

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 21 October 2002

The **SPEAKER (Hon. I.P. Lewis)** took the chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

*[Sitting suspended from 2.01 to 3.20 p.m.]*

### HOSPITALS, MODBURY

A petition signed by 346 electors of South Australia, requesting the house to call on the government to categorically declare that Modbury Public Hospital will not be closed, amalgamated or any current services withdrawn, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Kotz.

Petition received.

### MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The **SPEAKER**: I lay on the table the Register of Members' Interests, Registrar's Statement, June 2002.

Ordered to be published.

### CITY OF MITCHAM RATE REBATE REPORT

The **SPEAKER**: Pursuant to section 23 of the Local Government Act 1999, I lay on the table the Rate Rebate Report for the City of Mitcham 2001-02.

### TOBIN, Dr M.J., DEATH

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

Leave granted.

The **Hon. M.D. RANN**: Many members of this parliament have returned recently from the funeral service of the late Dr Margaret Tobin. As all members would know, Dr Tobin was the Director of the South Australian Mental Health Service. One week ago today, she was tragically taken from us. After her death, I told the house that her memorial must be and will be the much improved mental health service that she so tirelessly fought for.

I want to take the opportunity in the house today to announce that the state government, on behalf of all of the people of South Australia, has taken that first step in honouring Dr Tobin's commitment to those with mental health problems. The board of Flinders Medical Centre and, importantly, Dr Tobin's husband have graciously agreed to this tribute. I know that this has bipartisan support. This is a tangible way of honouring an outstanding person who was passionate about breaking down prejudices in mental health.

As part of the government's commitment to improving mental health services, we have announced today the construction of a new 40-bed mental health unit at the Flinders Medical Centre, which is dedicated to the memory and work of Dr Tobin and will be named after her. The design details are being prepared and construction is expected to begin early next year, as was announced in the budget. This unit will double the mental health bed capacity at Flinders.

The government, with the support of the opposition, is determined to improve mental health services in South Australia, and this new unit is just part of \$17.3 million that

the government will spend over the next four years on capital works projects for mental health facilities.

Dr Tobin believed strongly that improving mental health services required the efforts of the whole community and both sides of the house. The state government has begun this process by boosting mental health funding by \$9 million over four years for better community based care and access to support services.

This extra funding will be spent on improving mental health services in rural communities, as well as metropolitan Adelaide. Pilot programs in country hospitals will be established at Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Wallaroo. The sum of \$4.3 million has been committed for the redevelopment of the Paediatric Adolescent Mental Health Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital. We want to ensure that young people under 16 years of age are not admitted to adult facilities. We also want to improve country services to provide greater assistance for children whose parents have a mental illness.

Dr Tobin was passionate about doing something for carers, people affected by the mental illness of others, so we are putting in place a range of other initiatives, including improving health services for people with drug and alcohol problems. Glenside will be redeveloped as a rehabilitation centre, and we will introduce national standards and evidence-based care. These mental health initiatives are about striking the right balance between adequate and accessible emergency services, acute care and community support for independent living. We are all in the process of making those changes here in South Australia, and there was no greater advocate of this reform than Dr Margaret Tobin.

We still have a huge task ahead to break through community barriers built on fear, prejudice and ignorance about mental illness. Dr Tobin often said that mental health was everyone's business. She felt it was urgent that the community understands and is sympathetic to mental illness. The state government will continue this important work in honour of Dr Tobin and, importantly, in honour of those South Australians who work every day in this demanding, difficult and vitally important part of our health system.

### TERRORISM

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

Leave granted.

The **Hon. M.D. RANN**: Last week I advised the house that I had written to the Prime Minister about national counter-terrorism arrangements. I advised the Prime Minister to fast-track those measures already agreed by all governments following the 11 September tragedy last year. I urged that all Australian governments—commonwealth, state and territory jurisdictions—should sign the Intergovernmental Agreement on Counter-Terrorism as soon as possible. The state government has now received a reply from the Prime Minister's Department advising that the Prime Minister is considering holding a special meeting with premiers and chief ministers in Canberra on Thursday, following the national service for the victims of the terrorist attack in Bali, in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra.

The meeting will include a high-level briefing from relevant government agencies on the Bali atrocity and its aftermath. I am hopeful that the Intergovernmental Agreement on Counter-Terrorism will be signed at that meeting. It was agreed in principle at the Premiers' Conference—the

Council of Australian Governments—back in April. I can advise the house that today the South Australian cabinet has taken all steps necessary to enable this state to sign the agreement on Thursday. This agreement will replace counter-terrorist arrangements that were first put in place following the Sydney Hilton bombing back in 1978, when Malcolm Fraser was Prime Minister and Don Dunstan Premier. Needless to say, the world has changed dramatically since then. The new joint arrangements provide for:

- better coordination and cooperation between agencies at the commonwealth and state level in case of a terrorist attack;
- the development of a new counter-terrorist plan;
- the better sharing of intelligence; and
- the formation of a National Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The agreement recognises and clarifies the commonwealth's responsibility in national terrorist situations, including those involving commonwealth targets and threats against civil aviation, and those involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. It outlines the way the federal government would consult with the state government before a national terrorist situation was declared if, God forbid, South Australia was ever involved in such an incident, and the chain of demand in these situations. It is all about better coordination.

I must say that 11 September was a wake-up call to the world that terrorism had entered a new era. Tragically, the Bali bombing has underscored the point that Australians can be the victims of terrorism. After Bali, we must implement this agreement as soon as possible. At the same time, we need to consider what more we need to do and further critically analyse whether we have gaps in our counter-terrorist arrangements. For instance, the Bali attack hit Australians, but they were overseas.

Do our plans adequately cover such offshore terrorist acts and, if not, how do we fix that? What about threats to our utilities, both publicly and privately owned? We have to try to consider all possibilities. Now we are seeing the suggestion of a federal department of homeland security. I look forward to hearing more about that plan on Thursday and having the opportunity to discuss it with the Prime Minister and other premiers.

The responsibility for national security rests with the federal government. But, so many of the resources that would be deployed in a terrorist emergency—police, medical, firefighting—are state controlled. We have seen how South Australian medical teams, and now forensic specialists, are playing such a vital role in responding to the present Bali crisis. All Australian governments must work together to play their part in responding to these dreadful threats.

#### **TOBIN, Dr M.J., DEATH**

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I wish to say more about the events of last week surrounding the tragic death of Dr Margaret Tobin. Last week, during Dr Tobin's condolence motion, I was able to commend to the house the valiant yet vain efforts of Kae Martin and Deb Pratt who rushed to Margaret's side. Further facts have now come to light and I believe it is proper and right to inform the house of them. I can report that it was not only Kae Martin and Deb Pratt who

came to Margaret's aid on that awful afternoon. Dr Sally Tideman, Kerena Eckert and Bernadette Kenny were also there, equally struggling to do all they could for Margaret. Their professionalism, courage and compassion must not go unrecognised, even though they do not seek it.

It is fair to say that this sad episode has affected many in health and community services directly and personally. In those circumstances it can be hard to be at your best, but I firmly believe that the best within us came through. When we spoke to many DHS workers throughout last week, we were able to observe people quietly going about their work and getting on with their jobs, although their reality had been horribly jolted.

Sadly, it is becoming commonplace to say that events like this change us forever; that we will never be the same. If this is true, then what we witnessed last week was not so much change but a renewed and strengthened determination to go on. The department and its agencies are undertaking a process of careful review as all workers examine the unique and diverse circumstances of their practice. Each worker and each agency will have different solutions to this problem. I have every confidence that answers will be found.

As many people reinforced to us last week, the reality is that providing health and community services is usually a safe and rewarding vocation. There are risks involved, but those risks can be managed and reduced. Of all the lessons that will flow from the events of last week, I am sure of three: we can be more careful; we must take more care of each other; and above all, no matter what, we must continue the reform processes led by Margaret Tobin.

#### **NATIONAL WATER WEEK**

**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:** This week is National Water Week and, as every South Australian schoolchild is taught, we live in the driest state in the driest inhabited continent. Despite this level of awareness, we still have much to learn as a community if we are to achieve sustainable water use in this state. Australia is the world's second highest per capita user of water in the world, second only to the United States of America. The average Adelaide household uses around 50 per cent of its water on gardens, a figure that can rise to more than 80 per cent during the height of summer.

In an average year, urban water run-off is around 100 gegalitres, about the same amount that the Adelaide metropolitan area takes annually from the River Murray. Amazingly, I am led to understand that less than 5 per cent of this run-off is used. In other words, we need to be a lot smarter about how we use, conserve and reuse our precious water resources.

The extremely dry conditions we are currently experiencing have highlighted the scarcity of water resources in South Australia, particularly in already dry regions such as Eyre Peninsula and the North-East pastoral districts. Members will be aware of the problems facing the River Murray: historically low flows, sand problems at the Murray Mouth, salinity issues for irrigators, and the impact that all this has on the river's ecosystem. We also believe that the Mount Lofty Ranges is close to its sustainable limit of water use.

Clearly, we all need to do better, and that is why this government has a strong focus on improving water resource management in South Australia. The government's objectives include more water for the River Murray. Major steps have

already been taken towards this goal with interstate agreements and moves towards greater irrigation efficiency along with a commitment to create a special River Murray act. In fact, next week Adelaide will host the Murray Darling Basin Commission ministerial council that will provide South Australia with an opportunity to show key ministers from around the country the problems facing the River Murray at its mouth.

Other significant water resources in this state are also stressed, and the government is working to improve the management of these resources. In particular, work is proceeding to better understand and manage Eyre Peninsula, the South-East, the Great Artesian Basin and the Mount Lofty Ranges. The government is also proceeding to implement the Waterproofing Adelaide policy. This project aims for improved and innovative management of Adelaide's water resources over the next 20 years. Importantly, under the government's integrated natural resource management policy, every part of the state will be covered by boards that will include water resource management in their charter.

Community awareness is an important component of improving our management of water resources: we must do more with less. National Water Week is an important focus for raising awareness of the issues and exploring new solutions. In South Australia, National Water Week is coordinated by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, with on-the-ground support from a raft of agencies and organisations including SA Water, all catchment water management boards and Water Watch.

The Minister for Government Enterprises launched National Water Week activities in South Australia yesterday. Those activities include a major symposium discussing water issues confronting South Australia; a significant meeting of government ministers at Birdsville; and an innovative competition for schoolchildren as the focus of this year's National Water Week activities from 20 to 26 October. The symposium, entitled 'Working on Water', will be held at the Hahndorf Resort on this Wednesday and will examine new ways to better manage water, including planning approaches and techniques in water-sensitive urban design.

South Australia's approaches to water management, including water conservation, the sustainable use of non-traditional water sources, stormwater flow mitigation and pollution reduction, and partnership approaches to water resources management from the household to the catchment level will be discussed at the symposium. The Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum and the two-day conference at Birdsville (one of the most remote regions of Australia) provide an opportunity for the Lake Eyre Basin community, scientists—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I won't be driving; I can assure the member of that—government officials and users to exchange information relevant to managing the Lake Eyre Basin. The Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement is primarily concerned with the sustainable management of water and related natural resources within the major cross-border river systems of the basin.

The associated two-day conference comes on the heels of last month's hugely successful Mungerannie field days hosted by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation at the halfway point on the Birdsville Track between Marree and Birdsville. Organisers of the Lake Eyre Basin conference expect a similar turn-up to discuss issues affecting the broader catchment area.

Schools across South Australia have also flagged their intention to take part in National Water Week's 'Top Tap Tips' competition in the hope of winning \$500 for their library. A major focus of National Water Week is the involvement of children at both primary and secondary levels. The theme is very much on raising the profile of conservation and the development of good water use habits. I commend the week to all members.

#### CAULERPA TAXIFOLIA

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism):** I table a ministerial statement about caulerpa taxifolia made by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in another place.

#### DEPUTY CLERK AND SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

**The SPEAKER:** It is my pleasant duty this afternoon to be able to inform the house that the process of recruitment of Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms has resulted in the appointment of Mr Malcolm Lehman to that post. That was against a field of very competent, strong contenders. Other members have raised with me the process which resulted in the appointment of Mr David Bridges as Clerk. Can I tell members, and for the record state, that both positions were widely and properly advertised and in the first, that is, the position of Clerk, Mr David Bridges was the only applicant, thereby not requiring any interview; and that the field of well qualified applicants for the Deputy Clerk's position included people from not only within this state but also interstate and overseas.

#### HINDMARSH ISLAND FERRY

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation):** I seek leave to table a statement made by my colleague the Hon Terry Roberts in the other place.

**The SPEAKER:** Can I help ministers? In future, it is not necessary to seek leave to table statements from ministers in the other place but, rather, to simply stand and tell the house that they table a statement made in the other place, thereby enabling it to be incorporated in our records in this place. Leave is not necessary. Standing orders do provide us with that option.

#### QUESTION TIME

##### TRAILS PROGRAM

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** Will the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing advise the house why the Trails Program funding of some \$1.1 million was reclassified in this year's budget from operating to investing; and what portion of \$580 000 will be utilised for the Trails Program in the current budget year and what portions in the out years? During estimates the minister advised the house that, as a result of reclassification, \$1.1 million for the Trails Program had been removed from the facilities management budget. The minister also stated:

There is a budget net change in funding for the Trails Program across the budget years of \$580 000.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I thank the shadow minister for her

question and I will bring back a detailed response for the house.

### NATIONAL WATER WEEK

**Mr RAU (Enfield):** Will the Minister for the River Murray inform the house of any new initiative to restore the natural environment of the Murray River during National Water Week?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for the River Murray):** Earlier today in Rundle Mall I launched a new awareness raising initiative featuring the Southern Pygmy Perch chocolate. The aim of the program is to build awareness about native fish species in the Murray-Darling system, particularly those found in South Australian streams that flow into the Murray. Over the past 50 years populations of native fish species in the Murray-Darling Basin have declined due to reduced river flows, habitat destruction and the introduction of alien fish species and diseases.

In response to the threats facing native fish species, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission has launched a draft native fish strategy for the basin for 2002 to 2012, and the goal of that strategy is to rehabilitate native fish communities in the basin back to 60 per cent of where they were before European settlement. The council has committed \$17 million over five years for this strategy to provide fish passage from Lake Hume to the sea, and work to allow fish passage on locks and weirs 7 and 8 is expected to commence in January 2003.

The health of the native fish communities in the Murray-Darling Basin is an indicator of the overall health of the system. Just as the chocolate bilby drew attention to that endangered animal, the Southern Pygmy Perch chocolate will tell the community of the threats to the fish species in the Murray. I was delighted to launch the Southern Pygmy Perch chocolate today. This is—

**An honourable member:** Why haven't you brought some in for us?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Well, there's some biblical story about fishes—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**Mr BRINDAL:** Sir, while I fully support the government in its initiative, I do believe that displays are out of order, and the consuming of food in this chamber is, I believe, out of order, too.

**The SPEAKER:** Both those observations are correct.

**Mr BRINDAL:** Mr Speaker, my eyes tell me that on the minister's desk is a chocolate fish, which he held up. I think that constitutes a display.

**The SPEAKER:** Can I invite the attendants to bring the offending object here—and I will break it into 46 even pieces! Minister, have you finished your answer?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Perhaps, sir, I can pass it down the corridor through to the Premier. I point out to the house that the real pygmy perch is somewhat smaller than the chocolate version—just a few centimetres long.

**An honourable member:** Can we eat it?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** No, you cannot eat it; that is an exhibit. The Southern Pygmy Perch chocolate is part of a short-term promotion, with 50¢ from every fish sold to go towards native fish research conducted by Native Fish Australia, South Australian Branch. The partnership that has been formed between the River Murray Catchment Water

Management Board, Native Fish Australia and Haigh's Chocolates serves as an excellent model of what can be achieved for the environment when business, government and the community work together. I encourage all members to buy numerous examples of this product.

**An honourable member:** From where do we buy them?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Down at the appropriate shops in the mall. So, some of that money will go into fish research.

### SPORTING CLUBS

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** Will the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing explain to the house why he has not advised sporting clubs throughout South Australia that funding for community sporting infrastructure grants has been cut from the budget? The previous Liberal government announced a \$17 million community infrastructure fund over three years in the 2001-02 budget. Some \$7 million was allocated and expended throughout the 2001-02 year. The remaining \$10 million was allocated to 2002-03 and the 2003-04 years, at \$5 million per year. FOI papers from the minister's department show that both this year's and next year's allocation of \$5 million have been cut by \$3 million, or \$6 million over two years. In addition, during estimates the minister stated that he would retain the base level of funding to the community facilities program at \$1.9 million. He went on to say:

This program will be supplemented in 2002-03 with an additional \$1.5 million, approximately, from the Community Infrastructure Fund.

With the \$3 million budget cuts and a \$1.5 million transfer, the community infrastructure grants program has now been cut by \$4.5 million.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** It is no secret on this side of the house where we stood with respect to the grants to which the shadow minister refers, because in opposition we called it pork barrelling; when we came to government we called it pork barrelling. We stand by that announcement, which was made in the dying days of the previous government, which was nothing more than a pork-barrelling exercise by the former government. We articulated it in opposition, we articulated it in government, and we stay with that commitment. All of what I said and all of what we said in opposition and that we say on the government side with regard to the community facilities infrastructure grant—which, all of a sudden, out of the blue, was inflated and went to a figure way above what it had ever been before, was nothing more than a pork-barrelling exercise—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:**—by the former government in the lead-up to the last election.

### SCHOOLS, CURRICULA

**Ms THOMPSON (Reynell):** Does the announcement by the Minister for Education and Children's Services of a new approach to curriculum in our state's schools mean that teachers will no longer be required to use the SACSA framework on which the previous Liberal government spent \$10 million?

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** The simple answer to that question is: no, it does not mean that the SACSA framework will not be

used in our state schools. SACSA, for the benefit of members, is the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability framework. It came at a cost of \$10 million to South Australia; it was an initiative of the previous state government; and it represents many hours of work by many expert educationalists as well as volunteer work by many people. But it is just that: a framework. My concern has been heightened by the number of teachers who have indicated that they are not using the SACSA framework or, even worse, that they do not intend to use it.

Today, I have announced, as indicated in the newspaper this morning, that the government will be drawing together the best of materials available in South Australian schools and schools around the nation to develop guidelines for teachers and parents about what children should learn in our schools at various year levels. This is quite a change in the approach taken to curricula in this state for many years—some people tell me 30 years or more. We have had frameworks in curricula, but this is about providing teachers with support materials and also about addressing the inconsistency of what is taught between schools and, indeed, even within schools.

Teachers have been given the SACSA framework and each teacher in the state is expected to sit and write their own curriculum. Of course, that leads to some inconsistency across the state, and this comes up year after year when we look at the basic skills test. Various people complain that their children did not cover the material that was assessed in the basic skills test.

This move, which is putting something practical into schools that teachers can use, will, hopefully, address those problems. The first steps will be primary mathematics and English, and those subjects will be ready for the 2003 school year.

The \$10 million spent by the previous Liberal government are precious taxpayer dollars so the framework will not be junked—it will be used—but we will be putting more meat on the bones in a very practical way for teachers' use, and I am confident that that will support our teachers in creating the sort of environment that they need to do their best work.

#### COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** Will the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing advise the house whether the remaining \$4 million allocated and committed to community recipients under the community facilities grant in 2001-02 to be paid out in this current year will be carried over, or does the minister have to utilise his current budget to pay the committed \$4 million? During estimates committee the minister advised the committee:

As at 30 June, with a balance of \$4.8 million having been paid out to recipients, there is a balance of \$4 million outstanding. These commitments will be paid out in the current 2002-03 period as the grant recipients progress and complete their projects.

Without carry-over approval, the sports budget will have been cut by \$4 million.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I am surprised that the opposition wants to keep asking questions about this fund, particularly considering the embarrassing way in which it has been articulated in the past. For those members who do not recall how this came about, may I just refresh their memory. This was a fund that previously received about \$2 million per annum. As members would be aware, the three primary areas

of funding in recreation and sport are the active club grants, the management and development program, and the community facilities grant program, which picks up the infrastructure to which the shadow minister referred. What was previously announced by the former government in the dying days of its term in office was that it would increase the community facilities grant program, which picks up infrastructure projects in the community.

It announced a figure of \$17 million over a three year period. That included not only the previous base but also the increase that it put into that fund. What we said in opposition, as I indicated earlier, was that this was nothing more than a pork-barrelling exercise. What we said when we came to government is that that first year of funding—the \$7 million as I best recall—was money that was already committed and spent by the previous government. We said that for the future years—and the previous government had budgeted \$5 million for 2002-03 and \$5 million for 2003-04—we would cut each of those years by \$3 million, and that is what we did.

#### RED-LIGHT CAMERAS

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light):** Will the Minister for Transport advise the house of the results of the red-light camera trials, and will he outline for the house what mechanisms the government will be implementing to ensure that by using red-light cameras as speed cameras they will be revenue neutral?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** It does come via a bill, but nonetheless, in respect of the detail of the question, I do not know the exact figures off the top of my head. It would certainly be very interesting reading for everyone and it is something that should be made available. I know that data has been collected from three major intersections. As I say, I do not know the detail off the top of my head but I am more than happy to bring it back and share it with the house, because it is important information that should be made available. Suffice to say the data shows that large numbers of motorists go through not only red lights but also amber lights and green lights above the speed limit. That has certainly been indicated by the data collected by Transport SA in respect of three intersections about which I have read information. There may be other intersections, which I will also follow up, but certainly stark information and data is available.

With regard to the road safety package, we have said from day one on coming to government that we thought it was very important to come forward with a comprehensive road safety package which included infrastructure—and we have certainly delivered on that in the budget—and also changes to legislation which need to be taken into account. As you would be aware, Mr Speaker, last week I introduced a bill into the parliament in respect of that. We also believe that education is a very important component as well and that all three must work together. To pick up the second part of the shadow minister's question, we have also said that we will put forward a package which is revenue neutral. However, we are aiming for the revenue to decrease because we want to see a change in driver behaviour, a change in the psychology of drivers. What we are aiming for is not something which is revenue neutral but something that decreases revenue.

## RECREATION AND SPORT FUNDING

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** Will the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing advise the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I do not have any loaves, but one fish will not go far. Anyone who continues to interject will miss out on their fish. The member for Newland.

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** Will the minister advise the house why a departmental graph outlining the Office of Recreation and Sport's funding programs for this year shows total funding of only \$12.655 million, when the budget papers for this financial year show \$24.539 million?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I am happy to bring back that detail. I am not sure what the shadow minister is talking about, but I am happy to check that and bring that information back to the house.

## TOW TRUCKS

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop):** Can the Minister for Transport advise the house when the government will release its plans regarding tow truck operations in country areas? Under the Commonwealth Competition Principles Agreement the government was required to conduct a competition policy review of the Accident Towing Roster Scheme that operates in country areas. Public consultation and a report have been completed for some time but, as yet, the minister has been silent on the matter. I am aware that many of the tow truck operators want to know the outcomes of the report.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** I have not been able to bring that information forward because Graeme Samuels identified to me and to the Treasurer that, with respect to national competition policy, his priority—the number one area on his list for South Australia—was shop trading hours. We have tried to address that matter and we await an answer from the opposition.

## DUKES HIGHWAY

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop):** Will the Minister for Transport advise the house if and when capital spending will occur to carry out the necessary upgrade of the Dukes Highway between Bordertown and the Victorian border? On 20 September this year, the speed limit on a 16-kilometre stretch of the highway between Bordertown and the Victorian border was reduced from 110 km/h to 100 km/h. Recently, an ARB Transport Research Ltd report was commissioned by Transport SA to study the problem. Its report suggests that it will cost \$8 million to fix this problem, with immediate repairs to cost \$600 000. I am informed that the local road safety committee has asked that the limit be set at 80 km/h as a way of tackling the ongoing safety and road damage issue associated with heavy vehicles.

Now that the speed limit has been lowered, there is no differential in speed between cars and trucks on this section of major highway. The highway is badly fractured, and it often holds pools of water during wet conditions. Between 2 000 and 3 000 vehicles a day (many of them heavy vehicles) use this section of interstate highway.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** The Dukes Highway is an important national highway and, because it is a national highway, it is the responsibility of the federal government. It requires a lot of commitment, and

probably the areas that the member for MacKillop has highlighted to the house are all correct. I do not have any basis for not believing anything that he has cited to the house today.

But the member should also be highlighting the need to speak to the federal government, because, as I said, this is a national highway, which is a national responsibility. In case the opposition has not woken up, that is why the Deputy Prime Minister is talking about AusLink. He has woken up not only to the fact that national highways cost a lot of money but also to the fact that he does not want to play the game any more. So, he is now talking about AusLink, which would be a new formula, where the federal government would no longer have the ultimate responsibility for national highways. We need a bipartisan approach to this critical issue. AusLink is all about taking away the responsibility of the commonwealth government for national highways: highways out in the country areas; highways that run through electorates like MacKillop. So, I look forward to your support.

## TOURISM, DRAFT PLAN

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite):** Does the Minister for Tourism agree that the two-week time frame for submissions in response to the draft five-year tourism plan released in mid-September was inadequate, and why did she fail to ensure that the plan was properly announced and promulgated? The five-year plan for tourism initiated by the former government was mailed out in mid-September. The list of recipients of the draft plan has not been made public. Many industry stakeholders have contacted the opposition, unaware of the plan's existence. The 30 September deadline for submissions provided two weeks for submissions across the state.

The government's *Industry Brief*, spring 2002 edition, advised of the draft plan in the final days of the consultation period, and the minister's *Tourism News*, October 2002, advised the industry of the draft plan and sought comment in the month after submissions closed.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism):** This was probably one of the most widely consulted programs ever announced by the tourism department. As the honourable member would know, we have had a long history of producing strategic five-year plans that have helped to work across many departments to produce infrastructure ranging from roads to developments, to accommodation, to parking spaces and to signage. It often involves local communities and business groups, tourism boards, local councils and a whole range of partners who work with the Tourism Commission to move the industry forward. This government knows full well that there are huge opportunities in tourism employment.

One of the problems with mailing out to a known mailing list, of course, is that one tends to send items to the known mailing list recipients. This list included all those people who were consulted, all the relevant boards and committees, and all the known industry operators. Inevitably, there will be some small business owners who have an interest in the matter, and we are very pleased to hear their comments, take their advice and incorporate their views. However, the consultation process will be an open one, and we have until the end of the year to finalise the draft.

### GLENELG TRAMLINE

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** Will the Minister for Transport tell the house the number of expressions of interest for the PPP (public/private partnership) for the Glenelg tram and, now that he has confirmed that the Glenelg tram PPP is not a government priority, will he outline for the house exactly what the government's plans are? Last week the minister announced that a PPP for the Glenelg tram would not be proceeding because it was not a government priority.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** I am not so sure I announced that. Nonetheless, the Glenelg trams are 72 years old, as members would be well aware. The trams deserve careful consideration because they have iconic appeal, and deservedly so. The previous government, of course, commenced an EOI process for the replacement of the trams. It stated that its preferred model was one that provided for a joint venture similar to that operating in the Adelaide Hills with the Transit Plus bus service. This was to be another privatisation, with the transfer of staff from the government's employ to the private sector. The government has not continued with that process, and potential registrants have been advised that the previous EOI has been terminated.

We have said that this issue does deserve very careful consideration. The Department of Transport is proceeding carefully, closely examining which potential areas can be examined with regard to this. We have ruled out the previous EOI process which was another form of privatisation and which we said we would not proceed with. If there is to be a privatisation, we certainly will not follow the model that was articulated by the previous government because, as you would be aware, sir, this government has announced a policy of no further privatisations. Nor will there be any cheap announcements when it comes to the Glenelg trams. This needs to be thought through very carefully and we need to ensure that we get the correct balance before we proceed with it.

### CRIME PREVENTION

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** I am a bit taken aback: I actually got a question answered on trams. Will the Attorney-General outline for the house the impact that the decision by the government to cut state crime prevention funding will have on the crime prevention programs run by the City of Holdfast Bay? The Attorney-General has advised the house:

My priority in the justice portfolio was to get more money to the Director of Public Prosecutions for timely prosecution on home invasion. I do not mind saying that it is a higher priority for me than maintaining the local government crime prevention program at \$1.4 million.

Several times the opposition has asked the Attorney whether he is aware of the effects these cuts will have on programs which are successfully focusing on preventing crime, rather than waiting until it has occurred, and prosecuting. As yet the Attorney has not answered our questions and we cannot be assured he is aware of the potential ramifications of this decision.

**The SPEAKER:** Notwithstanding the advice the honourable member gives the house, I remind him it is not orderly to make comments of that kind.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** I thank the member for Morphett for not only asking his

question but also answering it by quoting from my previous answers.

### TEACHERS, SCHOLARSHIPS

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Can the Minister for Education and Children's Services advise the house when the application forms will be available for the teacher scholarships? I have received a number of inquiries about these scholarships, which were announced some months ago.

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I thank the honourable member very much for the opportunity to speak about this very important initiative that was funded in the recent state budget. These country student teacher grants are aimed at students who intend to travel to the city to train as teachers. Of course, that is the only mechanism by which they can gain that training, by travelling to the city. These scholarships of up to \$10 000 each can be used towards HECS fees, accommodation expenses, materials and other expenses that are naturally incurred by students when they come to train as teachers.

Also, those recipients who successfully complete their studies will be guaranteed a placement in a country school. The reasoning behind that is that those students will be most likely to be attracted to country teaching and to be retained in our country schools, which, of course, are where many of our most difficult to staff schools are. These will be put in place for the 2003 school year. We will be making an announcement in coming weeks. Currently a lot of students are concentrating on exams. As they turn their attention to next year's pursuits details of the program will be made public then.

### HOUSING TRUST RENTS

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop):** My question is directed to the Minister for Housing. Will the minister advise the house what actions the government has undertaken to ensure that recent rises in Housing Trust rents are not placing pensioners in financial hardship? Several constituents have contacted me concerning the recent rise in Housing Trust rents. The Centrelink pension rate was recently increased by \$7.60; however, \$6.80 of this increase has been taken up by Housing Trust rent increases, meaning that pensioners have been left with only 80¢ out of that increase to accommodate other rises in the cost of living.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY (Minister for Housing):** The decision to increase Housing Trust rents was very difficult for the government to make, but when we looked at not only the triennial reviews of the Housing Trust but also the records that we had to analyse with regard to public community rents, we felt it was important to follow the recommendations of the triennial review. The previous government (for reasons that are still not clear) decided not to follow the recommendations of two triennial reviews of the housing portfolio. As the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement was coming up for negotiation and as there did not seem to be any more money coming in to build new houses, we were forced to review rent levels.

The other point I need to make is that for some time people who have looked at the affordability of housing (particularly public housing and housing through private rental) have come up with a formula of what is considered to be possible with regard to rent. This formula, which has been looked at throughout Australia (South Australia has been

falling behind in this area) used to be 21.5 per cent of a person's income but it is now 25 per cent. So, as I said, because South Australia is lagging way behind the other states and territories (I am not sure about the Northern Territory), we had to make a hard decision.

Because of cabinet's concern for people on very low incomes in South Australia, we put a moratorium on people who receive a wage of less than, I think, \$183. So, we ensured that those people were looked after. We were also very mindful of the fact that a number of people in our community are living below the poverty line and that we need to provide for them. The third area that we looked at involved students from country areas who, because of the availability of courses, must board in the city. We made sure that provision was made for those students also.

So, this decision was not made lightly; it was made on the recommendations of two triennial reviews of the housing portfolio. We also wanted to make sure that there was a moratorium for those who are most in need in our community.

#### PORT LINCOLN COVE MARINA

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Will the Minister for Transport say why the transfer of Port Lincoln Cove Marina berths is taking so long? My constituents are concerned about the time it is now taking to complete the transfer of a berth in the Port Lincoln Cove Marina when it has normally taken between eight to 12 weeks.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** I think the berths to which the honourable member refers were raised with me when I was last in Port Lincoln. Ongoing maintenance work is required, and I have asked my department to come back with further information, because it would appear that, for some time now, some of that work has been left and it has now got into a state where urgent advice is needed. Whether or not that relates to the honourable member's question, I am not 100 per cent certain, but I suspect it may well do so. I am happy to come back with some further information for the member about that.

#### ROADS, GOODWOOD AND UNLEY

**Mr BRINDAL (Unley):** Will the Minister for Transport inform the house what short and medium term proposals this government has to address traffic congestion on Goodwood Road and Unley Road? Before the last election, the current Minister for Environment and Conservation was quoted in the local press as saying that he believed that one-way traffic might be part of the answer. Further, every morning, traffic numbers on Goodwood Road, in particular, exceed traffic counts on South Road, and the traffic congestion on Goodwood Road impedes quite considerably the flow of traffic to the city.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** Obviously, Goodwood Road and Unley Road are both very important thoroughfares. The member highlights the traffic numbers and is right in what he says: the numbers are very high. Unley City Council is undertaking some work with regard to this situation. I have met with representatives of the Unley City Council and this matter, along with some other issues, has been raised with me. The government is involved in a draft strategic transport plan, and certainly Goodwood Road and Unley Road would need to be a critical part of that plan for reasons outlined to the house.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### GRAPEVINE RUST

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** My question is directed to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries—or indeed the Premier, because I think the question is very important. Is the minister aware of the serious outbreak of grapevine rust in the Northern Territory, and has he put in place any contingency plans to keep this serious disease out of South Australia? The grape industry is very concerned at the outbreak of grapevine rust in Australia. It is a ruinous disease that attacks the foliage of grapevines. The outbreak has occurred only in the Northern Territory. Urgent meetings have been held and a report is pending. Radical control methods have been considered, including the feasibility of pulling out all grapevines in the Northern Territory.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier):** I can assure the member for Schubert that no-one will question our resolve in dealing with this pest.

#### CLARE PIPELINE

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** The previous answer was certainly adequate and I hope we get—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member will get on with the question.

**Mr VENNING:** Will the Minister for Government Enterprises advise the house when the government will be providing more information regarding the proposed water pipeline to the Clare Valley? Several constituents have put in an offer to purchase water and have looked at the supply agreement for the proposed Clare pipeline, which is similar to the BIL scheme in the Barossa Valley. After contacting both SA Water and the minister's office, they have been unable to ascertain details such as the proposed route for the pipeline and the expected completion date. At present, the only advice being provided is that a public information session is to be held soon. There has been no advice regarding where and when.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises):** I met a representative group from that Clare body—I cannot remember its actual title at present—just two weeks ago in my office to discuss the Clare pipeline. They expressed their gratitude and thanks for the information I offered them on that occasion. They offered to put something in the local newsletter. Perhaps it is that the member for Schubert's constituents talk to me more than they talk to him.

#### COMMUNITY SPORTING GRANTS

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** My question is directed to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Given the minister's statements on his attitude to community sporting grants, will he say whether the 50 per cent budget cuts are consistent with the Labor Party's recreation and sport election policy?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** The answer is yes.



### STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** Will the Minister for Administrative Services explain to the house why this government has cut funding by \$4 million for stage 2 of the Strategic Asset Management Information System (SAMIS), which is being designed to produce financial benefits to the state? In briefing papers released under freedom of information, the Labor government was advised that the Strategic Asset Management Information System project would bring benefits in the order of some \$189 million over a 25-year planning period for the better management of the state's \$7 million asset portfolio. Major stakeholders in SAMIS include DETE, the health sector of DHS, Justice and Treasury.

The briefing papers note that the reduced funding of some \$4 million will have a major impact on the completeness of the project to be delivered and its capacity to realise the benefits identified in the business case. The papers also note that a further submission to restore funds will not be proceeded with until the 2003-04 financial year, and state that the project is approximately 12 months behind the cash flow anticipated when first published in the budget papers.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Administrative Services):** As the honourable member would be aware, this is an area that was discussed in the budget. It was also an area that we made very clear would be the subject of some savings. It is something that the member would have had the opportunity to see within the budget saving process and to ask about in the estimates process. We make no apology for the fact that we had to find some significant savings. The sad thing about trying to find savings in a budget is that there are no worthless programs. There are some programs that are more important than others, and it is a very difficult exercise.

We have accepted the responsibility for making the decisions that are necessary to put this state back in the right financial shape. We have made those very difficult decisions. None of us enjoyed a moment of it. We did not make stupid announcements prior to the election. We found ourselves in a very difficult position after the election. We took those hard decisions—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Unley will miss out on his fish! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** In indicating that certain savings have been made in this part of the budget, I must say that it has not reduced the fact that we believe that the strategic management of the assets of government is an important issue, and that matter continues to receive our attention. But it is a question of priorities. A substantial sum of money was promoted to this information technology project that we thought, in the circumstances of the budget, needed to be reprioritised.

### EYRE HIGHWAY

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Will the Minister for Transport say whether the widening of the Eyre Highway west of Ceduna is on schedule? My constituents, particularly those in Ceduna, use this road frequently, and they are concerned, for safety reasons, that it be completed as soon as possible—preferably before the solar eclipse on 4 December,

when a large number of travellers who are not aware of the danger of this section of highway will be using it.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** I thank the member for her question. I have said previously, when asked questions about a variety of roads, that there are a lot of roads out there. I would be delighted to obtain the detail of the answer for the member. However, I highlight that I do not carry around in my back pocket all this information about every individual road in the state. However, I make this offer: if ever anyone in the house would like some information about any road, whether it be in their electorate or out of their electorate, they only have to let me know and it will be made available expeditiously.

### SCHOOLS, WHYALLA HIGH

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg):** Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services confirm when the Whyalla High School is to close and indicate what will happen with the site? The Whyalla Education Review report has recommended the amalgamation of the current three secondary sites in Whyalla to form two year 8 to year 12 schools on the current Stuart High School and Edward John Eyre High School sites. The minister has not yet published her decision as to when the action is to be taken, notwithstanding the acknowledgment by the community that the population of students has diminished and the recommendation aforesaid is supported by the local community.

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** The member for Bragg is quite right in saying that I have not published my decision. The report was completed under the previous Liberal government and was not initiated by me. I repeat what the member for Bragg acknowledged in her own question: I have not published a decision.

### SCHOOLS, WILLUNGA PRIMARY

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** My question is also directed to the Minister for Education. Will the minister confirm that the redevelopment of the Willunga Primary School will commence immediately upon completion of the Willunga preschool? The minister's office has advised both the school council at a recent community cabinet meeting in the Flagstaff Hill area and also my electorate office assistant that it is the government's intention to proceed with the Willunga Primary School immediately after the preschool is completed. However, until now, I still have not had confirmation from the minister herself and I seek an answer.

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** The member has asked me questions about this matter before. However, he does not seem to want to speak publicly about the fact that he wrote to me requesting that the projects be split. The reason I assented to that in this year's budget announcement is that the site is particularly small and work on the preschool and the primary school cannot proceed at the same time. This is something that the preschool community was pitching for, that the primary school community agreed with and that the local member of parliament, in fact, wrote to me about and requested. Now that I have done as he requested, he is complaining. If the member talked to his own school community—that is, the Willunga Primary School community—he would know that there have been discussions between them and me and that the scheduled date for the primary school part of that project

to go ahead is on the web site and listed publicly for February next year.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** The member for Bragg interrupts to say that that is not true. She should do her homework—look at the web site and talk to the community. It would have been irresponsible, knowing that the project would not have been completed in this financial year, to leave the allocation sitting in the state budget. Funding for work on that site has been allocated in the state budget just announced, and the first part of that project, the preschool development, must proceed before the remainder of the school.

### GOMERSAL ROAD

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. When will the Gomersal Road be top-dressed to lower the noise level to an acceptable level—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr VENNING:** The minister knows the question. When the minister opened this very successful Gomersal Road some months ago, the problem of noise was raised as a result of the very coarse material which was used. The minister understood and I gathered that there was agreement that portions of the road were to be top-dressed with a finer material to reduce the noise.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** Gomersal Road was a project that was well under way, in fact I think even completed, by the time we came to government—

*Mr Venning interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Well, maybe not quite. I said that I thought it was nearly completed. Anyway, nonetheless I had the good fortune of opening it and certainly went to a lot of trouble to acknowledge the work of the former Minister for Transport (Hon. Diana Laidlaw), because obviously much of the work was done by the previous government and so that deserved acknowledgment. As a matter of fact, last week I met with a delegation and the member for Light. We had a very interesting meeting and it was a worthwhile delegation that the member for Light brought before me. We are undertaking some investigation because I do acknowledge that there are some problems. Of course, I did highlight to that meeting that, as an incoming Minister for Transport, I was a wee bit surprised that a road that was initially budgeted for about \$2.2, \$2.5 million—somewhere around that figure, I might be slightly out—finished up costing over \$8 million. That was a bit of a surprise as a new Minister for Transport, but nonetheless, as a very fair and open-minded government, we are looking to see what we can do, despite the fact that it cost much more money than was ever planned. However, might I say, member for Schubert, the member for Light has it under control.

### HEYSEN TUNNELS

**Mrs REDMOND (Heysen):** Will the Minister for Transport inform the house what was the outcome of the departmental review of the speed limit applicable in the Heysen tunnels? Since the opening of the new section of the South Eastern Freeway from the Tollgate to Crafers, the speed limit in the Heysen tunnels has been set at 90 km/h, whereas the speed limit on either side of the tunnels is 100 km/h. I have been informed by persons with an interest in road safety that the speed differential, particularly com-

bined with the curve of the tunnels limiting forward vision, is likely to increase rather than decrease the potential for accidents. In late 2001, I wrote to the then minister and received a response indicating that the speed limit in the tunnels was then under review by the department.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** It may be or may have been under review. To the best of my knowledge, that has not been brought to my attention. Having said that, I would be more than happy to check with the department, and should a review have been undertaken or be in the process of being undertaken I would certainly be delighted to share that information with the member. It would be fair to say that, in general, the speed of the tunnel has been raised with me. By the way, some have said that it is too high and some have said that it is too low. I have certainly raised that matter with the department previously, because I remember that at my first meeting in Mount Gambier with Alan Scott he expressed the opinion that it was too high, and I think that he instructs his drivers to use the tunnel at a lower speed. I did check that with the department and received some advice. In relation to the specifics of the review, I am happy to check that and bring back that information to the house.

### POLICE NUMBERS

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** My question is directed to the Attorney-General. Given the comments the Attorney-General as reported in *Hansard* on 17 October, when will the South Australian community expect to see increases in police numbers? In *Hansard*, the Attorney-General has said that the government's priorities are police numbers, yet in the budget papers, including forward estimates, there is no projection for one additional police officer before 2006.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Police):** The problem the member for Mawson has with his question is that I am responsible to this house for police numbers. Let me make it very plain for the member for Mawson who was once a minister for police: we made it very plain that our priority was police and the way in which we expressed that priority was being the first government in almost a decade to guarantee that we would recruit against attrition for the term of government, something it failed to do in its previous term, something it failed to do in the term before. In fact, when they first came to government in 1994, they were the first government, as I understand it, in the history of this state to offer separation packages to police. We make no apology for the commitment we made, the priorities we made.

We did have to increase recurrent expenditure in the police budget to deal with some unfunded cost blow-outs associated with the audio management system and a few other odds and ends. We did, in fact, increase the budget, but let me make plain the commitment we made—the commitment the police had not had for a decade—to recruit against attrition. Let me explain the difference. What we saw from the previous two Liberal governments under its many and varied premiers was the cut to police numbers from 1993, 1994, 1995, and then in 1996, 1997 they recruited a whole load. I wonder why—they had an election coming up. Then, after that, they allowed the numbers to drop through natural attrition until they were forced by political campaigns again, and before an election, to increase them again. We are not going to put the police of this state, the nation's finest, through that sort of merry-go-round again. We have made our priority the maintaining of police numbers. It is the first time it has happened for a decade.

## GRIEVANCE DEBATE

### BUDGET CUTS

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** I want to address the matter of open and accountable government, the new catch phrase of this Labor government. The use of those two words would make one believe that its meaning would be most obvious—open and accountable, up front, all out in the open, no secrets. Ministers of this government have already made a mockery of that very simple interpretation. The Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing has known since his budget was presented to this house four months ago that massive cuts to programs and funding within his area of responsibility of almost 50 per cent were made by this Labor government. Did he advise this parliament during the estimates committees of the changed circumstances of his total budget? No, he did not. Why not?

Does an open and accountable government mean that you are up front, all out in the open, no secrets? This is a minister who was thoroughly done over by his cabinet colleagues and the Treasurer. This minister with a responsibility to hundreds of sporting communities across our state could not argue the point strongly enough and was voted out of a budget: \$4 million carryover funding from last year having to be paid from this year's budget, which means that programs that would normally have been funded in this budget no longer have \$4 million available to support them. Just what programs will suffer, minister? Is it time to come clean, to be open and accountable and face the voting public of South Australia and give them the answers that he should have been giving them when he brought his budget down four months ago?

Then the \$5 million cut completely wipes out the Community Infrastructure Fund, which helped develop infrastructure needs throughout the communities of South Australia, particularly within regional areas of the state. This minister took \$3 million out of that \$5 million budget this year and then looked for another \$2 million, which he successfully removed, an action which demolished completely the Community Infrastructure Fund. Did this minister have the intestinal fortitude to come into this house? Did this minister have the intestinal fortitude to advise members of parliament that, in fact, he had cut the total fund?

Did he have the intestinal fortitude to advise sporting groups and communities across this South Australian community of ours that he would not be sending them the application forms that he and his department had been promising for the past few months? We keep ringing the minister's office and saying, 'Minister, where are these application forms for the grants that we would like to submit for our communities?' The answer from both the minister and his office has been, 'They are on the way.' That 'on the way' is now well and truly 'never on the way' with the complete and utter removal and demolition of one massive funding program.

At this stage, a \$9 million cut has definitely been made to the recreation and sport budget. However, when I saw the departmental graph, which shows a very big difference between the recreational funding for programs for the rest of this year (about \$12.5 million) as opposed to what was published in the budget papers of this house this year by this government, I saw that just over \$11 million is missing from what was promised in those papers by this Labor government.

No wonder the minister put the Recreation and Sport Fund under review!

What is a good hold-over tactic until the next financial year? Without half of your budget, minister, that is exactly what you need to do: hold onto the budget as long as possible and look as if you are doing something—have a review. What is this minister reviewing now that he has minimal funds? A review outcome must look somewhat different to a review outcome when you actually have a budget to spend.

I advise the minister, too, that any explanation which suggests that there is a black hole in Labor's first budget has already been put to rest by many accredited economists across the state. There is no black hole: the black hole of smoke and mirrors is all that was there. If the ministers of this government have been completely taken in by an incompetent Treasurer who cannot even read his own budget, I am afraid that is one aspect. However, if a minister understands fully that he presented to this house a budget that stated one thing, and he then stayed quiet for months, waiting for someone to ask, or to see whether there was in fact a budget there, not having the guts to stand in this place and say that he had cut the budget totally—

Time expired.

### DEFENCE FORCE OPEN DAY

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey):** Yesterday, it was an honour to attend the Defence Force Open Day at the Edinburgh Air Force base. I thank the Commander, Air Commodore Philip Byrne and his wife, Mrs Carol Byrne, who were our hosts for the day. It was an absolute privilege to accompany one of my constituents, Mr Fred Shilcock, to the open day. As I found out later, Fred is the last South Australian pilot from the No. 24 Squadron still alive. So, I was very lucky to tour the Air Force base with Fred before the show and to hear from him first-hand things about each of the aircraft that were on display, and there were so many. We started with the Tiger Moth, which was the aircraft in which Fred learnt to fly. Fred told me, too, of his wartime experiences with the Mustangs. I must admit that I have forgotten half the things he told me, because so much was happening.

I have never seen so many people at the Air Force base; the crowd was estimated at 50 000. I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed being able to get very close to the aircraft and being able to speak to the personnel on the base. We were treated to a fantastic flying display, starting with a parachute drop which was right on target. The skydivers landed within walking distance from the tarmac, which I thought was pretty good, because it was very windy yesterday.

We saw a fantastic display by the Roulettes, which is a formation squad of six aircraft. They looped the loop (and the member for Waite will know all the technical terms), and everyone held their breath as the aircraft flew straight down. It was amazing. In honour of those who lost their lives in Bali, the Roulettes executed the 'man missing' formation. Earlier, at 11.30 a.m., a minute's silence was observed at the air base, and it was a very sombre moment. The singing of the national anthem followed, and I think everyone realised how close to conflict we now are in Australia and how important it is that conflict be avoided at all costs.

Chris Sperou flew a little red aircraft that was no bigger than one of my handbags! He zipped around, flying straight up into the air, stalling and then nosediving. Obviously, the man is not well! Flying upside down, he then cut a ribbon

which was 25 metres from the ground. He had two or three attempts (and I think he was just revving up the crowd), but eventually he cut the ribbon, with his little red aeroplane flying upside down. For me, that was the highlight of the day and another reason why I have no interest in small aircraft!

There were so many things to see. Obviously, the Hornets and the F-111s were spectacular, and helicopters and Orions flew past. The Orions were the aircraft that were so heavily involved with the rescue of the French sailor who, when lost in the Bight, was saved by the Orions from our base at Edinburgh. I was told that the French gentleman was almost killed by the accuracy of the drop of the craft deployed to save him. Because it was such a windy day and the seas were so rough, they had to get in as close as they could, and they nearly killed him by dropping the craft on his head. I do not know whether that is true, or whether that is one of those stories that will be handed down for all time. Our Air Force personnel are obviously fantastic people.

I mention, too, my colleagues the member for Napier and the member for Waite, who were there. The Mayor of Salisbury attended, and I spoke to the federal member for Bonython. The former governor Sir Eric Neal was in attendance with his son, Mr Peter Neal, as was the Commissioner of Police, Mr Hyde, with his wife, Mrs Hyde.

The organisation of the day was spectacular—so much so that I understand people came from Canberra to witness our air show to learn the finer points of its organisation. The RAAF personnel on duty—those who were directing traffic and others—were very pleasant and absolutely top notch. The whole atmosphere was one of excitement at being able to be so close to one of our defence services. I mention, too, those to whom I spoke from the No 1. Royal Training Unit who will pass out in the next month or so.

I think the moral of the day was that the display in peacetime of the ability of one of our defence services brings home to us that defence capability is a wonderful thing, but it is very important to avoid at all costs the necessity to use it in a conflict.

Time expired.

#### CUNNINGHAM BY-ELECTION

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** I would like to talk about the momentous event of the weekend (unfortunately for us, it did not happen in this state); that is, the ALP lost the seat of Cunningham in New South Wales that it had held since 1949. On the retirement of Dr Stephen Martin, a by-election was held, and it was won by the Greens candidate, Mr Michael Organ. I understand that Mr Organ is the first minor party representative in the House of Representatives for many years. This is a message for all major parties. In the *Advertiser*, a senior Labor organiser is reported as saying:

'It wasn't a contest between Howard and Crean'—

and that is right: it is never a contest between Howard and Crean. Poor old Mr Crean: he comes up second best all the time. Continuing, first, with the quote from the senior Labor organiser, the report continues:

'It was a contest between the community in Wollongong and the Labor Party and we just happened to get between them.' Mr Crean said the whole party at all levels had been sent a very clear message. So, those opposite think that people in the community are not watching what they are doing. If they could have been in here today listening to some of the arrogant, dismissive replies we have been getting from ministers here, they would start to

think about who they will vote for. They will know that the government that they had is certainly something better than they now have. The message is for all the Labor Party, as Mr Crean said: not just for the feds, not just for the unionists, the factions in the Labor Party. What did Premier Rann say about the factions in the Labor Party? We know about those. In *Goodbye Babylon* Bob Ellis quoted Mr Rann as saying, 'Loyalty to the factions is more important than loyalty to the party.' I wonder whether the Premier has been correctly quoted there.

The author of *Goodbye Babylon* also goes on about Don Dunstan, quoting him as saying that the factions are the evil that beset the Labor Party. We see these factional divisions opposite all the time. We have seen them operating at all levels of the Labor Party. Certainly, they will be the death of the Labor Party. Watching the Labor Party in action was once described as being the same as watching a motor vehicle go over the edge of a cliff in slow motion. We know in this particular case, in this particular state, who is at the wheel. It is going to happen: it is going to crash and burn. Fortunately for the people of South Australia, they will have a very good government to come in its place.

You have only to listen to what Doug Cameron said on radio today. Good old Dougie: he is always having a bit of a chip at the current leadership of the Labor Party. He is going to be a real thorn in the side of the Labor Party. He is one of the factional leaders who will really need to be put in his place if the Labor Party wants to show itself as a responsible government, a responsible party that at least has some decent alternatives to the policies of the Liberal Party. Tonight, people in Australia will be able to see the factions of the Labor Party at work. *Four Corners* tonight has a special on the factions in the Labor Party, something that I hope I will be able to watch either today or tomorrow.

The other good thing that happened on the weekend in Cunningham was that the Democrats were almost totally wiped out. They recorded only 2 per cent of the vote, a slide of more than 5 per cent. So, we can see what is happening to the Democrats. The Labor Party is just not taking any notice, the Democrats are imploding and the Liberal Party is shown to be what it is, and that is the people's party, the party that shows leadership, direction and vision.

I would like to move on to another matter and refer to members of all parties who leave early after an election. I think that Mr Stephen Martin was badgered into staying on until the last election because the Labor Party thought that it might have had half a chance of actually getting into government: poor deluded fools. Mr Martin has bitten the bullet. He has burnout, he says. It just happens to coincide with getting his PhD. He says he has burnout and he is going. That is okay; that is his decision. But any member of any party who leaves so soon after an election has to have a bit of a conscience. We really have to examine this matter to see what is going to happen.

Time expired.

#### TERRORISM

**Mr HANNA (Mitchell):** In the five minutes I have today I wish to string together a few thoughts in relation to Australia's involvement in war. It was said that 11 September last year changed the world. To be more specific, it changed the nature of the conflicts in which the American empire is involved. There were two key aspects of the terrible flight into the World Trade Centre that made it stand out in the field

of conflict in which the United States of America is involved. First, the action was perpetrated by a group operating below the level of nation states; in other words, that Islamic fundamentalist group which appears to be spread among several nations but which of itself is not a political group.

Secondly, the magnitude of damage inflicted is something that took all of us by surprise. While the terrible loss of life is to be regretted by everyone, the political responses that followed that terrible event have given right thinking people just as much cause for concern. The jingoistic patriotism of President Bush of the United States has been echoed by Prime Minister John Howard in Australia. Admittedly, a year ago we were in the midst of federal election campaigning, but that is no excuse for an attitude of blind support for United States foreign policy when it goes against the national interests of Australia. The current federal government's attitude is reminiscent of 'All the way with LBJ', referring to the cringing Australian support for the policies of the Lyndon Baines Johnson administration in the 1960s, when Australians were dragged off to Vietnam to fight in a war of dubious value—and I say that despite the heroism and suffering of many of our good citizens who fought over there.

Of course, it is quite right to catch the offenders and seek to bring them to justice in relation to 11 September, and I will not go into an analysis of whether or not Afghanistan should have been invaded in the way it was. But I did say to people a year ago, in relation to John Howard, 'Why would you put up your hand at this time and say we are a target? Why would you want to put up your hand publicly and say Australia is a target? Please, if you want to hurt the US and if you're angry about their foreign policy, you might as well be angry about us, too, because we want to be in the same boat as a nation.' That is what John Howard did in his political response to the terrible 11 September attack.

We move on to the terrible Bali bombings on 12 October this year. It seems that it was a terrorist attack, probably by Islamic fundamentalists. We do not know for sure. It was disturbing to have politicians again jumping in immediately after the event, wanting to blame Islamic fundamentalists. They may well be right, but the point is that the claims were made without any evidence whatsoever, for purely political purposes, and it is absolutely despicable for such a tragedy to be used as a political football. And what is the response by the US? To attack Iraq. I suggest that it is a non-sequitur to attack Iraq for the attacks of 11 September 2001 and 12 October 2002.

It is not in Australia's national interest. It is not in our interest to lose the trade we presently enjoy with Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries, particularly when John Howard has not extracted any trade concessions from the US in response to his blind subservience to US foreign policy. There is a role for international policing, but it should come from the leadership of the UN. If Howard goes it alone with the US, the only reason for doing so will be the reliance on assumptions about advantages in domestic politics.

Time expired.

### ROADS, REGIONAL

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart):** It is nice to have the opportunity to raise some matters of importance to my electorate and the people of South Australia. It was interesting to observe the Minister for Transport this afternoon being asked a series of questions. He has volunteered to provide all the information about road funding that any member requires.

**Mr Hanna:** It was good, wasn't it.

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** The unfortunate thing for the member for Mitchell is that the information that one is going to glean is not very helpful to those who live in the isolated parts of the state. The Department of Transport had put in process a plan to seal the road between Lyndhurst and Marree, which was a very important announcement. It was going to provide for the people of Marree and that part of the state a sealed road that would greatly assist in the tourist industry and be of great benefit to the people of South Australia.

Since the election of this government, we have not heard any more about that project. I do not know where it has gone, but there certainly has not been any announcement that it will proceed. So, I call on the minister to clearly indicate what plans he has and the policy of this government in relation to the announcements that were made with the full concurrence of the senior officers in the Department of Transport in relation to the Lyndhurst to Marree road.

As the Minister for Tourism, who is in the chamber, would know, more and more South Australians and Australians are travelling around the north of South Australia, and they are providing a great deal of employment to those small communities and ensuring that they can maintain their economic viability. We should be doing everything within reason to support and help them. This announcement to seal the road between Marree and Lyndhurst was a very important project. I will be very disappointed if it has been slipped off the list, not to be heard of again whilst this government is in power.

The second matter to which I would like to refer this afternoon is that many sections of the rural community in South Australia face extreme difficulties—as I think most people are aware—and it is very important that government enterprises and the bureaucracy treat these people with care and caution, and do not set out to make life difficult or act unreasonably for them.

As well as the difficulties that these people are facing because of the drought, there is a strong possibility that we could have a most dangerous period for bushfires in South Australia. The Country Fire Service has from time to time been issuing press releases in relation to the likely danger, saying that people should be taking precautionary steps to ensure that everything possible is done to lessen the likelihood of bushfires.

One of the things that I think we must do, given that there has been a huge build-up of flammable material in national parks and conservation parks, is take urgent steps not only to construct adequate access tracks and firebreaks in those particular areas but also to allow limited forms of grazing in some of these areas to reduce the amount of material there. It is too late once it catches on fire and thousands of hectares are going up in smoke, dislocating the communities and costing the taxpayer huge quantities of money. We should be taking steps to lessen that problem.

As you would know, Mr Speaker, from your experience in your part of the state, taking these precautionary steps is far better than throwing the whole community into great difficulties, and the cost to the taxpayer is horrendous. So, I believe we should be looking at some of these areas and allowing people to have limited grazing to reduce the fuel loads.

In the past, when a lot of this land was under private enterprise, first, it was grazed and, secondly, some controlled burning off was carried out to ensure that we do not have this

continued build-up. One of the problems we have is the tree huggers and other people who do not want any precautionary steps taken. We still have these silly laws where you are not supposed to put in decent firebreaks where you own native vegetation, and all this sort of nonsense which people with commonsense should not have to put up with. You have little functionaries running around with measuring tapes trying to check up on farmers—silly little people who ought to be sent home like spoiled children and spanked, because—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** They should be because, really—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** I will name them if you want me to.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! We will have to wait for the next episode.

Time expired.

### GOLDEN GROVE FOOTBALL CLUB

**Ms RANKINE (Wright):** We look forward to that with great interest, I am sure. It always amazes me sir, how five minutes from the member for Stuart seems to take so much longer than five minutes from anyone else in this chamber.

Last week I came in here with some excitement, dampened only (as I said at the time) by the events of the Bali massacre, and the terrible murder of Dr Tobin last week, to tell the house about the first senior premierships ever won by the Golden Grove Football Club. At the time, I listed a number of the players and in my excitement I left a few people off, so I am taking this opportunity today to correct that because that is the last thing I would want to do.

This is just a short list of some of the other players who were also involved in this victory. They were Peter Casey, Michael Jolly, Shannon Wright, Wayne Seymour, Matthew Campbell, Jason Muscat, Andrew Macrae and Brian Barrett. I think the Golden Grove Football Club as a whole is still celebrating this wonderful win, and the A6 reserves team certainly has been an inspiration to the rest of the club. I know sir, as I said the other day, that they will go from strength to strength.

I would also like to give the house an update on the volunteer compact process that I, along with the Premier and our very active Office of Volunteers, have been undertaking with the volunteer community. As you know, sir, the Premier took on the mantle of volunteers, once he became premier, to give recognition to the importance of volunteers to the South Australian community.

Calling it an 'agreement' or a 'compact' is probably a bit strange, and we are working on that as we go around consulting with people. It is really about a partnership between the state government and the volunteer community. I liken it to a marriage. I envisage that the document is going to be much

like the nuptials that we undertake. It will reflect shared values, shared visions and will be an undertaking to respect and care about one another. Hopefully, from that we will be able to have some positive outcomes for the volunteer community.

Our very active task group and reference group worked on and unanimously endorsed a communication and consultation process. We have initially interviewed key stakeholders and undertaken some focus group testing, and we are now embarking on workshops across regional and rural South Australia. There are 25 workshops scheduled in all, and I have written to all members of parliament to let them know about the workshops that will be occurring in their areas, urging them to encourage their volunteers and volunteer organisations to come along and participate.

We are consulting on the draft compact. We are not going out to the volunteer community and presenting them with a document which is virtually a fait accompli and asking them to sign off on it, as did the previous government. We are consulting with the volunteer community in the development of the draft. That draft will be the result of real and proper consultation and will reflect the views and opinions of the volunteer community. We are also holding the first ever volunteer congress on 26 October. This congress, entitled 'Compacts, Consultation and Community', will be held at the Australian Mineral Foundation Centre at Conyngham Street, Glenside, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. It is free and it is an event that is open to everyone. I encourage all those with an interest in volunteering to come along.

This government is committed to open and honest consultation with the volunteer community, and we are looking forward to receiving their frank and exciting ideas about how we should proceed. We certainly are not in the business of silencing our volunteers or stifling constructive criticism as the previous government was, in relation to their funding agreements, where organisations had to agree not to criticise the government and/or the minister as a proviso to taking government support. We will be supporting our volunteer community and seeking their advice. We want to work with them in a real, committed and strong partnership.

Time expired.

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### CO-OPERATIVES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.15 p.m. the house adjourned until Tuesday 22 October at 2 p.m.