

2. Yes.

3. The total budget is \$525,183, however the budgets of individual programs are yet to be determined. Major projects in 2002-03 include the recovery of the Eyre Peninsula Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo; strategic recovery of threatened plants; the West Coast Integrated Pest Management project; the Integrated Regional Bridal Creeper Project; Southern Emu-wren survey; public information and communication; and community involvement and extension.

OPERATION BOUNCEBACK PROGRAM

33. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. What was the budget and actual expenditure of the Operation Bounceback Program in 2001-02?

2. Will it continue during 2002-03?

3. What is the budget and details of individual programs to be undertaken in 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The 2001-02 budget was \$763,000, consisting of \$520,000 from NHT and \$243,000 from State matching. Actual expenditure was \$710,000.

2. Yes, as an ongoing maintenance program to secure the progress achieved to date will continue in 2002-03.

3. NPWSA has allocated \$300,000 for Operation Bounceback in 2002-03. The budgets of individual programs are yet to be determined. Major programs in 2002-03 are: integrated threat abatement; strategic threatened species recovery; monitoring and evaluation; public information and communication; and community involvement and extension.

WILDCOUNTRY PHILOSOPHY

34. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. What is the budget for introducing the WildCountry philosophy?

2. How will this program interconnect protected core areas?

3. How many FTE Public Sector Management Act employees and contractors have been allocated to this program?

4. What are their classifications?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. National Parks and Wildlife SA has allocated \$37,000 to employ an ecologist to develop the program NatureLinks: implementing the WildCountry philosophy in South Australia.

2. Interconnecting protected areas will be achieved by encouraging best practice land management in areas of existing vegetation, and developing new linkages through strategic revegetation.

3. An ecologist has been committed full-time for six months, representing 0.5 FTE.

4. The ecologist is a Professional Services Officer level 3.

NATIONAL PARKS

35. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** When will the facilities in the Lake Eyre National Park and Witjira National Park be completed?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The planning and design of visitor facilities at Halligan Point in Lake Eyre National Park have been completed. Pending the finalisation of Native Title issues, toilet and visitor shelter facilities are scheduled for completion in June 2003.

Visitor facilities at Witjira National Park are 95 per cent complete. Due to the onset of high summer temperatures in the region, work on the hot water supply to the ablutions block will commence in the cooler autumn and winter period and is scheduled for completion in June 2003.

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY PROGRAM

36. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** When will the Biological Survey program be completed?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Biological Survey of South Australia is scheduled for completion in 2015.

MARINE FAUNA AND FLORA

37. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Which Marine Fauna and Flora species make up the 60 Marine species identified as potentially threatened in 2002-03, on what basis has this target been set and what is the explanation for the variance between the targeted and estimated result in 2001-02?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The current interim list under consideration has 192 species. I can provide the member for Davenport, if he so wishes, with the full list, but in order to save parliament's time I will provide this summary:

39 fish species

12 elasmobranchs and relatives (sharks and rays)

81 species (+ 3 groups) invertebrates (the number of species for these groups not known at this stage)

2 cetaceans (whales)

58 macroalgae

2. 60 species was not the target. The target is to get 10 per cent with legal protection. The basis for this target was the length of time required to determine the status of the species based on scientific criteria that are currently being developed.

3. The reason for the variance between the targeted and estimated results is that the target established under the previous government appears to have been optimistic in the timeframe to establish criteria for listing.

COAST PROTECTION STRATEGY

38. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. What is the budget for the Adelaide Coastal Protection Strategy for 2002-03?

2. What programs will be undertaken?

3. What was the budget and actual expenditure for 2001-02?

4. Which programs have been carried over?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The 2002-03 budget allocation for the Adelaide Coast Protection Strategy, including carryover from 2001-02, is \$1.69 million.

2. Programs to be undertaken are: minor beach replenishment projects; modelling impacts of seagrass loss; study report on the Economic Value of Adelaide Metropolitan Beaches; Onshore Sand Source Investigation report update; Sediment Transportation Potential study; and a communication strategy.

3. The budget for 2001-02 was \$1.25 million and actual expenditure was \$811,000.

4. Programs carried over are: modelling of the impacts of seagrass loss; study report on the Economic Value of Adelaide Metropolitan Beaches; Onshore Sand Source Investigation report update; Sediment Transportation Potential study; and a communication strategy.

MARINE PLANS

43. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will Marine Plans for the Lower, Mid and Upper Spencer Gulf and the Central Gulf of St Vincent be completed this year?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The draft Mid and Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Plan are scheduled for public consultation in early 2003 and completion in mid 2003. The Lower Spencer Gulf and the Gulf of St Vincent Marine Plans are scheduled for completion by end of 2003.

URANIUM MINES

45. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will the Authority conduct regular compliance inspections of the 2 Uranium mines in the State's North?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Environment Protection Authority conducts compliance inspections of the two operating uranium mines in the State's north under the provisions of the *Radiation Protection & Control Act, 1982*. These inspections are undertaken by officers of the EPA Radiation Protection Branch. EPA officers also conduct inspections in relation to the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. The current arrangements for regular compliance inspections will continue as necessary.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

46. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Has the Authority forwarded a project brief to undertake an audit of the low level radioactive waste

in South Australia and if so, what is the request for funding and will the brief be made available?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Yes, the Environment Protection Authority has forwarded a project brief for the audit of low level radioactive waste in South Australia. The Authority has estimated the cost to be about \$50,000. The brief can be made available through the usual processes.

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

47. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What was the cost of establishing the Office of Sustainability and what is the current number of FTE Public Sector Management Act employees and contract workers, respectively?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Office of Sustainability was established on 1 July 2002, and was created by bringing together existing policy units (particularly from the former Environment Policy Office), and some corporate resources from the Department for Environment and Heritage. Given that the Office of Sustainability was created from existing departmental resources and budgets, there were no costs incurred specifically to establish the Office.

The Office of Sustainability currently has a total of 23.0 FTEs and one contractor.

BULL RING

48. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the status of the Heritage Bull Ring located in Salisbury Council?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Bull Ring is provisionally entered on the State Heritage Register. The owners are discussing options for its future use with the Salisbury Council and other bodies.

HERITAGE CEMETERIES FUND

49. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the current value of the Heritage Cemeteries Fund, how is it funded and what is the grant criteria?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The cemeteries fund contains \$50,000.
2. It is funded by the Department for Environment and Heritage.
3. Grants of up to \$2,000 are to be made available to individuals and organisations (excluding commonwealth and state government departments and agencies) to undertake maintenance and conservation work on historic cemeteries, not just heritage cemeteries.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

50. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. Why are the number of heritage listings being increased by 25?
2. Why have funding grants available to heritage property owners decreased by 45 per cent?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The increase in the number of listings is an estimate of the number of places that will be added to the State Heritage Register as a result of public nominations and Heritage SA's ongoing heritage survey program.
2. The previous Government injected \$500,000 into the State Heritage Fund in 2001-02 to overcome a backlog of applications that had developed, and planned to reduce this commitment to \$250,000 in 2002-03. This action was supported by the current Government and is reflected in the 2002-03 budget.

HERITAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

51. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the number and total value of heritage grant applications currently on the waiting list?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: There is currently no waiting list for heritage grants. A call for applications was advertised at the start of 2002, and once assessed, applicants were advised of whether they had been successful or not. Unsuccessful applicants may apply again next year.

HERITAGE ADVISERS

52. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:**

1. How many Councils were supported by a heritage adviser in 2001-02?
2. Which Councils will be supported in 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. 20 councils were supported by a heritage adviser in 2001-02.
2. In 2002-03, support will be offered to the following councils: Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Barossa, Clare and Gilbert Valleys, Gawler, Goyder, Grant, Kapunda and Light, Kingston, Mitcham, Mount Barker, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte Lucindale, Onkaparinga, Port Adelaide Enfield, Robe, Tatiara, Tea Tree Gully, Unley, and Wattle Range. Negotiations are taking place with Port Augusta Council and councils in the Flinders Ranges, which are likely to result in the appointment of a heritage adviser to the general area during 2002-03.

MINISTERIAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

53. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Why was the Ministerial Heritage Advisory Committee established, who are the members, what is the reporting relationship and what is the budget for 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

1. The Ministerial Heritage Advisory Committee was established:
 1. To advise the Minister on strategies to coordinate and improve built heritage programs within South Australia.
 2. To advise the Minister on strategies to develop a whole of government approach to South Australia's non-indigenous heritage.
 3. To undertake such other tasks as the Minister from time to time requests of it.
2. The members of the Committee are: Hon. Rod Matheson, AM, QC, Presiding Member, State Heritage Authority, (Chair); Ms Margaret Anderson, Chief Executive, History Trust of SA; Mr David Conlon, Manager, Heritage SA; Mr Bryan Moulds, Executive Director, Property Council of Australia (SA Division); Mr Richard Cook, Senior Heritage Architect, Department for Admin. & Info. Services (DAIS); Mr Michael Queale [RAIA Nominee], Senior Architect, Grieve Gillett; Mr Anthony Presgrave, Member [LGA Nominee]; Mr Rainer Jozeps, Director, National Trust of SA; Mr Neil Savery, Executive Director, Planning SA.
3. The Committee reports directly to the Minister for Environment and Conservation.
4. The cost of running the Committee will be minimal, and no specific budget allocation has been made to it. Costs associated with its operation will be met from existing resources within the Department for Environment and Heritage.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

55. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What was the cost of establishing the Environment Protection Authority as a separate Department and what is the number and classification of FTE Public Sector Management Act employees and contract workers currently employed by the Authority, identifying those previously employed by the EPA and those sourced from other Departments?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Most of the actions necessary for establishing the Environment Protection Authority as a separate department are being carried out free of charge by relevant Government Agencies. Provision has been made in the EPA budget for an additional \$36,000 (approximately) for the employment of a chief executive. There may be further costs identified following a review of senior positions and their levels in the Authority.

The number and classification of FTE Public Sector Management Act employees currently employed* is as follows: (* does not include vacant positions)

Transferred from	DEH	DHS	DWLBC
PS01	16	1	
PS02	29	1	
PS03	14.7	5	
PS04	12.8	1	
PS05	4		
MPS3	2	1	
EXA01	1		
EXC01	1		
EL1	1		
TG02	2		
TG03	11	1	
TG04		1	
TG05		1	
AS01	1.5	1	
AS02	14.4	2	

AS03	17.8		.5
AS04		7	
AS05	15.5		2
AS06	9		
AS07		8	1
AS08	1		
MAS2		1	
MAS3	0.8		
Total		172.5	133.5

LAND QUALITY PROGRAMS

56. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** How much extra funding has been allocated to land quality programs, how much extra revenue are the programs expected raise, what is the number and classification of extra staff allocated to this role and what were their previous roles?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: There are no specific land quality programs. The Environment Protection Authority's programs relate to protection of the environment overall. Each of the three elements, air, water and land, are interrelated and protection of the environment requires that all three be addressed.

NEPM

57. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will the government be continuing with NEPM on used packaging and which South Australian Brand Owners are expected to sign the covenant in the next 12 months?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The government will be continuing with the NEPM on Used Packaging.

It is not possible to predict which Brand Owners are expected to sign the covenant in the next 12 months. However, it is expected that all Brand Owners that are regarded as significant contributors to the waste stream will either sign the National Packaging Covenant or comply with the requirements of the NEPM.

Currently South Australia has 70 signatories; at the end of the 2000-01 financial year there were 8 signatories; at the end of the 2001-02 financial year there were 68 signatories.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is working hard to promote the covenant, presenting at workshops, seminars and conferences, and writing to brand owners.

It is a requirement of the NEPM that each jurisdiction undertakes an audit of the waste stream annually to identify those Brand Owners that significantly contribute to the waste stream. On completion of the audit for this year Brand Owners identified by the audit that are not signatories to the National Packaging Covenant will be required, pursuant to the Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Policy 2001, to satisfy the EPA that they comply with the NEPM. Failure to do so will lead to enforcement action being implemented.

EPA Budget—Regional Offices

	2002-03			2001-02			
	Budget	FTE	Contractors	Actual	Budget	FTE	Contractors
Mt Gambier	382,003	5.5	0.0	311,112	339,322	4.5	0.0
Stirling	1,549,594	14.0	0.0	1,693,839	1,635,229	13.0	0.0
Murray Bridge	265,780	3.0	0.0	67,077	250,377	3.0	0.0
Total	2,197,377	22.5	0.0	2,072,028	2,224,928	20.5	0.0

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION POLICIES

62. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the status of the Environment Protection Policies on Water and Noise, and the Draft Environment Protection Policy on Waste?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: It is anticipated that the Environment Protection Policy on Water will be in operation by the end of 2002.

The draft Environment Protection Policy on Noise will be released for public consultation in late 2002. It is anticipated that this

AIR QUALITY INDEX

58. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will an Air Quality Index be displayed on the departmental website and if so, when?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The air quality index is available on the Environment Protection Authority web site at http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/reporting/atmosphere/airindex_sum.html.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

60. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** How will access to the environmental information be improved and what was this program's budget in 2001-02 and what is the budget for 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Environment Protection Authority web site is the major focus for access to environmental information. The web site is updated regularly and an Air Quality index on the web site is updated twice daily. Other monitoring data is regularly updated as well.

The CARES (Complaints and Reports of Environmental Significance) management system for environmental incidents is a web based system used by the EPA and councils to record, track and manage environmental complaints and incidents. CARES was implemented in September 2001 with a budget of \$180,000 that included hardware, software, and development costs. CARES won a national productivity award at the Government Technology conference in March 2002.

The EPA is continuing to enhance access to environmental information and other public interaction. Currently there are three new systems being developed:

e-ELF—on line application forms for EPA licences, exemptions etc. with e-commerce—scheduled to go live in December 2002. The budget of \$250,000 includes hardware, software, and development costs. GENI—General Environmental Information System—access to the Public Register is part of this system. Budget allocated, \$350,000 for hardware and software, system to be implemented by December 2003.

ERF—Environment Reporting Forms—an on line system for industries and clients to provide the EPA with monitoring information. Budget \$125,000, phase 1 to be implemented in June 2003.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

61. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** For each Environment Protection Authority regional office—

- What budget has been allocated for 2002-03;
- What was the budget and actual expenditure for 2001-02; and
- How many FTE Public Sector Management Act employees and FTE contractors were employed in 2001-02 and how many are likely to be employed in 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Environment Protection Authority has three regional offices which are located in Mount Gambier, Stirling and Murray Bridge. The budgets for 2001-02 (including actual) and 2002-03, FTE's for 2001-02 and 2002-03 and contractors for 2001-02 and 2002-03 for each regional office are listed in the attached table.

policy will be authorised in late 2003.

The Draft Environment Protection Policy on Waste is being drafted by Parliamentary Council. Timeframes for consultation and authorisation will be determined when drafting has been completed.

LANDFILL

63. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What was the total quantity of waste going to landfill in 2001-02, how much is expected in 2002-03

and how is the percentage of solid waste diverted from Landfill calculated?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Returns from landfill operators show that a total of 1,205,471.38 tonnes went to landfill in 2001-02.

If the targeted 10 per cent reduction is achieved, the amount to landfill in 2002-03 would be approximately 1,084,924 tonnes.

The percentage of solid waste diverted from landfill will be calculated by comparing the 2002-03 landfill returns to those from 2001-02.

INDUSTRY INSPECTIONS

65. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What industries will be targeted with the inspections in 2002-03, has there been an increase in staff to carry out these inspections and if so, what is the increase and classifications and under what criteria are the inspections carried out?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The EPA is to target a number of areas in 2002-03. With the establishment of the Murraylands Office at Murray Bridge, emphasis is being placed on inspections of dairies in the Lower Murray region. An audit of industry in the Edwardstown area is proposed given the problems faced at the residential/industrial interface and the exposure that the area has had to pollution prevention programs.

A prioritised approach is taken to inspections of licensees. Priorities are based on the pollution potential of the activity, the sensitivity of the local environment, the number of pollution complaints recorded against the company and its compliance history.

It is proposed that an audit of licensees in the Northern Spencer Gulf is carried out this year. The audit will include Council landfills and selected minor licensees in the region and the following major industries:

- One Steel Steelworks, Whyalla;
- SANTOS hydrocarbon processing facility, Port Bonython;
- Pasmenco Smelter, Port Pirie;
- Flinders Power, Port Augusta

Regional staff have been boosted with the appointment of three officers to Murray Bridge (classifications PSO1, PSO2 and PSO4) and two additional officers to Mount Gambier (2 x PSO2). The enforcement capacity of the EPA has been increased with the transfer of three staff from the Investigations Unit of the Department of Land, Water and Biodiversity Conservation (2 x ASO5 and 1 x ASO7).

INSPECTION BUDGET

66. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What was the inspection budget and actual expenditure for 2001-02 and what budget has been allocated for 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The 2001-02 budget was \$1,041,293 and actual expenditure was \$1,034,865. The budget for 2002-03 is \$1,042,754.

INDUSTRY INSPECTIONS

67. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** How many licensees were there in 2001-02, how many were inspected, how many staff undertook inspections and what were their classifications?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: In 2001-2002 there were 1887 licences. The EPA records indicate that 44 staff members carried out inspections at 677 premises, although in a number of cases there were multiple inspections carried out at the same premises.

The classifications of officers who undertook these inspections are ASO3, ASO4, ASO5, ASO7, TGO5, TGO4, PSO1, PSO2, PSO3 and PSO4.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS

68. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the expected number of active Environment Protection Authority Authorisations for 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The approximate expected numbers of Environment Protection Authority Authorisations for 2002-03 are:

- (a) environmental authorisations in the form of a licence—1900;
- (b) environmental authorisations in the form of an exemption, exempting the person from the application of a specified provision of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* in respect of a specified activity—1100. The majority of these would be exemptions from prohibitions under section 75 of the Act

on manufacture, use, etc of prescribed ozone depleting substances;

- (c) environmental authorisations in the form of a works approval—1.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

70. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What percentage of the population was covered by Local Government Partnerships on 5 March 2002, which councils took part in the program in 2001-02 and which councils will take part in 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: On March 5 2002, 12 per cent of the population was covered by Local Government Partnerships. The councils that participated in the program in 2001-02 were:

- Adelaide City Council
- Adelaide Hills Council
- Port Adelaide Enfield Council

No councils will take part in 2002-03. The 18 month trial concluded on 30 June 2002. Information gathered from the trial will assist in the development of a model for sharing environmental protection responsibilities that can better serve the community of South Australia.

BUSINESS COMPLIANCE

71. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** How many businesses were audited for compliance in 2001-02?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Sixty three licensed wineries were audited in October-November 2001 by independent consultants to assess compliance with the wineries' licence conditions, the Environment Protection Act and several reference documents.

Twenty licensees abutting the Port River were audited in June 2002 for compliance with licence conditions and relevant environment protection policies under the Environment Protection Act.

AIR MONITORING

72. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Where were the 26 locations monitored in 2001-02 and what was monitored at each location and why is there no target for 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The 26 locations refer to locations where air parameters and pollutants were monitored. These form the ambient air monitoring network for South Australia. Most of the information on these monitoring locations, along with other background information appears in the ambient air monitoring plan for South Australia approved by the National Environment Protection Council in June 2001.

The target for 2002-03 is to continue monitoring at sites 1 to 23 listed below. Eight of these sites needed to be completed by the addition of more parameters to those already being monitored or upgrading (some of this work has been done). A new site is planned in the southern metropolitan area. This makes a total of 9 sites to be upgraded to full operational condition in the 2002-03 financial year.

Hot spot monitoring will continue with a second short-term site already monitored at Mount Gambier early in the 2002-03 financial year and sites being planned for in the vicinity of the Mobil refinery at Port Stanvac and at Birkenhead.

List of monitoring sites and parameters monitored in 2001-02

1. Netley 310 Richmond Road
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Nitric oxide
 - Nitrogen dioxide
 - Ozone
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Particles as PM_{2.5} (2.5 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
2. Gawler, Popham Ave
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Nitric oxide
 - Nitrogen Dioxide
 - Ozone

- Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
3. Elizabeth, Heard Street Elizabeth Downs
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Nitric oxide
 - Nitrogen Dioxide
 - Ozone
 - Sulfur dioxide
 - Carbon monoxide
 4. Northfield, Hampstead Centre, Hampstead Road
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Nitric oxide
 - Nitrogen dioxide
 - Ozone
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Total suspended particulate lead
 5. Hope Valley, Grand Junction Road Hope Valley
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 6. Kensington, East Terrace Kensington
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Nitric oxide
 - Nitrogen dioxide
 - Ozone
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Particles as PM_{2.5} (2.5 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 7. Kensington Gardens, West Terrace Kensington Gardens
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Total suspended particulate Lead
 8. Port Pirie Oliver Street
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Lead particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Total suspended particulate Lead
 9. Port Pirie Frank Green Park
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Total suspended particulate lead
 10. Port Pirie West Primary School
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Total suspended particulate Lead
 11. Port Pirie corner Ellen and George Streets
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Total suspended particulate lead
 12. Adelaide Hindley Street
 - Carbon monoxide
 13. St John's Primary School, Winnerah Road, Christies Beach
 - Sulfur dioxide
 14. Penrice, Mersey Road, Osborne
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Total solar radiation
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Total suspended particulates
 15. Port Augusta Hospital
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 16. Whyalla Civic Park
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Iron and manganese associated with these particles
 17. Whyalla Hummock Hill
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Iron and manganese associated with these particles
 18. Whyalla One Steel
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 19. Thebarton, corner South and Henley Beach Roads
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Particulate lead associated with these particle sizes
 20. Gilles Plains, North East Road
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Particulate lead associated with these particle sizes
 21. Parkside Primary School, Glen Osmond Road, Parkside
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Total suspended particulate lead
 22. Mount Gambier CSR
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 23. Millicent, Kimberly Clark
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - The meteorology site at Millicent may need to be relocated
 24. Mt Gambier showgrounds
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Carbon monoxide
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Ozone
 - Sulfur dioxide
 - Nitric oxide
 - Nitrogen dioxide
 - Benzene
 - Naphthalene
 - Formaldehyde
 - Toluene
 25. Mt Gambier, Frew Park
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction
 - Ambient temperature
 - Ambient pressure
 - Total solar radiation
 - Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 - Total suspended particulates
 - Nitric oxide
 - Nitrogen dioxide
 - Ozone
 - Sulfur dioxide
 26. Castalloy, North Plympton
 - Meteorology
 - Wind speed
 - Wind direction

Ambient temperature
 Ambient pressure
 Total solar radiation
 Carbon Monoxide
 Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 Ozone
 Sulfur dioxide
 Nitric oxide
 Nitrogen dioxide
 Benzene
 Toluene
 Naphthalene
 Formaldehyde

In addition

Osborne

As part of a co-operative program with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Adelaide University monitoring was conducted for two weeks only and is not included as a significant site but is mentioned here for completeness.

Carbon Monoxide
 Particles as PM_{2.5} (2.5 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
 Ozone
 Sulfur dioxide
 Nitric oxide
 Nitrogen dioxide
 Benzene
 Toluene

74. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Which 12 pollutants were monitored in 2001-02 and why, and what is the target for 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The 12 pollutants that were monitored in 2001-02 were:

- Carbon monoxide
- Total suspended particulates
- Particles as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective aerodynamic diameter)
- Particulate lead
- Ozone
- Sulfur dioxide
- Nitrogen dioxide
- Nitric oxide
- Benzene
- Naphthalene
- Formaldehyde
- Toluene

The twelve pollutants were monitored in various combinations at the 26 locations. Not all pollutants were monitored at each location. The first six were monitored as part of the South Australian government's commitment to the ambient air quality national environment protection measure. The last six were monitored as part of SA EPA investigations into localised air quality problems based on complaints around industry.

An additional pollutant (particles as PM_{2.5}) was monitored at two sites (Kensington and Netley) to provide data for future ambient air national environment protection measure development. This will continue until 12 calendar months data is obtained at the two sites simultaneously.

The target for 2002-03 is:

- To continue monitoring the 12 pollutants and to include xylenes depending on the resolution of technical problems.
- PM_{2.5} (2.5 micron effective aerodynamic diameter) particles will be discontinued once 12 months concurrent data has been obtained at Netley and Kensington early in 2003. The equipment will be used to measure particles such as PM₁₀ (10 micron effective

aerodynamic diameter) at other existing sites.

BEACHES, METROPOLITAN

75. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the agreed time frame for reporting the quality of Metropolitan Beaches bathing water, who agrees to this time frame and how is it varied?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The 'agreed timeframe' for reporting the quality of Metropolitan Beaches bathing water refers to publishing results on the EPA web page. This timeframe is one week following sampling in summer and two weeks following sampling in winter. The sampling is undertaken on a fortnightly basis over summer and on a monthly basis over winter.

The one-week summer reporting period reflects the minimum time required for sample analysis and review of the results prior to posting on the EPA web page. Meeting the one-week timeframe places considerable pressure on the laboratory, however, the tighter summer reporting timeframe was adopted to reflect the higher use of the beaches during this period and the anticipated interest in the information. The two-week reporting period for the remainder of the year reflects a more sustainable reporting period for both the laboratory and the EPA.

Any variation of the timeframe would be determined by the independent Environment Protection Authority.

AIR QUALITY INDEX

76. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the agreed time frame for reporting the Air Quality Index, who agrees to this time frame and how is it varied?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The original time frame agreed with the then Minister for Environment and Heritage for reporting of the air quality index on the Department of Environment and Heritage website was November 2001. The index was ready for reporting at this stage and was live in the department's web page for a short time. However upgrades to the Department of Environment and Heritage web server and software were required. This meant that the air quality index was not available.

The upgrades to the web server and software are now complete. The upgraded website has undergone testing and the air quality index is on-line. The Index will be automatically updated twice daily.

The index contains data from Netley, Elizabeth, Kensington and Port Pirie. These are sites where automatic data downloading is possible. The website is prepared for the Whyalla and South Metropolitan sites, which are planned for establishment in the 2002-03 financial year.

The address of the website is:

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/reporting/atmosphere/airindex_sum.html or from outside the Department:
www.epa.sa.gov.au/airindex

PERPETUAL LEASES

79. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will the minimum fee of \$300 per annum for perpetual leases apply to churches, halls, or sporting clubs, and other community facilities situated on crown land?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Churches, halls, or sporting clubs and other community facilities are primarily on crown land dedicated for these purposes for which no fee is charged. As the honorable member is aware, parliament has established a select committee to look into such issues. It would be appropriate for the member for Davenport to raise any concerns with the committee.

CROWN LAND

80. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What individual parcels of land make up the 100,000 hectares leaving the Crown Land administration?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: A review process is being established to identify those crown land conservation reserves with biodiversity values that make them suitable for inclusion within the reserve system. Those crown land conservation reserves identified will have their classification changed to become reserves under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The 100,000 hectares are an estimated target based on our knowledge of what is currently held as conservation reserves and what is achievable to reclassify over a 12 month period.

81. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the reason for the difference between the targeted and actual land administered under the Crown Lands Act in 2001-02?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The greater uptake in freeholding and sale of crown land reduced the total area of land administered under the Crown Lands Act 1929 from a targeted 282,825 hectares in 2001-02 to an estimated result of 257,594 at 30 June 2002.

RSPCA

82. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Has the RSPCA received an increase in funding in line with CPI and if not, why not?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: No. This government has maintained the funding level for the RSPCA at \$500,000 in line with the previous government's commitment.

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION CORPORATE STRUCTURE

84. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the corporate structure for each department under the minister's portfolio?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The corporate structures for the departments under the Environment and Conservation and the River Murray portfolios are as follows:

- Department for Environment and Heritage
 - Office of the Chief Executive
 - Corporate Services
 - National Parks and Wildlife South Australia
 - Botanic Gardens of Adelaide
 - Environmental and Geographic Information
 - Office of Sustainability
 - Crown Lands SA
- Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
 - Corporate Strategy and Business Services
 - Murray Darling
 - Water Policy Resource Management
 - Resource Assessment
 - Biodiversity
 - Sustainable Resources
- Environment Protection Authority
 - Executive Office
 - Business Services
 - Monitoring & Evaluation
 - Operations
 - Policy & Strategic Support
 - Pollution Avoidance
 - Radiation Protection Branch

HOSPITALITY, YEAR 12 SUBJECTS

85. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Are South Australian year 12 students able to undertake hospitality subjects as part of the SSABSA and if not, what action is intended to remedy this situation?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The honourable member's question was about SSABSA. SSABSA is the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia. It is not a graduating certificate, but rather the board that administers the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), an internationally recognised qualification. I believe the member may have meant to refer instead to the SACE.

There is a SACE subject called food and hospitality, offered at stage 1 and stage 2. Students can also undertake vocational education and training modules in hospitality, some of which count towards completion of the SACE.

SCHOOLS, BIRDWOOD

86. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Will specific funding be allocated to carry out the recommendations of the Birdwood school's review, particularly for a feasibility study being prepared for the redevelopment of the Birdwood Primary and Birdwood High Schools and establishment of a purpose built middle schooling facility and what criteria is being implemented to prioritise this proposed redevelopment?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: A planning study is in progress to look at the future needs for Birdwood Primary and Birdwood High Schools. The study's findings will be used to consider the schools for inclusion on a future capital works program.

The projects will be considered against statewide priorities for capital works in schools and preschools.

SCHOOLS, COROMANDEL VALLEY PRIMARY

87. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Will the redevelopment of the Coromandel Valley Primary School be reinstated immediately and will other schools programs partly funded by the commonwealth government proceed?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: As has been stated before, the proposal will be considered for inclusion in future budget considerations.

The state government has aligned commonwealth funds to a number of capital works projects.

Where previously proposed projects have been deferred, commonwealth funding allocations will remain committed to these projects.

SCHOOLS, GAWLER PRIMARY

88. **Ms CHAPMAN:** What is the status of the approved \$2.7 million redevelopment of the Gawler Primary School and if this project is not proceeding, what will happen to the \$1.2 million commonwealth grant?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Land required for the former government's particular design for the proposed Gawler Primary School redevelopment had not been secured when the new government took office in March. The land is not available.

Other options for the school's redevelopment are being considered. Once a suitable alternative is found, the project will again be included on a future capital works program.

There is an intention to proceed with this project at a future date, with \$1.2 million of commonwealth funding already committed toward the total project cost.

SCHOOLS, EAST TORRENS PRIMARY

89. **Ms CHAPMAN:** What is the progress of funding towards the construction of a gymnasium at the East Torrens Primary School and will this project be given priority in 2002-04?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The scheme that provides funding to assist school communities with projects such as these is fully subscribed until July 2003 as a result of a number of very large projects being undertaken in 2001 and 2002 under approval from the previous government.

The School Loans Advisory Committee has sought the opportunity to review East Torrens Primary School's application again, close to the time funds will be available within the Scheme.

SCHOOLS, CEDUNA AREA

90. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Why has the \$5 million redevelopment funding to the Ceduna Area School been revised to \$3.9 million and what part of the redevelopment will not proceed?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The previous government set aside \$5 million for this project over three years, but had made no decision on exactly how that money would be used.

The project was announced in the 2001-02 state budget, but there was still no decision on the scope of the project by the time Labor took office in March 2002.

The project's budget was amended to ensure the immediate needs of the school are still met, but also that other schools in dire need of work could be brought forward on the investment program.

Planning is being considered within the new available budget for the project and a project manager has been appointed to work with the school community to achieve the best possible outcome.

SCHOOLS, HEATHFIELD HIGH

91. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Will the \$1 million DETE funding for the development of an indoor recreation and swimming facility at Heathfield High School still be forthcoming?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: This project involves the Department of Education and Children's Services, the Department of Recreation and Sport and Adelaide Hills Council.

The department's commitment to this proposal remains at this stage.

SCHOOLS, HEWETT PRIMARY

92. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Is the \$1 million capital works expansion for the Hewett Primary School still on the capital works program?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The project is not listed in the 2002-03 capital works program, tabled as part of the state budget on 11 July 2002. There was not an undertaking by this government, nor by the previous government, that it would be. The capital works program for the next financial year will be announced at the time of the 2003-04 state budget.

SCHOOLS, KADINA PRIMARY

93. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Why will teachers at the Kadina primary School be paid less than equivalent teachers at the neighbouring Wallaroo Mines Primary School under the Country incentive Scheme and what action is proposed to rectify this inequity?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Wallaroo Mines Primary School teachers will be paid more than teachers at most schools in South

Australia. The reason for that is recognition of some factors which impact on staffing at the school. The extra salary comes under the recently introduced country incentives scheme.

The country incentive zones were based on three criteria. These criteria are the index of rural disadvantage (which takes into consideration not only the size of the community but also access to a range of services and facilities), teacher transience and the degree of difficulty in filling permanent vacancies.

Based on these criteria, a number of schools on the Yorke Peninsula, including Wallaroo Mines Primary School, fell into zone 2 which attracts a one off 'incidental payment' upon recruitment to permanency of \$300 plus annual cash incentive payments of \$700 (year 1), \$900 (year 2), \$1,150 (year 3), \$1,400 (year 4) and \$1,600 (year 5).

The country incentives are entrenched in an industrial agreement, accepted by the Australian Education Union and the CPSU/PSA.

SCHOOLS, MAWSON LAKES

94. **Ms CHAPMAN:** What is the status of the proposed \$15.6 million expansion to the Mawson Lakes School and will the facility incorporate year 11 and 12 students?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The previous government had listed the project as a \$15.6 million project, but had proposed spending of only \$5.5 million in the years 2001-02 to 2003-04.

It allowed the school to develop an expectation that over time it would provide a range of educational programs beyond the primary school. This was done with no firm budget commitment to provide the necessary facilities for secondary students.

The project was supposed to commence in November 2001. When I took office in March 2002, land had not even been purchased for the primary school, let alone for anything beyond that. The project had not even been before the Parliament's Public Works Committee.

The state government has confirmed in the recent budget that it has allocated \$7.6 million to establish permanent facilities for the provision of early years and primary education at Mawson Lakes, in accordance with the obligations of the 1996 agreement.

I have accelerated the project, with land recently purchased and tenders now being assessed to enable construction to begin soon.

Plans for a permanent purpose-designed preschool will be developed over the next 18 months.

SCHOOLS, ROSEWORTHY PRIMARY

95. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Is funding for the \$4 million capital upgrade at the Roseworthy Primary School still in the forward capital works?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The project is not listed in the 2002-03 capital works program, tabled as part of the state budget on 11 July 2002. There was not an undertaking by this government, nor by the previous government, that it would be. The capital works program for the next financial year will be announced at the time of the 2003-04 state budget.

SCHOOLS, URAIDLA, NORTON SUMMIT AND BASKET RANGE PRIMARY

96. **Ms CHAPMAN:** What action is proposed to address the lack of reticulated water supplies at Uraidla, Norton Summit and Basket Range Primary Schools?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Plans have been prepared for work to be done at the three schools to ensure they continue to have access to water for ablution and drinking should the electricity supply fail. The Country Fire Services will also have access to the water supply for extinguishing fires.

The three projects are now out to tender and the modifications will be completed as a priority.

SCHOOLS, POONINDIE PRIMARY

97. **Ms CHAPMAN:** When will funding be allocated to address the effluent issues at Poonindie Primary School?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The septic tank issues at Poonindie Primary School were raised with the previous government last year.

I am pleased to announce that I have acted on the school's concerns and have approved funding not only for a new effluent system but also a new toilet block for the school and a centre to enable the school to deliver an early learning program.

Planning for a new septic system is now under way.

SCHOOLS, ANGASTON PRIMARY

99. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Why has the previously approved \$1.94 million funding to the Angaston Primary School been withdrawn, what criteria were used for assessment, who undertook the review, was the site visited as part of the review and what priority will be given to this project in 2003-04?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: This project has not been withdrawn but deferred. The government has a commitment to proceed with this work.

The capital works program for next financial year will be announced at the time of the 2003-04 state budget.

SCHOOLS, WILLUNGA PRIMARY

100. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Why has the redevelopment budget for the Willunga Primary School to consolidate the school with a pre-school been revised from \$6.2 million to \$0.85 million, what criteria were used for assessment, who undertook the review, was the site visited as part of the review and what priority will be given to this project in 2003-04?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The honourable member's claim that the redevelopment budget for the Willunga Primary School has been revised to \$0.85 million is wrong. That figure relates only to redevelopment work associated with relocation of the Willunga pre-school from its current Railway Terrace site onto the primary school site.

The pre-school redevelopment and the primary school redevelopment have been separated. This was done at the request of the pre-school community and local member of parliament so work on the pre-school redevelopment could proceed.

The department has advised that works to the primary school cannot commence until the pre-school is complete, due to the nature of the site and the need to ensure at all times the safety of staff and students.

The capital works program for the next financial year will be announced at the time of the 2003-04 state budget.

SCHOOLS, BOOLEROO AREA

101. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Why has the redevelopment budget for the Booleroo Area School to affect the amalgamation of schools been revised from \$2.52 million to \$2 million, what criteria were used for assessment, who undertook the review, was the site visited as part of the review and what priority will be given to this project in 2003-04?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: This project was announced by the previous government in the 2001-02 state budget but was not started.

The priority of this government is to achieve the building works required as a result of the amalgamation of the primary and high schools. The new budget will allow this important work to occur.

I have an obligation to ensure that the capital works budget is spent in a manner that will provide maximum benefit for all students.

Since taking office, I have reviewed the investment program focusing on a re-examination of priorities to ensure current facility needs are met and to confirm appropriate planning had occurred to support proposed projects. I sought advice from the department in relation to works priorities, given that the former government list of works was formulated over 12 months ago. In addition, I sought specific briefings on a number of projects still in the planning stages to assess the adequacy of the plans to best meet the education needs of students and achieve value for money.

That work has resulted in a comprehensive list of projects, incorporating those which are new, those which have been brought forward, and those that have been deferred. No projects have been cancelled.

The government is contributing nearly \$9 million extra towards capital projects and upgrades in schools and preschools than the previous government had planned to spend in its 2002-03 capital program.

I believe the honourable member is mistaken with the last part of her question because the project is already being funded.

SCHOOLS, ORROROO AREA

102. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Why has the approved \$7.5 million funding to the Orroroo Area School been withdrawn, what criteria were used for assessment, who undertook the review, was the site

visited as part of the review and will there by any priority given to this project in 2003-04?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I have an obligation to ensure that the capital works budget is spent in a manner that will provide maximum benefit for all students. This project was announced as part of the 2001-02 budget and was due to commence in December 2001. However, on coming to government in March 2002, the project had still not commenced nor had sufficient planning been done for that commencement.

Since taking office, I have reviewed the investment program focusing on a re-examination of priorities to ensure current facility needs are met and to confirm appropriate planning has occurred to support proposed projects. I sought advice from the department in relation to works priorities, given that the former Government list of works was formulated over 12 months ago. In addition, I sought specific briefings on a number of projects still in the planning stages to assess the adequacy of the plans to best meet the education needs of students and achieve value for money.

That work has resulted in a comprehensive list of projects, incorporating those which are new, those which have been brought forward, and those that have been deferred. No projects have been cancelled.

The government is contributing nearly \$9 million extra towards capital projects and upgrades in schools and preschools than the previous government had planned to spend in its 2002-03 capital program.

The capital works program for the next financial year will be announced at the time of the 2003-04 state budget.

ACTIVE TRANSPORT SUBSIDY SCHEME

108. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Why is there an increase in the membership of the active transport subsidy scheme?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: As at 30 June 2002 there were a total of 39,611 members of the South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS). Of the total members 23,589 are active members in that they have used the scheme within the last six months. Use is defined by a trip being taken using a SATSS voucher.

At 30 June 2001 SATSS total membership was 37,938 and the active membership was 22,477. There has therefore been a 4.5 per cent increase in SATSS total membership and a 4.9 per cent increase in active membership in the 2001-02 financial year.

The overall increase in membership to SATSS is likely to be due to a number of factors including:

- South Australia's ageing population which increases the number of people with physical disabilities that make them eligible for the scheme;
- information about the scheme being provided to patients through general practitioners; and
- generally increased awareness of the scheme through media reporting and word of mouth.

BAROSSA VALLEY WAY

109. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** What planned safety improvements for the Barossa Valley Way will be implemented in 2002-03?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: During 2002-03 shoulder sealing works will continue along Barossa Valley Way.

In addition, traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of Gawler and Murray Streets in Nuriootpa.

Funds have also been notionally allocated to the construction of a roundabout at Kroemers Crossing between Tanunda and Nuriootpa. The implementation of this project is subject to appropriate funding arrangements being negotiated between the state government, Barossa Council and Orlando-Wyndham.

ROADS, SHOULDER SEALING

110. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Which roads will benefit from the re-prioritising of funds to shoulder sealing?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: As you are aware this government has committed additional funding to the shoulder sealing program by increasing the funding from \$15.25 million to \$28.9 million over a five-year period commencing in the 2001-02 financial year.

For this financial year, \$5.1 million has been allocated to the program and works will be undertaken on the following roads:

- Noarlunga to Cape Jervis Road
- Mount Barker to Strathalbyn Road
- Heaslip Road
- Tea Tree Gully to Mannum Road
- Birdwood to Verdun Road
- Barossa Valley Way
- Angle Vale Road
- Berri to Loxton Road
- Blackwood to Goolwa Road

Approximately 130 km of road will be shoulder sealed with this year's allocation of \$5.1 million.

A shoulder sealing implementation program is currently being finalised for future years.

ROADS, RE-SURFACING

111. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Why has the cost of rural and urban road re-surfacing per treated lane reduced in 2002-03, how will this impact on the life of the road and what roads will be affected in both regions?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: The question relates to figures shown on page 9.12 of the budget papers. The budget papers report an average predicted cost of road resurfacing works in both the urban and rural areas. These rates are determined by dividing the total cost of the proposed treatments by the total length to be treated. For 2002-3 it is estimated that this average rate will reduce in comparison to 2001-2 due to the types of treatments being applied.

A variety of types of resurfacing works are used each year based on the need of the specific road section and consideration of achieving the best impact on road life across the road network within the funds available. Treatments can vary from a nominal spray surfacing treatment through to more expensive asphalt works or high cost pavement rehabilitation works, depending on the condition of the section of road. Actual treatment costs can vary considerably from \$12,000 per lane km to over \$200,000 per lane km for extensive asphalt rehabilitation works in urban areas.

For 2002-03, Transport SA is applying an advanced pavement management system analysis to assist with optimising the best locations for funds to be spent. It is proposed to use a smaller proportion of the more expensive treatments and a corresponding higher proportion of less expensive treatments compared to 2001-02. This results in a greater coverage of the road network in both rural and urban areas and a corresponding reduced \$/treated lane km rate.

Overall expenditure on resurfacing works will increase in 2002-03 by approximately \$1.8 million. The final resurfacing program of works for 2002-03 is still being finalised and is likely to consist of over 60 urban projects and over 120 rural projects.

BRITANNIA ROUNDABOUT

112. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** What plans are there to redevelop the Britannia roundabout?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: An upgrading proposal, to cater for the estimated traffic requirements in 2020, was determined by Transport SA in their concept study of August 2000. This ultimate solution was an underpass along Fullarton Road south and Dequetteville Terrace, with an at-grade Wakefield Street/ Kensington Road/Fullarton Road intersection. The cost of this proposal is in the order of \$25.0 million (December 2000 prices).

While the government supports an upgrade of this location, it cannot justify a road expenditure of this amount in light of its commitment to other essential needs of health, education and security (policing), the platform on which it was elected.

Transport SA is therefore working on alternative schemes, which will provide an interim improvement to the performance of the intersection, but also be a staging towards the implementation of the ultimate scheme in future years.