

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 21 November 2002

The **SPEAKER (Hon. I.P. Lewis)** took the chair at 10.30 a.m. and read prayers.

MEMBERS, ATTENDANCE

The **SPEAKER:** Before proceeding to item 7, can I say how much dismay it causes me to think that we have a parliament that costs thousands of dollars an hour to run, that private members' time is set aside especially for members to make representations through whatever means in this place on behalf of their constituents, and they do not bother to attend. It beggars belief that the members for Morialta, Waite and Norwood can all be elsewhere when they know that parliament has first call on their responsibilities. The courts elsewhere see it likewise. It is a measure of the contempt and ignorance of members that we find ourselves confronted by an agenda thus far this morning.

Mrs GERAGHTY: If I may, sir, the member for Norwood has an injured ankle and I think she is having some attention to it.

NATIONAL NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr SNELLING (Playford): I move:

That this house congratulates the South Australian Open and Under 21 netball teams on their outstanding victories over New South Wales in this year's National Netball Championships.

Congratulations to the South Australian netballers, who have achieved an outstanding sporting performance at the National Open Netball Championships held last weekend. These include Leanne Oates (Captain), Alison Tucker (Vice-Captain), Kristen Heinrich, Amanda Martin, Fiona Pointon, Melissa Tump, Natalie von Bertouch, Penny Wannop, Jessica Wilson, Caroline Worthley (all graduate SASI scholarship holders), Demelza Fellowes and coach Pat Warren, who was an apprentice coach to SASI head coach Marg Angove.

Congratulations also go to Carla Dziwoki, Jane Fitzgerald, Kirby Mutton and Bianca Reddy (graduate SASI scholarship holders), Sarah Collins, Mandy Edwards, Dalice Kennedy, Sarah Kennedy, Natalie Medhurst, Lauren Nourse, Rikky Turner, Vanessa Wilson and coach Tania Obst on their victory in the 21 and Under National Netball Championships. The last time South Australia was successful in winning both the 21 and Under and Open national titles together was in Canberra in 1981—21 years ago. Margaret Angove was the coach of the Open team and Jenny Bonnett coached the 21 and Under team.

At the titles, the South Australian 21 and Under team was undefeated throughout the tournament, defeating Western Australia by 35 goals, New South Wales by 10, Tasmania by 46, Victoria by 31, the Northern Territory by 76, Queensland by 5, the ACT by 46 and New South Wales in the grand final by 2 goals. Nine South Australians players were selected in the 2003 Australian netball 21 and under squad of 22 players: Carla Dziwoki, Mandy Edwards, Jane Fitzgerald, Amanda Martin, Kirby Mutton, Lauren Nourse, Bianca Reddy, Natalie von Bertouch and Caroline Worthley.

From this group, six players were offered and have accepted an Australian Institute of Sport residential scholarship for 2003. They are Carla Dziwoki, Mandy Edwards, Jane Fitzgerald, Kirby Mutton, Lauren Nourse and Bianca Reddy.

Early in the open titles tournament South Australia lost to New South Wales by three goals but then made amends, defeating Western Australia by 12 goals, Tasmania by 54, the Northern Territory by 45, Victoria by 13, the ACT by 18, Queensland by 24, Western Australia by 21, and finally defeating New South Wales by 21 goals in the grand final.

South Australia had seven players selected in the 2003 Australian Netball Open squad of 22: Kathryn Harby-Williams, Rebecca Sanders, Peta Squire, Laura von Bertouch, Natalie von Bertouch (graduate SASI scholarship holders), Jane Altschwager and Alex Hodge. I would like to congratulate all these young women: they are outstanding performers in their chosen sport.

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): I join in supporting this motion and congratulate the South Australian Open and Under 21 netball teams for their outstanding victories against New South Wales in this year's National Netball Championships. It has not only been an outstanding achievement on their part but also a great example to the thousands of young women in South Australia—and those of more mature age—who play this sport. It is a sport that is very well supported by young women, particularly in country regions, where it has a high level of participation relative to other sports. When you come to the city you see the outstanding facilities that have been built and developed, particularly under the last government, for Netball SA in the promotion of this sport.

It is victories such as this which bring the sport to the fore and, hopefully, we will see it enjoy more televised coverage in the future which, of course, takes it into the homes of many more thousands across the country. It is an admirable sport and a clean sport. It is a great sport in which I participated in my younger days over a number of years. Ultimately, I was an umpire. In this day and age, I do not know that, even as an umpire, I could keep up with the speed of some of the athletes whom we are complimenting today.

Given the increased participation in this sport in schools today, I mention that one of the reasons I was allowed to attend Pembroke College, in the mid 1970s, was probably that they needed an A-grade netball captain. It is probably the one thing that got me over the line, and we had a glorious year. Having seen the next crop of potential athletes from that school, some of them only this morning, I can say that the school will continue to be strong in this and other sports in this state.

This is a great achievement, and I compliment and commend the motion and the players for their success and the great example they set to other South Australian young women who pursue excellence in this sport.

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): I join with the member for Bragg in commending the member for Playford on this motion. As the house knows, I have a great interest in women's sport, in particular netball and callisthenics. I want to talk about netball this morning as that is what the motion relates to. The performance of these teams interstate is an outstanding victory and a testament to everyone involved in getting these girls to the tournament, as well as on to the court each week during their careers. Their careers are likely to be long—most of these women start at school and progress through the primary ranks to the secondary level.

The interstate competition is now very fierce. It is obvious from what has happened in the women's netball premiership league that other states are taking this very seriously and certainly want to be winners. Unfortunately, earlier this year

we saw the demise of our second premiers team, the Ravens. It is a sadness that these wonderful women in the Under 21 and Open teams will mostly have to look interstate for opportunities to play at the premiers league level. However, I think it augurs well for the reformation of a second team in South Australia that we obviously have this depth of elite athletes in the sport, so I am very hopeful that a second premiers team from South Australia will return to the league in the not too distant future.

While I was not able to watch some of these matches—it is often impossible for us to have the time to do that—I did hear some of the reports come back from interstate of games played in the usual good spirit and sportsmanship that is a feature of netball. It has become a very physical sport now. I think the players have to be much more fit than footballers to run up and down the court all night long, and their reflexes have to be very sharp. I think it is a wonderful thing for girls to come through school to these elite competitions. I wish there were more opportunities for them and more sponsorship available to them. I do wish it was not quite so hard for them to have to save to get to all these competitions, and I know what a commitment their families make to ensure that the girls have all these opportunities. I, too, congratulate the teams and all involved in getting them there, and look forward to hearing many more good results coming through from our netballers in the future.

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): I, too, congratulate the team on its success and would like to add to what other speakers have said. I always find it amazing how we here in South Australia, with a smaller population, end up winning a large proportion of the national competitions.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY: Absolutely. The fact is that we have fewer people to choose from, yet here is yet another team that has won a national competition, and for that they should be congratulated most heartily. Another thing on which the team members deserve congratulations is their sheer commitment to compete at this level of sport in this day and age. As the member for Florey said, to be able to sustain themselves financially at this level at the same time shows the absolute commitment of these young people to the cause and their ability to extend themselves as elite sportswomen. The families behind them are also to be congratulated on supporting the team. With those few words, I congratulate them and hope they do well over the next 12 months.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I support this motion. We have the test cricket in town today, and Lleyton Hewitt came back to Adelaide on Monday. It is easy for sports stars of that calibre to come back to town and receive accolades and recognition, and so they should. However, people go out there with very little recognition. They have to work very hard to maintain their skill levels without sponsorship or any backup from large companies or large organisations. They do it off their own back through pure dedication to the sport. For them to be selected and then have the levels of success that we see in the South Australian Open and the Under 21 netball teams is something I am very proud of.

My daughter Sahra has played netball all her life and has played in teams with some of these women. It is pleasing for me to see these women produce the results they have with such little support compared to some of the other elite sports. I wish them well in the future. I know that the selections for the national Under 21 squad are being held in Canberra in

February, and I wish the participants in those selection trials well. It certainly makes me proud to be a South Australian with the high levels of achievement we see not only in cricket and tennis but also in sports such as netball, rowing and many others that are considered lesser sports, but the dedication these people show is in no way any less. I support the motion.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I join in supporting the member for Playford's motion this morning and congratulate him on moving it. I agree with the sentiments expressed by other members in this debate this morning. I know the commitment of people playing sport at this level, because my own daughter is a hockey player at state and national level. She has been a member of the South Australian Suns, and they won a national competition a couple of years ago. They were elated not only for themselves but also for the state that they were able to achieve that. My daughter is currently the captain of the Port Adelaide Division 1 hockey team. As members have said, it is a great credit to our state that these people make the commitment they do with minimum resources and affecting their families to put our state—one of the smaller states—up at the top of the national sports calendar here in Australia.

We all know that, internationally, Australia is seen as an incredible country, considering the population it has and that it does so well. People ask: 'Considering the small population that you have, how come you Aussies do so well? You either win or you come second or third at the Olympics, and the same applies to cricket and tennis.' Of course, I acknowledge Lleyton Hewitt, what a fantastic effort, and his winning is not only for Australia but also Adelaide. Australia is an elite sports nation and it does not come easily. We know the commitment that people make in time and training, and also the financial burden that they suffer because very few people, unless they reach the very top of the tree, particularly in cricket or tennis, receive very much financially, and it is especially difficult for anyone involved in team sports. I know the cost to families of supporting particularly the younger participants. I know that families support these players, particularly the junior players, in taking them all over Australia and often overseas to pursue sporting goals and to encourage their children to achieve.

All in all, these young ladies have done very well to win a national competition such as this and we congratulate them very heartily; and we wish them all the best for the next season. I also want to thank all who work behind the scenes and who are not being remembered individually today, people such as the sponsors, the families, the people who raise the money to keep the club on track, so to speak, and all the people who support their club, whether it be netball (as it is in this instance) or any other sport that puts our state to the forefront. I am very proud of South Australia. Considering our population, we do very well indeed. Members also have to consider the facilities that we have provided for these people. We have to congratulate the government, and in this instance the Brown and Olsen governments, for providing these facilities, which are world-class facilities.

I know that, after the jubilant SA Suns team won the national competition, they thanked the government for the fantastic facilities at The Pines. We have fantastic netball facilities on the western side of the CBD, and I believe that most of our sporting venues, including cycling, have fantastic facilities. The government provided the facilities and the people are now showing their appreciation by bringing home

the rewards and being rewarded with recognition such as this. I support the motion.

Motion carried.

The SPEAKER: May I add my remarks to that, without having sought to influence the outcome, pointing out that the greater benefit to the society of South Australians over which this parliament, and indeed this chamber, has a measure of responsibility for its success or failure is to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of those who seek excellence, as we all must, and do so to the extent that it is regarded as being better than what anyone else has been able to achieve, because if we do that every day, tomorrow will always be a better place than yesterday in which to live. It is worth noting, too, that we can only do that in consequence of the great richness of resources with which we have been blessed, and our commitment to science and academic excellence. On that point, may I say to the house that it is my view that, rather than just focusing attention upon the achievements in the sporting arena, we might also be well-advised to acknowledge and commend those who achieve equally in advancing the frontiers of knowledge and the development of science, and the teaching and so on of those things that give us substance, sustenance and permanency in our institutions.

IPC WORLD CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): Mr Speaker, I take note of your comments, and I do agree that we must commend people for their endeavours in other fields. In so doing, this morning I move:

That this house congratulates South Australian Sports Institute scholarship holder, Sarnya Parker, on winning three gold medals at the recent IPC World Cycling Championships for the disabled in Augsburg, Germany.

Sarnya Parker, a South Australian Sports Institute high performance scholarship holder, returned from the International Paralympics Committee World Cycling Championships for the Disabled with three gold medals in the one kilometre time trial, 200 metre sprint and the road race, achieving three world records. Some of the earlier high points of Sarnya's sporting career include her performance at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics where she won two gold medals—one in the tandem one kilometre time trial and another in the tandem individual pursuit.

Overall, the Australian team was very successful at the IPC World Cycling Championships in August. South Australian, Kieran Modra, also won a gold medal in the men's tandem one kilometre time trial. Kieran paired up with Western Australian, Darren Harry, to win gold ahead of Japan and Spain. Australia finished second behind the United States in the overall medal tally for the world championships, taking home an outstanding 14 gold medals, seven silver medals and seven bronze medals. I congratulate Sarnya Parker and Kieran Modra on their outstanding performances at this year's World Cycling Championships in Germany.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): There are no Nobel prizes of any sort for sporting achievements, but I think sometimes there should be. The effort put in by able-bodied sports persons is good, but the effort of members of disabled sporting organisations is, in my opinion, superhuman. I was fortunate to meet members of the paralympic cycling squad at Townsend House about 12 months ago and, as a result of speaking with them, I realise there is very little public recognition or sponsorship for their effort and dedication.

I was absolutely inspired by them. One chap to whom I spoke had a high amputation, where his leg had been amputated right up by his hip. He told me that he had ridden from the Adelaide CBD to Mount Lofty and back, just for the exercise. That is one indication of the dedication and tenacity that all disabled athletes are able to display. When one sees athletes travelling overseas, and even within Australia, to compete against athletes from all over the world—and returning with a bag full of medals—it makes one feel proud—and doubly proud because of the dedication and effort required to overcome what would be, in some people's minds, crippling, totally disabling disabilities. Certainly, they are not handicaps. It is not a handicap but, rather, just a bit of a problem to be overcome. That is what these people show. I wish I could do more; I wish there was a Nobel prize for people who return to their home country having achieved success. I hope sponsors and the media start to recognise the inspirational benefits of people such as the international paralympic cycling squad and Sarnya Parker to inspire our school children in not only sporting activities but also academically. I have great pleasure in supporting this motion.

Motion carried.

WORLD CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): I move:

That this house congratulates South Australian cyclists Jobie Dajka, Luke Roberts and Rosealee Hubbard on their outstanding performances at the Copenhagen World Cycling Championships.

South Australia is on top of the world once again in the sport of track cycling. Jobie Dajka, a 21-year old South Australian, won gold in the men's keirin event at the World Track Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark, last month. In a tremendous performance, the SASI graduate scholarship holder defeated Jose Antonio Villanueva of Spain by two lengths. Jobie, a two-time junior world champion as a South Australian Sports Institute scholarship holder won a tactically canny final to outfox his older and more experienced rivals. Jobie also won silver medals in the individual and team sprint events.

I also highlight the achievements of another SASI graduate scholarship holder, Luke Roberts. Luke had an outstanding world championship performance, winning gold in the 4 000 metre team pursuit and silver in the 4 000 metre individual pursuit. Congratulations also go to Rosealee Hubbard on winning a bronze medal in the women's keirin event at the world championships. Rosealee is also a current SASI scholarship holder and a graduate of the SASI talent search program. She is the reigning Australian keirin champion. I am sure that Rosealee has benefited greatly from the guidance of Ian McKenzie, national track coach and head coach of the SASI cycling program. On behalf of the house, I congratulate South Australian cyclists Jobie Dajka, Luke Roberts and Rosealee Hubbard on their outstanding performances at the 2002 World Cycling Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I support this motion. A moment ago I spoke about disabled cyclists and their performance but we should also recognise outstanding performances by fully able athletes, so I take pleasure in supporting this motion. Last weekend the Velofest was held at Glenelg and the ability of the cyclists in all forms of the sport was amazing to watch. To see young people on their bikes, mounting all sorts of obstacles with great feats of

balance and agility, was pretty good, but then to move from Colley Reserve, where that was being held, to watch the match racing that was going down Colley Terrace, and the speeds that the cyclists were achieving with great muscle power, was just incredible. It is long time since I got anywhere near that power on a Malvern Star.

Every young cyclist aspires to the World Cycling Championships and at Glenelg on the weekend a number of very young people produced outstanding times, whizzing around the very sharp, hairpin bends into Augusta Terrace, Sussex Street and Colley Terrace. It was amazing to see them maintain an upright position on their bikes, never mind the speed they were achieving. I congratulate those who were successful at the world cycling championships last month—Jobie Dajka, Luke Roberts and Rosealee Hubbard. South Australians should be proud of those people, and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

Motion carried.

WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): I move:

That this house congratulates South Australian Sports Institute rowers Sally Causby, Amber Halliday and Miranda Bennett on gold medal victories in the 2002 World Rowing Championships at Seville, Spain.

These SASI rowers have achieved another world class sporting performance, perhaps Australia's greatest gold medal success at the World Rowing Championships in Seville, Spain, in September this year. One of the events was won by the lightweight women's double scull of Sally Causby and Amber Halliday. That was a tremendous performance on the international rowing circuit from the three South Australian Sports Institute rowers. The girls in the lightweight women's double scull faced the might of Germany, the defending world champions, who led for the first 1 000 metres. The Australian girls were not fazed and took the lead at the 1 000 metre mark of the 2 000 metre race and controlled the race to win from a fast-finishing Germany and Great Britain by half a length.

SASI head rowing coach Adrian David coached the crew. Adrian has certainly contributed a great deal to the sport of rowing since his appointment to the institute in 1997. The medal winning achievement was even more outstanding for SASI as it was the only Olympic category gold medal won by Australia at the championships. This year Australia went into the championships as reigning 2001 world champion and world record holders in the lightweight women's quad scull. The 2001 crew comprised three SASI athletes—Sally Causby, Jo Francou and Amber Halliday—also coached by Adrian David.

In 2002 the new lightweight women's quad scull crew was formed and included two SASI scholarship holders—Sharon Cummings or Miranda Bennett. Unfortunately, in the final stages of preparation Sharon Cummings was forced to withdraw due to injury. The lightweight women's quad scull crew won the gold medal by .46 seconds from the Netherlands and the USA in a new world record time of 6 minutes 29.55 seconds. It was again coached by master coach Adrian David, whose international credentials were further reaffirmed as he coached both this year's and last year's crews to back to back world championships—an outstanding achievement in the sport.

Rowing is certainly a popular sport at secondary school level, and these recent achievements demonstrate that this

state continues to produce a number of very successful state and national level rowers. I also acknowledge the role the South Australian Sports Institute has played in developing and training elite athletes in our state. The support it provides to athletes through coaching, facilities, services and training and competition opportunities is vital if our athletes are to be successful at the senior international level in events such as world championships and the Olympic Games. I congratulate once again Sally Causby, Amber Halliday and Miranda Bennett and coach Adrian David. They are truly outstanding performers in their chosen sport, and their success in rowing at the senior international level has done South Australians and Australians proud.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I rise to support the motion. I was listening to the ABC the other morning when they were talking about Australian sports stars and gold medal winners. No mention was made of Sally Causby, Amber Halliday or Miranda Bennett until the aunty of one of those women phoned in and reminded the announcer that there are other sports besides cricket, tennis and football. This relative mentioned the dedication required to put in hours of training, to put in the effort and scrape up a bit of sponsorship, cover your costs, go away, represent your country and return with gold medals. To then receive few accolades is something I find disappointing. It is time the sports media started to focus on sports other than those the advertisers want to support.

It is great to see rowers down on the Patawalonga at the Bay. We had the Holdfast trainers down there the other day, training with the children. I hope to see more rowing sculls on the Patawalonga because it is a sport for which we need to provide terrific facilities. The Patawalonga is ideal, and West Lakes has a terrific facility. I understand there are problems at West Lakes with *Caulerpa taxifolia* so, if they are looking for another spot to train, I guarantee that the Patawalonga will provide them with a great spot.

It was wonderful to see the Holdfast trainers in the Patawalonga for the first time in 30 years. The Fisher trophy will be resurrected for Holdfast trainers—young children—fairly shortly, I understand. Not to stray from the topic, I am more than pleased to support the motion because all our athletes, whether church netball teams, community groups or even social sporting teams, should be supported. Obesity in children is something we are worried about, so we should support those activities that get them off their backsides, get them away from the television watching sports and get them competing. We need to provide good sporting facilities in South Australia. I hope that the Minister for Recreation and Sport is listening and that he intends to put more money into sporting infrastructure in South Australia. We need to do it.

Members interjecting:

Dr McFETRIDGE: One honourable member opposite talks about the soccer stadium. Where was the Premier the last few days? He has been around the world trying to get the World Cup of soccer to come to Australia. Where will soccer trials or soccer matches be held in South Australia? Norwood Oval? No. Adelaide Oval? No. They will be held at the Hindmarsh stadium—the best spot for soccer in South Australia. Do members know why? As I said, it is not about the capacity of the stadium. Unfortunately, whether the sport is rowing, netball or any other minor sport, it is all about advertising and getting it on the television. That is what it is about. The Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium—

Ms Rankine interjecting:

Dr McFETRIDGE: I do not want to talk about—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will address his remarks to the substance of the motion.

Dr McFETRIDGE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not want to talk about other things that are not being recognised by this government; it does knock good achievements. I am pleased to say that this is one sport that it is not knocking: the government is supporting this sport. I do not want to detract in any way from the fantastic achievement of these rowers. Sally Causby, Amber Halliday and Miranda Bennett are in receipt of the support of all members on this side of the house in their endeavours, and we wish them well in the future.

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): I also support the motion moved by the member for Norwood to congratulate these rowers. I particularly congratulate Sally Causby, who is the daughter—

Ms Ciccarello: Related?

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY: No. Sally is the daughter of Barry and Penny Causby, who live at Rosedale, not far from us. They are our good friends, and I happen to know the amount of work that Sally has put into her achievements. In fact, Sally did not start rowing at an early age. She was identified by the sports institute at a later age in that she had the necessary physique to be a rower—and it is not big muscles, let me assure members: it involves height and endurance. Some of the tests in terms of fat thickness on muscles, and these sorts of things rowers must go through to reach the right level of fitness—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY: The fact is that you must have none; that is the problem, and that is the hard bit. Getting up at 5.30 in the morning to go out rowing day after day, and the amount of work that these young women put into rowing is just fantastic; it is incredible. Sally has been unwavering in her commitment to achieve at this level. The gold medal that was won last year was a fantastic reward for the amount of work she had done. This gold medal is just another notch in Sally's belt as a world-class woman rower, and it is just fantastic.

Sally's parents went to Spain to see her row and they were the most proud and thrilled parents when they telephoned to tell us that the girls had won. It was just unbelievable. They, too, have supported Sally, and I am sure that the parents of the other girls have done exactly the same. Sally's parents have supported her tremendously in her sport.

I also commend Ron Kendall Audiology, which has been one of Sally's sponsors and which has enabled her to travel around the world. That sponsorship, to a large degree, has certainly enabled Sally to compete and to know that there is some financial backing behind her.

This achievement highlights what I said earlier and what other members of this house have said: the South Australian Sports Institute is developing brilliant young athletes. As the member for Morphet said, in the last few days Lleyton Hewitt became the number one tennis player in the world, and Sally Causby, a South Australian, is number one in the world in her class of rowing. South Australians have an enormous amount of grit and determination to prove that they are just as good as anyone else in the world. It also shows that the funding that has been put into the sports institute by all governments over a long period of time is giving young people the opportunity to perform on the world stage.

It gives a goal for other young people to strive towards. When they see the likes of Sally Causby and Lleyton Hewitt

achieving the maximum they can and being number one in the world, young people can then say: 'I am going to do that, too. I am going to have a crack at that.' They may not get there, but the point is that they are involved in sport, which is good for them, and they are also setting a goal for themselves and trying to achieve that goal. That, in any young person's life, is a very good thing to do. So, again, I congratulate this team of rowers, Sally Causby, Amber Halliday and Miranda Bennett, on achieving the gold medal, and I look forward to them achieving many more.

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): In the time that I have been in this place, there have been several motions congratulating South Australian rowers, because South Australia has been doing extraordinarily well in rowing. Some of its success is due to an incredible trainer—whose name I temporarily forget—who identified that a particular physique is well suited to rowing. By matching physique to the requirements of the job, we have been able to achieve a breakthrough in rowing.

I know that some people have been eyed-off, so to speak, and had it suggested to them that they might like to take up rowing. My experience of the people so recruited is that they have enjoyed the sport very much. I have been pretty humble about speaking on rowing, because I am probably the only person in this place who is an active rower. Having taken the sport up in my very mature years, not as a sport but very much as a recreational activity, I am engaged most Saturday mornings down on the River Torrens before a very important cup of tea and biscuit.

This experience is why I want to express my absolute admiration for these young women who have reached great levels of excellence, and all those who have supported them along the way. After 10 years of recreational rowing, I am still eligible to enter into the beginner rower races, and I expect to remain eligible to enter those races. My current aim is to win the Masters championships when I am 94. I have not worked out the maths as to what year we can expect this great victory to occur, but I expect that it will take me until I am 94 to reach something of the perfection that these young women have attained already.

Those who have not tried rowing and see it, perhaps on television, only as a beautiful, elegant sport, or who, as they go for their evening or morning walks, admire the rowers on the Torrens, might not appreciate just how difficult rowing is. It is a very complex sport; it involves physical strength, aerobic stamina and flexibility, as well as tremendous coordination.

One of the things I like about rowing is that it does not matter how good you are, you are only as good as the team that you are with. There are some people who win as scullers, such as the notable British athlete Sir Steven Redgrave, but most of us row with others and it does not matter how good you are, you have to work as a team. This adds an extra challenge to the sport. In the previous German rowing championships, it was said that if one of the rowers blinked their right eye, all the other rowers blinked exactly the same eye, at exactly the same time, and exactly the same amount.

Mr Scalzi interjecting:

Ms THOMPSON: The member for Hartley has noticed, Mr Speaker, that as a member of the Labor Party I am very experienced in working as a team. That is an advantage in my rowing. However, I want to focus on the skills of these young women and commend them for their stamina and perseverance. Rowing is a sport in which you develop only through

constant practice. Because of the technical perfection that is required, you must practise every day with your fellow rowers if you are going to be any good, which, as I said, I anticipate being by the time I am 94! These young women have achieved this much earlier. They have shown exceptional fitness, dedication and teamwork in order to achieve their goals whether as individual rowers or in pairs, fours or eights. If you have not experienced rowing as part of an eight, it is incredible fun, and I thoroughly recommend it.

I congratulate these young women and all those who participate in the sport of rowing, either recreationally or competitively. I also want to note the generosity of spirit that I have found among rowers in South Australia, particularly in some of these young women who have given up their time to try to support some of us middle-aged recreational rowers to help us to try to understand the complexity of the sport. They are admirable young women; I commend them, and I commend the young rowers mentioned in the motion.

Motion carried.

L-SHAPED PARK

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): I move:

That this house congratulate the state government on the pending handover of the land known as the L-Shaped Park to the traditional owners and acknowledges the Premier's commitment to indigenous people and the reconciliation process as well as the environmental importance of the land and its connection to indigenous people.

In putting this motion, I would like to give the house some information regarding it. On 12 October, the Premier announced that the state government proposed to hand over a significant area of land in the state's Far North-West to the traditional Aboriginal owners in March next year. Information about the Aboriginal inhabitants of this area at the time of European colonisation of Australia is sparse, but Giles and other earlier explorers spoke of there being Aboriginal people in the region. The distribution of the people related to the availability of water.

Tindale's work is the only reference to the tribes of the area. However, he states that some of the boundaries that he drew between tribal areas were uncertain. He also talks about the migration and movement of tribes in the area due to the pressure of drought and the fear of neighbouring tribes. This suggests that the boundaries between tribes have varied widely in the past. In the early 1920s, the park and adjacent areas were largely abandoned by the original transient inhabitants as word filtered through of comparatively large and stable food supplies at white settlements on the Transcontinental Railway Line, particularly at Ooldea, which has shallow permanent potable water close by. These people and their descendants are now resident mainly at Cundeelee in Western Australia and Yalata in South Australia.

Aboriginal elders claim that some species (for example, the kangaroo rat) became rare or extinct at about the same time as the people left the area. They attribute this to the cessation of relevant increase ceremonies and care of associated sites. They insist that this area is now poorer in food resources than they remember as youths. The construction of access tracks by the Beadell party in the 1950s and subsequent seismic line clearing in the northern sector of the park have made it possible for traditional Aborigines to revisit the area by vehicle, a regular occurrence since 1964.

Some sacred and significant sites have been relocated, dreaming tracks have been described, and detailed travel routes involving numerous named waters have been recalled,

as have tribal conflicts, famine, manly challenges and women's food gathering skills of the past era. The exploits of mythological creatures are held by the Aborigines to have been the origin of natural features and some vegetation. In this regard the Serpentine Lakes and the marble gums are of interest in the park area. Present day use of the park by Aboriginal people appears to be by vehicle mainly for collecting materials used to manufacture artefacts for sale by the Yalata Mission group and for collecting australites of which there is a plentiful supply in some areas.

The handover will be the single largest land rights handover in South Australia since the Maralinga lands in 1984. The relevant land is a 21 000 square kilometre conservation park known as the L-Shaped or Unnamed Conservation Park which takes up parts of the Great Victoria Desert along the Western Australian border and the Nullarbor Plain north of the Transcontinental Railway Line. The land was once part of the Maralinga prohibited area and reverted to Crown lands in 1970 when it was first declared a park. It is a major ecosystem, and it is described as 'warm deserts and semi deserts'. A section of the Wilderness Protection Act sets out the following criteria for determining whether or not land should be regarded as a wilderness:

- (a) the land and its ecosystems have not been affected to any significant extent by modern technology; and
- (b) the land and its ecosystems are not seriously affected by exotic animals or plants or other exotic organisms.

The Great Victoria Desert contains some of the most intact natural areas in South Australia. The wilderness quality of the Unnamed Conservation Park is virtually unsurpassed in arid Australia and has great value for nature conservation, scientific investigation, education and tourism. The area is also important for its cultural associations and is of great significance to its Aboriginal people.

It is a pristine park with absolutely natural bushland, which is now recognised as a biosphere reserve. It has open woodlands, shrub lands of mallee, marble gum, mulga and black oak. It also has significant fauna, including the hairy-footed dunnart, mallee fowl, and scarlet and princess parrots. The park is of great cultural significance to the traditional owners and features the Serpentine Lakes, an ancient palaeozoic drainage channel, as well as archaeological deposits and land forms important to Aborigines.

Since the announcement of the proposed handover, a number of meetings have been held between government representatives and the traditional owners and their representatives to progress and develop a memorandum of understanding. The memorandum will facilitate negotiations about the way in which the park will be transferred whilst retaining its status as a conservation park. Further meetings between government representatives and the traditional owners are scheduled for later in the year. The handover of the land by the South Australian government will be a significant act of reconciliation. It will help protect the land for future generations of all South Australians.

The nearest Aboriginal settlement is at Oak Valley on the Maralinga lands, approximately 120 kilometres from the Unnamed Conservation Park boundary. Aboriginal people in the region use the access routes across the park to visit other communities and for traditional purposes. The track linking Aboriginal communities in South Australia and Western Australia will be carefully managed to provide access between the various communities and to ensure that the wilderness quality of the surrounding land is maintained.

Some of the management problems associated with the park include the control of rabbits, house mice, camels, foxes and feral cats, all of which are present throughout the region. In the South Australian desert, rabbits are a major problem, causing loss of tree and shrub species by eating seedlings. In isolated parts of the area, tourist traffic management may also be a problem that will need to be watched closely.

Aboriginal people visit and look after places which are important in the maintenance of Aboriginal law. Some places may only be visited by people—Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal—who are authorised under Aboriginal law. The Maralinga Tjarutja are concerned that visitors do not transgress into these areas. During visits, some hunting takes place. The species usually sought are red kangaroos and bustards. Hunting in the park is less favourable than on the Maralinga lands because of the difficulties posed by denser vegetation. Although hunting is generally opportunistic, and described in the Unnamed Conservation Park Management Plan as minimal, conservationists have expressed some concern that the bustards, listed as vulnerable under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, are not over-exploited and put at greater risk. I obviously need to find out what one of those things might be!

Mr Hanna: This place is full of them.

Ms BEDFORD: The Premier has long held a commitment to indigenous people and the reconciliation process. I know that he has suggested that the park be called 'Reconciliation Park'. This gesture and the handover itself will be welcomed by indigenous people and will be another step in our long journey of healing. I understand that previous land rights legislation, including the Tonkin government's Pitjantjatjara legislation, received bipartisan support, and I know that there will be bipartisan support for this act of reconciliation.

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen): It is my pleasure to rise to support the motion of the member for Florey in relation to this park. I do so, admitting freely to this parliament that until about 1995 I had not even met an Aboriginal person. However, in the few years from about 1995 to 2000, I had the great privilege of becoming involved with the Aborigines of the far West Coast and made many trips up to Ceduna and out onto the Nullarbor area. Indeed, I met a number of the Maralinga people who were living in the nearest settlement to where this park is located. It was quite intriguing to me.

On one occasion I was beside a fire in a backyard in Ceduna chatting to one of the elders of the Maralinga group. He told me quite a funny story. He indicated during the Maralinga claim that he had gone to London to visit the Queen. What was intriguing about it was that in the course of telling the story he indicated that, until he travelled via Bombay to London, his limited knowledge of the world had indicated to him that there were Maralinga people, surrounding them were white people and the rest of the world was made up of white people. When he got to India and found an entire subcontinent of black people it came as an enormous surprise. It was even more surprising for him to get to London and find even more black people.

I have had quite a lot to do with the people in that area. I have been involved for several years. I admire the government for coming to this arrangement for a memorandum of understanding. It took us two years, and we had five tribal groups, including the Maralinga Tjarutja, the Mirning, the Yabi Dinih, the Yalata and one other, the name of which I cannot recall at present. We spent two years just getting the

five groups to sit around the table and form a working group with an agreed constitution as to how we would work.

Many members of Aboriginal society have become quite westernised in many of their ways: for example, they will use a spear instead of a gun if they want to kill a wombat for dinner. In fact, they would probably use the car because they cannot afford ammunition for a gun—a bit of fresh roadkill is usually the best way to go. However, they still have a very predominant culture in the way they approach things, such as coming to an agreement. It is not a matter of appointing a committee and entering into negotiations, as we would do in western society. They reach their position on a community consensus basis.

That can be a quite slow and, to us, tedious mechanism. However, it means that everyone understands and appreciates all the issues and comes to a mutually satisfying consensus rather than reaching a decision that some may or may not like. As I said, the dealings I had were with the people there rather than with bureaucracies who might sometimes be criticised for the way they deal with money and so on. Just like any other cultural group within our community, these people are really interested in being able to preserve their culture and keep that as part of the heritage they can pass on to their children.

The other thing they want to give their children is the opportunity for employment. As the member for Florey indicated, it is a pristine arid landscape, and it has enormous potential for ecotourism. We have the opportunity to engage with the numerous tribal groups in promoting ecotourism, but under the control of the original owners. I have had the wonderful experience of going out to the Head of Bight, for instance, being there as the only white person in the group, and being told the dreamings of the Mirning people concerning the whales. Of course, they identify the whales that arrive each year by the markings and the various—I forget what they call them—bits attached to the whales—

An honourable member: Barnacles.

Mrs REDMOND: Yes, barnacles. They have many dreamings. I was extremely privileged to be paid to go to such a landscape, stay with the Aboriginal people and be told the details of their dreamings. They are quite attached to their land, even though many of them were dispossessed of it a long time ago. I have seen the original letters seeking land rights written in 1905 from a Mirning elder to the then South Australian protector of Aborigines. This is not a new issue; it is one with which we have been grappling for 100 years. It seems to me that we are gradually making progress, and it is a long and sometimes tedious process. But, eventually, with some goodwill on both sides—and there is a lot of goodwill, in my experience, on the part of the Aborigines in the Far West Coast area—we have an opportunity to make some real progress and create some opportunities, as well as preserve a pristine area of landscape.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I support this motion; 21 000 square kilometres of South Australia is certainly a fair chunk of the state, and I know it will be in good hands. A few months ago, I travelled to the AP lands and saw what magnificent country it is, and soon I hope to travel south and look at some of that country. To that end, I am undertaking an intensive course in the Pitjantjatjara language so that I can speak to those people in their own tongue.

Members interjecting:

Dr McFETRIDGE: I know I speak very quickly in the English language, and I hope I will not bastardise the

Pitjantjatjara language! While I am on the subject of bastardising things, I hope I do not bastardise the Australian bustard, *Arteolis Australis*. It is a bit like a wild bush turkey and provides good tucker for indigenous groups.

The land that is being given back to the Aboriginal people will be in good hands, as I said. I hope that they can help me with regard to one of my pet topics (and I use the word 'pet' very lightly), namely, feral cats. I am disgusted at the way that feral cats have taken over much of the interior of Australia. I was at Ayers Rock a few months ago and talked to some of the indigenous people, and feral cats are a huge problem. It is estimated that there are between 8 million and 20 million feral cats at any time. In a drought year such as this year, there are probably about 8 million feral cats. The Aboriginal people do what they can to reduce the numbers because they realise what a pest they are. I met Len Beadell when I was a young lad, and it is good to know that his roads have enabled the indigenous owners of this land to go out in a little more comfort than previously to care for their land.

I think it was David Tonkin, a former Liberal Premier, who initiated a lot of the land rights acts to return land to indigenous owners in South Australia. My seat of Morphett includes Glenelg, and Lord Glenelg, one of the original founding fathers of this state, gave instructions that the new arrivals should treat the Aboriginal people with compassion and respect. Unfortunately, that has not always been the case, and I hope that, as a member of this parliament, I will be able to play a small part in changing that situation, because it is not what it could be. As I said, I have travelled to the AP lands and seen the facilities and the potential for ecotourism. Money is being poured in but, unfortunately, we do not see the results. I congratulate the government on what it is doing in this case and, certainly, I am happy to be totally bipartisan in supporting its efforts to enhance and further the cause of the indigenous people of South Australia.

Motion carried.

GARDENING TOGETHER

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): I move:

That this house commends the South Australian Housing Trust and all others involved in the conduct of 'Gardening Together' and congratulates all winners.

We often speak in this house about winners of international events, but I think it is also important to speak about winners of community events—people who have often struggled against great odds to achieve something in their community. The South Australian Housing Trust gardening competition began in 1984, as a means of encouraging a sense of ownership and pride amongst Housing Trust tenants and also to support their development of nutritional food and their understanding that the backyard vegie patch can be a source of great nutrition, great fun and great joy as well as saving them a lot of money if they know how to do it properly and do not spend more money on fertilisers and seedlings than they save on the produce. However, I am pleased to say that the South Australian Housing Trust does a lot to support happy outcomes for its tenants in terms of their backyard gardens.

I know that we are not allowed to have displays in this chamber, otherwise I would show to members a very exciting pamphlet that the Housing Trust produces called *Gardening—A Monthly Guide*. Not only does that pamphlet give us all an idea of what to do in our gardens month by month if we want to achieve success in a very low cost way, but it also

contains regional gardening tips, so that people from different areas can learn what are the plants most likely to have success in their areas. In Noarlunga, we have advice on specific plants for clay and sandy soils. I commend the Housing Trust not only for running the gardening competition but also for providing this resource for tenants and, indeed, those of us who can track down the Housing Trust site can all benefit from this Housing Trust gardening guide.

The Housing Trust has partners in this venture. The Women's and Children's Hospital has joined with the Housing Trust throughout the history of this competition to support it, and this year it has major sponsors in Mitre 10 and Cost Less Plants. I was also pleased to see that the City of Onkaparinga has made a considerable donation to support the Housing Trust gardening competition, as have a variety of property consultants, real estate sponsors and hardware stores. Several other councils have made small donations but the City of Onkaparinga, with its \$500 donation, is matched only by the Wattle Range Council at Millicent in supporting Housing Trust gardeners in its local area in their efforts.

Each year, more than 800 gardeners enter the Housing Trust gardening competition, and there is a range of categories. I particularly commend the fact that there is a youth garden category and a children's garden category, so that young people can learn very early the benefit of engaging in gardening as a healthy activity, and one that produces pride in the neighbourhood. Unfortunately, I was not able to participate, as previously organised, in the presentation of the awards for the local competition down south, which was held at the Christie Downs Community House a little earlier. I was called away on parliamentary business to a meeting of the Council of Public Accounts Committees of Australia. It is only for something of such urgency that I would ever consider not enjoying the fun of a Housing Trust presentation.

When I saw the list of prize winners, I recognised some very beautiful gardens that I have seen as I have visited constituents. As much as I would like to put on the record the names of all those who have achieved success in each of the different categories, sadly, I am not able to do so, because some of those people do not want their home addresses published in any way because they are escaping from various forms of violence—usually domestic violence. This is a timely reminder of the valuable role that the Housing Trust plays in providing shelter for those people who have been hounded from their homes. So, unfortunately, I cannot recognise individually all those in my local area who achieved awards.

However, I can recognise that the best community garden in the southern area was won by a team led by Mr Den Dutch from Morphett Vale. I was very pleased to see that, when the statewide awards were announced yesterday, the Keightly Cottage flats of Morphett Vale (which is the team led by Mr Dutch) was joint winner of a \$300 voucher from Cost Less Plants for the best community garden. I know that they were anxious to get some snail pellets; hopefully, now they will have a good supply!

Again, this brings us back to the reality of the lives of some of the tenants of our Housing Trust homes. At times, it is a struggle for them to spend the money that is needed for a nice front garden. Whereas we can appreciate the economic benefits of a kitchen garden, just keeping the front garden attractive for the rest of the community as well as for themselves requires expenditure decisions. I remember talking with one of my constituents who was looking sadly at her

very much loved roses and saying that she had to choose between paying her electricity bill and buying some fertiliser. In this place, we often forget those decisions that our constituents have to make, and it is good that we have an opportunity to recognise those who have managed their affairs in such a way that they can have a lovely garden that they and we can all enjoy.

Again, I wish to commend the Housing Trust, its partners and sponsors in the Housing Trust gardening competition. I congratulate all winners in all categories across the state and hope that they get many years' pleasure from their gardens and that they enjoy the Housing Trust gardening competition again next year. I particularly want to thank those housing managers and other officers within the Housing Trust who have taken on the task of organising this gardening competition in addition to their normal duties. In that regard, I thank Ms Sue Bruyn from the southern offices of the Housing Trust for her efforts in our local area.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): I rise to support this motion, and I thank the member for Reynell for moving it. I wish to congratulate the winner from my electorate, Mr Lawrence Heath, and also his wife Alma, who live in Daly Street in Wallaroo. I was very privileged to have been a judge in this South Australian Housing Trust gardening competition this year, and I thank the Housing Trust for having extended that invitation to me.

I compliment the Heaths on their garden. Their brick home is fairly typical of the Housing Trust homes around our area; however, their garden is anything but typical, and it is a credit to them. Ironically, the day that we arrived to judge, Mr Heath had come home very recently from hospital (possibly the day before, although it may have been that morning), and I felt rather sorry that he had to come around with us to look at the various parts of the garden and to identify what was what.

I am no expert on plants, trees or shrubs, but what I saw impressed me greatly. The front garden was very neat and tidy with a certain amount of open space, some shrubs and trees and even a touch of some woodwork that had been there for some time and really helped to highlight the garden. There was even a pineapple plant or two and, whilst our climate is not ideal, they seemed to be doing very well. However, it was the back garden that really opened my eyes.

The backyard is not exceptionally spacious, but he has a large number of fruit trees. My first observation was that he has those fruit trees planted too closely together but, by golly, they are some of the healthiest looking fruit trees that I have seen. Obviously, he knows how to provide the appropriate nutrients for them. From what he said, although we were judging this in September and there was no fruit on them, the fruit that he gets off these trees is quite remarkable. Mrs Alma Heath said that she does a large amount of preserving and large amount of jam making. If you think that it is just in the fruit tree area that they look after themselves, you do not have to go much further before you come across their vegetable garden which, again, was a credit to them. They grow a large variety of vegetables and make sure that they use every inch very profitably.

But there is more—they have chooks. The chooks are there together with some birds, I do not know whether they were budgies or finches, but that type of small bird, and it seems to be a very harmonious situation that is set up there to provide that side of the activity. They have a compost heap, which I think Mr Heath said they intend to replace with

a compost bin in due course, but he said that it really works very well the way it is, and I can see that his knowledge is such that it does just that. If you think that that sounds pretty good, they also had in the back corner a beehive. So, they are virtually guaranteed the cross-pollination that is so essential for the fruit trees to produce their maximum.

That was actually the first time that I have come across bees contained in the back yard of an individual's place, and it seems as though there is no problem there. Of course—members have guessed it—they also provide the Heaths with honey. They have the harvest of the fruit trees, of the chooks, of the vegetables and of the bees, and there are other things that also blend in. Their watering system is such that he conserves the water to the maximum amount, although if my memory serves me correctly Mr Heath said that they do use excess water, which I can well understand. But the amount a normal person might use for the size of the garden is very insignificant compared to the amounts that the Heaths use.

I was delighted that the Heaths won this competition, and my only comment is that I hope that next year not only is the competition promoted further but that more people in my electorate take the opportunity to enter. It does help set a great standard for the area and for the street, but it also encourages people to take an active interest in the food chain, in a sense. I can well imagine that the Heaths could exist for a long time just on the food that they themselves grow. The Heaths are also involved in other areas of the community, and I particularly compliment Mrs Alma Heath, who is very involved with the Wallaroo ambulance. As I said to her, 'I don't know how you get time to look after this garden and do so much volunteer ambulance duty.'

It was a real pleasure for me to be a judge in the South Australian Housing Trust Gardening Together competition this year. I endorse the honourable member's remarks in saying that I hope it will continue next year. I say once more: may more people, more Housing Trust tenants, take the opportunity to enter this great competition.

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): In the past I have also acted in a judging capacity for the best garden competition. It was a very interesting task to undertake, particularly as a number of home owners placed plants and other features in the garden in a most unusual way. I remember talking to someone, whom I saw recently, about my comments on her beautiful garden. She had had difficulty growing plants in her garden so she established a rock garden and then grew roses there, which I thought was extraordinary. It was a particularly beautiful garden. I did enjoy having the opportunity to wander around and look at people's gardens in detail.

I have great praise for one of the award winners in particular. It was, I think, a joint winner in the Best Community Garden category, and I refer to the Kurruru Pingyorendi from the Gilles Plains community garden. That is a garden which has been established at one of the schools in my electorate with a lot of community participation. It has a great deal of history attached to it. Regrettably, because these awards were only just announced, I cannot share with the house the history of the community garden, but the schoolchildren are very proud of it. They are proud of tending the vegetables growing there and of the way the garden is set out. Members of the community who come along and work in that garden are also to be commended.

I noticed that there was an increase in the number of entries to the competition this year. My understanding is that 41 per cent of entries were from first time participants. I think

that is just wonderful and shows that people are really taking a great interest in trust properties and looking to show off the skills that they have. Perhaps, when I get some time to track down some of the history of the community garden, I will share it with the house, because I think it is something many schools would be interested in undertaking. An activity like this benefits the children, giving them an opportunity to learn about plants and the goodness that can come from them—particularly from growing your own vegetables—and it also gives pleasure to the community.

I certainly congratulate those joint winners for the best community garden. I would also like to congratulate another of the winners from the suburb of Northfield. I cannot name the winner but I do recognise the name and the property and it is certainly a beautiful garden.

Motion carried.

CRACK, Ms REBECCA

Ms RANKINE (Wright): I move:

That this house congratulates Ms Rebecca Crack on her outstanding achievement in winning four gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the World Life Saving Championship at Daytona, USA, in May this year.

In moving this motion, I offer my personal congratulations to Rebecca on what was a fantastic performance. This event was an international competition involving about 23 countries. I understand that Australia took a large team of athletes over to compete in the Rescue 2000 in Daytona which is conducted by the International Life Saving Federation once every two years. I understand that Rebecca was the only South Australian who was part of this team, and she certainly adds to the achievements of South Australian sportspeople whom we have heard about today.

The events that were undertaken in Daytona included things like simulated emergency response, rope throwing, beach flag swimming events, beach sprint and tube rescue. Rebecca proved to be an all-round success at the Daytona games. She set a world record in the rope throw, which involves using a 15 metre rope thrown to a person 12 metres away in water. The rope is hauled in, and Rebecca set a new world record for this event, taking three seconds off the time. She obviously won gold in this event. She also picked up the medal in the simulated emergency response. In this event, a team of four has 2 minutes and 30 seconds to rescue up to 20 people from a pool, all with varying scenarios, including a heart attack, panic, etc.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms RANKINE: And people you don't like? I don't think there were many of those there. Rebecca was appointed team captain for this event due to her training and experience with the CFS, and the team again won gold in this event. Rebecca also picked up silver and bronze medals for other team and relay events at these games. Her performance was extraordinary and is being hailed by the Royal Life Saving Society as the most outstanding effort from any South Australian competitor this year.

I understand that Rebecca has also had an extremely successful year in her sport generally, being successful in national level competitions that were held in Melbourne and Noosa this year. The sport of lifesaving is a great asset to both its members and the community generally, and I take the opportunity to thank the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia and South Australia for the continued part it plays in advocating increased safety regulations for aquatic

locations and activities throughout this state and Australia overall.

Rebecca has been involved in surf lifesaving for eight years, having joined the Darwin Surf Life Saving Club when she was only 14 years of age. Not only has Rebecca given generously of her time to surf lifesaving and obviously committed hundreds of hours to training but also, as I said previously, she is a member of the Country Fire Service. I understand that Rebecca was inspired to join the CFS after witnessing the devastating fires that engulfed Tulka last year. She joined the Port Lincoln brigade and undertook her level 1 and 2 training and has now transferred to Naracoorte due to her employment. I am sure that brigade was very pleased to welcome such a community minded, enthusiastic and obviously very fit young woman. Not only is Rebecca involved in surf lifesaving and the CFS but also I understand that she was recently a member of the South Australian country netball team which competed in Melbourne and won that event also.

Although Rebecca has been involved in surf lifesaving for many years, this was not her first success in competition. In her first taste of competition in 1994, she won two silver medals in her first lifesaving national competitions, yet in a recent interview Rebecca was very gracious and gave much credit to the Country Fire Service for her success in these recent games. She said her training with the South Australian Fire Service had equipped her well. Her involvement with the CFS had helped her work under pressure and obviously focus on the task at hand. She said in an article that was published recently:

It was because of my involvement with the SACFS that they made me captain of the Simulated Emergency Response Team. . . I'd like to thank everyone in SACFS Region 5 and the Naracoorte brigade who have been very supportive and helpful.

I am sure Rebecca's family, friends and the Naracoorte community are very proud of her achievements. She is clearly a great role model for young people and a real example to us all. Rebecca is one of the 420 000 volunteers across our state who give so generously of their time for the benefit of others. She is not only an outstanding sports person but an outstanding member of our community. Congratulations again to Rebecca on her outstanding achievements at the 2002 world championships in Daytona.

I understand that Melbourne was recently selected by the International Life Saving Federation to host the 2006 world championships, and I look forward to following her performance and those of the other Australian team members in the coming years.

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I support the motion and congratulate Rebecca on her win in May this year when she travelled to America to compete in the world lifesaving championships and won four gold, one silver and two bronze medals, which included a world record in the line throw (or rope rescue event). Sport plays an enormous part in the lives of the people from Eyre Peninsula across a range of disciplines, including netball, football, soccer, bowls, lifesaving, basketball, hockey and cricket just to name a few. From participation in these sports emerge people with great skills and talents. Rebecca (formerly of Port Lincoln, currently living in Naracoorte) is one of them. She has been highly successful in the sport of lifesaving and has been a wonderful role model for the young people of the region.

She will be kept very busy over the coming years with the national championships to be held in Tasmania next year and

the world championships in Geelong in 2004, when she will be a very strong contender to win gold. Rebecca's family moved to Port Lincoln when she was quite young and she further developed her sporting prowess at the Port Lincoln Leisure Centre. This wonderful facility, together with committed coaches, has assisted Rebecca and many other young people in the sport of swimming. I can remember her as a small girl winning competitions against her peers from across Eyre Peninsula. Rebecca has been fortunate to have travelled through her sport, indeed she had the honour of meeting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth when she competed in London.

Members may not be aware that Rebecca's sporting ability has not been restricted to lifesaving. In October this year, Rebecca was one of three Eyre Peninsula netballers who were part of the victorious South Australian country team in the interstate invitational netball carnival held in Melbourne. Heather Norton and Tracey Wooley from the United Yeelanna Netball Club were also part of the team, which Heather captained. Eyre Peninsula has produced many sporting heroes, including Kieran McEvoy, who rode the Melbourne Cup winner in 2001 and came third in this year's cup just a few weeks ago. Kieran grew up in Streaky Bay and is certainly destined for great things. Perhaps Eyre Peninsula's main sporting export over time has been Australian Rules Football players. They include, Shaun Rehn, Peter and Shaun Burgoyne, the Wakelin twins Daryl and Shane, and Byron Pickett, to name a few.

Socialising is a major part of sport, particularly in regional areas. Not only do sportsmen and women get to challenge their skills but it is a time when whole families get together to meet new people and to have fun. For some people on the Eyre Peninsula playing sport on the weekend is the only time when they can get together with friends and team mates to socialise. Sport is so popular because it can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Many people give up their time to help out their association or club by being a committee person or a volunteer. Numerous life memberships have been awarded to people from Eyre Peninsula for continued commitment to their sporting club or association. Life memberships are highly valued and are not awarded lightly—usually many years of dedicated service has been freely given to the club or association first.

Many people behind the scenes help to make our clubs successful, including coaches, umpires, scorers, timekeepers and groundspeople: it does not take just players to make a successful day of sport or a successful sports person. I am sure that Rebecca's family and support team are very proud of her achievements as we all are, and I wish her every success as she continues to commit herself to her sporting activities. She is now a role model for all South Australians.

Motion carried.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): I move:

That this house congratulates the Northern Districts State Emergency Services Unit on 40 years of service to the community in the northern suburbs and South Australia.

The Northern Districts State Emergency Services Unit is a great band of very dedicated people who provide a fantastic service to the community. The unit began operating in 1962 in a former state education building at 1 Ann Street, Salisbury, with just 10 members. In 1982 the unit relocated to the

former police station at 3 Ann Street where it was to remain until 1992, when the unit was temporarily relocated to Hogarth Road, Elizabeth South, where its present purpose-built headquarters have been built. It was opened by the Hon. Martyn Evans on 28 March 1993.

The unit has proved that its existence is well and truly justified by being the most active unit in the state for a number of years, with over 300 taskings recorded in most years; it was the Australian record holder of 809 taskings in 1997-98. Its present membership averages 60 active personnel, plus reserves, so they are an extremely busy group. For the year 2001-02, 438 taskings were undertaken, in addition to 160 state non-countable taskings undertaken.

It is an extremely active unit, which is ably led by Mr Andrew Tennant, who is the controller and who has been a volunteer for the unit for some 24 years, and Paul Ennis, the rescue team leader, who has been there for almost 23 years. Andrew has held the rank of controller for the past 16 years, and he is only the fifth person to do so in the 40 years since the unit's formation. He is very dedicated to the SES unit, and I think his record will take some toppling. When one adds together all the service of members of the Northern Districts SES it provides 165 years' experience in serving the people of the northern districts.

They encourage cadet members to join the SES. This unit is particularly successful in having young people between the ages of 13 and 18 join their unit. Currently, they have 11 cadet members. As a result of my visits, I can tell members that they are extremely enthusiastic young people. In many cases one or both parents are members of the SES unit, and the children came along with their parents, became enthusiastic and joined up as cadet members. It is very good of them to volunteer in the way in which they do. Of course, the skills and leadership they learn when undertaking training makes them better members of, and able to give more to, our community than had they not become involved as volunteers in SES.

The unit has been ably supported by the councils of Salisbury, Playford and Gawler over the years. All have greatly assisted the unit financially. Their contributions have now been replaced by an annual budget from state headquarters, which is funded from the emergency services levy. That does not mean that funding is adequate to cover every need of the unit, so they do undertake fundraising. They have vehicles to maintain and, when on an emergency callout, meals have to be provided for members. All that adds up to an additional cost.

Some of the methods they use to raise their funds include operating bingo booths and running a gutter cleaning service for houses in the area. The standard rate for a single storey house only is \$15, and for a two-storey house only the fee is \$25, and they carry out a large number of such tasks in the area. They have been providing this service to the community for the past five to six years and it has been a very good fundraiser. In addition, they hold a fundraising auction each year. They have gone one step further this year, and the member for Wright was present the other week at the 40th anniversary celebrations when a creche was opened within the building. The Northern Districts SES has a number of members with young children and, if they are called out on a task suddenly, they may not be able to get a babysitter, so they have incorporated a creche into the unit, and the children of those volunteers can be looked after by a qualified person. The set-up is excellent and I congratulate them on it.

Other areas of community service that they are involved with are the Lions Christmas carols in the park, the Angle Vale Christmas carols, the combined senior citizens' Christmas party, the Playford Community Fund and the Gawler youth disco. This is a group of very dedicated volunteers, as can be seen from what I have advised the house, who are not only involved in the emergency services field but also get involved in and support other community activities.

I sincerely congratulate them on 40 years of service. To Andrew Tennant, the controller of the unit, Paul Ennis, the rescue team leader, and their team, I extend my admiration for the times they are called out in the middle of the night, in a storm, to attend road accidents, or whatever the task may be, when the rest of us are sleeping peacefully in bed or engaged in pursuits that we enjoy in the daytime. These people volunteer their services to the community, and we could not do without them, so in moving this motion I have much pleasure in thanking them for the effort they make in protecting our community and I congratulate them on 40 years of service.

Ms RANKINE (Wright): This motion is very timely and I thank the member for Light for bringing it before the house. We have only just seen the conclusion of a special week celebrating the contribution of the SES, and I understand that last Saturday there was a parade through the city. There are approximately 6 000 SES volunteers in South Australia and approximately 40 000 Australia-wide. The parade on Saturday included volunteers from the SES, the SES dog search team, South Australian Ambulance Service, CFS, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service, Sea Rescue Squadron and the Police Band.

As the member for Light said, members of the SES work every day, helping to save lives and protect our community. They assist other emergency service organisations in undertaking their duties, and I know that is very much appreciated. Like many of the other services, they are involved in attending vehicle accidents, search operations and helping the police in a range of areas. Only the other day I heard about members of the SES helping to look for evidence in Renmark in the Margaret Tobin case. I am advised that last year SES volunteers attended 3 974 incidents, which totalled 71 246 person hours. These people not only attend incidents but also put in many thousands of hours in training.

As the member for Light said, the Northern Districts SES celebrated its 40th anniversary on Sunday 3 November, and I was delighted to be able to attend that function and to be involved in the commissioning of two new trucks for the service. It is quite an amazing achievement that this volunteer unit has operated for 40 years. It could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of many community minded and committed volunteers. As the member for Light said, Commander Andrew Tennant has given something like 24 years service to the SES. I said on the day that it was almost like a family reunion, because Andrew and I share great grandparents, so I had a chance to catch up with his mum and share a few family stories.

This government is committed to supporting volunteers in our community. We are in the process, as I have mentioned on a number of occasions, of implementing formal recognition for volunteers in this state, as well as supporting emergency services in very practical ways. In the last budget—the first budget brought down by the Rann Labor government—we increased funding to emergency services

by \$15 million, lifting expenditure from \$141 million to \$156 million. We did this without increasing the emergency services levy or without hitting the pockets of ordinary South Australians but rather by contributing over \$12 million from consolidated revenue in a budget that was very tight and imposed significant cuts in areas that were not a priority. This was a major government initiative. I mention this to highlight our government's commitment to emergency services and the wonderful volunteers who serve with many of them.

Unfortunately, on the day the Premier, who has had a very long standing involvement with the Northern Districts SES, could not be there. I was able to pass on his regrets, and he also asked me to pass on to the Northern Districts SES his deep gratitude for their efforts throughout the year and most especially for their great contribution at the Salisbury interchange disaster. He was there, as people know, and saw their efforts first hand. They were invaluable in ensuring that the community was safe, as well as assisting to maintain a sense of calm and certainty throughout the event. It was really pleasing and lovely to see the commander of the Northern Districts SES the very next day present to the Premier an award of appreciation for his 10 year commitment and assistance to the SES.

As the member for Light mentioned, this unit is one of the busiest in the state and in fact held the Australian record for 109 taskings in one year. The unit holds the distinction of being the most active in the state. Our community really appreciates the effort it puts in and the support its members provide so selflessly whenever they are needed. Their support is also very much appreciated by the other emergency services. That was very much indicated by the list of attendees on the day. We had not only people from local government—Mayor Tony Zappia—and other parliamentary representatives—Michael O'Brien, Malcolm Buckby and Rob Brokenshire—but also the Chief Officer of the MFS (Grant Lupton), the Emergency Services Administration Unit CEO (Barry Aspey), the SES Deputy Director (Nat Cooke), representatives of the police department and also the SES members themselves.

From my discussions with those other services I know that they hold in high esteem the people who work with them through the SES. The Northern Districts SES is out in the community during crisis situations, but it also plays a much wider community role. It is involved in a whole range of events, such as the Lions Christmas Carols in the Park, the Angle Vale Christmas carols, the Playford community group and the Gawler youth disco—the list goes on. The celebration was very well deserved and attended and I know that the unit enjoyed the commissioning of its new rescue trucks.

I also pay tribute to the families of those people involved in the Northern Districts SES. The contribution their partners make is possible only with their support and understanding. I know that many of the events they are required to attend must cause some considerable personal grief, and families are there constantly to support and assist them through those traumas, which I am sure none of us would ever personally want to experience.

It is also pleasing to see the number of young people involved in the SES, and that is also reflected in the local CFS services. Whilst many of our community organisations are very concerned about engaging young people, there is something happening within these two emergency services that seems to be working well, and they are ably engaging young people and involving them in very worthwhile activities in our community. Again, I offer the SES my very

sincere congratulations on 40 years of commitment to our community.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I support the motion moved by the member for Light, and I congratulate him on his fine representation. I join with him and the member for Wright in congratulating the Northern Districts State Emergency Service on its wonderful record. I want to add my comments because this unit (as we know, one of the state's most active) works with one of my electorate's most active units at Kapunda. Often both units work together sharing resources. I take my hat off to these people, who carry out the most unpleasant work. I know, and you know, Mr Acting Speaker (as a former professional fireman), about some of the most unpleasant duties these people must undertake in terms of rescuing people from road accidents, traumas, and tragedies—and the list goes on. and, certainly, I support this motion.

I presume that the Northern Districts unit was active at the recent rail-crossing smash at Salisbury. That accident would have been horrific in itself. If we did not have this SES group, if we did not have these people, who would attend a tragedy of this size? As we know, this group started back in 1962. It was one of the first units in the state when we first established the SES. Some units have not stood the test of time. I know that, in many communities, the SES and the CFS were seen as a duplication, and some did not survive. However, in this instance, not only has it survived, it has flourished, with over 60 active members being involved. Obviously, a strong need exists but, as we all know in these sorts of areas, leadership is most important. Mr Andrew Tennant has been the controller for 16 years. That is a wonderful effort, and we certainly need to congratulate him on it.

Ms Rankine: Twenty four years.

Mr VENNING: He has actually served for 24 years with the SES. It is a great record. As in all groups, leadership is tantamount. In this instance, the unit is obviously well led. I also note the activities of the young people involved in the cadet scheme with the SES. It is great, particularly in a community such as this, because it provides not only an emergency service but also a facility for young people to become part of a team and to have fun, at the same time as being educated.

Young people today are often criticised for not being joiners, for not participating and for hanging around the streets. All I can say is that, in many communities, there is no choice. In this instance, the SES is providing a very wide community service and giving these younger people the opportunity to join and become cadets. Most importantly, it gives them the opportunity to become volunteers at a young age.

Voluntarism involves a unique community effort today. It is coming under threat, of course, particularly in relation to the insurance fiasco about which we are all aware. I take my hat off to the SES. I was brought up in the country and I have seen some pretty difficult situations. I have attended many accidents and some fatalities. I have seen SES volunteers at work. In many instances, I have not been prepared to go to that side of the car where I would see the unmentionable. I keep my distance. These volunteers must physically remove people from a vehicle and clean up the accident scene.

These are volunteers who do this as a community service, and have been doing it for over 40 years. All I can say is: good on them and congratulations. Because of the service

they provide to the wider community, which we heard about this morning, they are certainly a vital and very much appreciated community asset operating within the three councils of Playford, Salisbury and Gawler.

Behind these organisations are a lot of people who keep an SES like this on the road. There are the auxiliaries, the people who generate the money, the people who clean the overalls, and the people who service the motor vehicles. There are so many people there who are unsung heroes.

On an occasion like this celebrating 40 years of service, we acknowledge that it is a team effort. We remember the lot of them. They are all in there, all part of a team. On behalf of the parliament, we all join the member for Light in saying congratulations and long may they thrive. We hope that they do not have to attend too many tragedies, and I hope that the leaders involved with the SES are getting the support that they justly deserve.

Motion carried.

MEMBERS, ATTENDANCE

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Notice of Motion: Other Motions No. 3, standing in my name, was scheduled to be dealt with this morning. By arrangement with the opposition Whip and, I understand, the government Whip I was authorised to be absent from the chamber from around 10.45 until 12.15 as a pair for the Premier who was opening the International Film Festival at the Nova Cinema, at which event I was also present.

It was therefore not possible for me to be here earlier in this session to deal with motion No.3. By agreement between the Whips, it was agreed that that motion was to be postponed until later this morning and to appear after motion No.13. That was a duly arranged process in accordance with the procedures and practices of the house.

However, I understand that the Speaker—though I was not here—lambasted me, and other members, on the record, for not being here to deal with motion No.3. I simply wish to explain, on the record, that there was a proper and appropriate reason for my not being here to deal with motion No.3 earlier this morning, as agreed between the government and the opposition. I ask that the Speaker note that personal explanation.

HEWITT, Mr LLEYTON

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): I move:

That this house congratulates Lleyton Hewitt on becoming the first Australian to successfully defend the year-end No. 1 world ranking and the seventh player overall to achieve this feat after winning the Tennis Masters Cup for the second consecutive year in Shanghai last week.

News of our own Lleyton Hewitt's entry into the Sporting Hall of Greats was headlined across the world last week after he became the first Australian to successfully defend the year-end No. 1 ranking on the international tennis circuit. Following his outstanding Wimbledon victory in July this year, Lleyton led his ATP championship race rivals by an impressive 88 points going into the recent Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai. In the end, it was Andre Agassi's loss to Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero that was to confirm Lleyton's year-end No. 1 status, leaving the 21 year old tennis star with

an unassailable 108-point lead in the season ending event. Lleyton went on to claim overall victory in Shanghai, defeating Ferrero in a tense five-set showdown to finish 7-5, 7-5, 2-6, 2-6, 6-4. He ended his successful year with five titles, his second straight top ranking and total prize money of \$3.7 million, which includes \$1.4 million for his latest victory in Shanghai.

I am sure that all members would agree that Lleyton is an outstanding sportsperson who continues to demonstrate the heights that he is capable of achieving in his chosen sport. Although struck by illness at the start of the year during the Australian Open, Lleyton's extraordinary performances in other grand slams throughout the year, especially at Wimbledon, catapulted him into the most sought-after title of year-end world No. 1. There is no doubt that Lleyton's passion for and dedication to his sport continue to be the key ingredients of his success. It is with these qualities and through sheer hard work that Lleyton has achieved this prestigious award.

Lleyton is well deserving of his elevation to the Sporting Hall of Fame ranks, joining other tennis greats such as Pete Sampras, Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors. This is a tremendous achievement. On behalf of the state government and members of the South Australian community, I again congratulate Lleyton Hewitt on becoming the first Australian successfully to defend the year-end No. 1 tennis ranking and only the seventh player ever to achieve this mighty feat.

Because he is such a dynamic and outstanding sportsperson, it is not surprising that Lleyton has been such a successful ambassador for South Australia, something which I am pleased to learn was confirmed by the Governor (Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson) and the Australia Day Council when the Australian of the Year awards for 2003 were announced earlier this week. These awards give recognition each year to outstanding Australians who have inspired national pride and worked tirelessly for their community and the nation. Of course, it is no surprise to us that Lleyton was awarded the Young South Australian of the Year award within the South Australia's Finest Citizens category.

Again, congratulations to Lleyton. I am sure that all of us (including my colleagues the member for Playford and the member for West Torrens) will look forward to more of these amazing performances on the tennis circuit over the coming year and beyond.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): I am delighted to second this motion and to speak to it. I wish to add my full support to this motion to congratulate Lleyton Hewitt on becoming the first Australian to successfully defend the year-end No. 1 world ranking and the seventh player overall to achieve this feat after winning the Tennis Masters Cup for the second consecutive year last week in Shanghai. It was an exciting week watching Lleyton when I could. I admit that I did not go much beyond midnight on most nights, but there were one or two exceptions. His matches were some of the hardest fought I have ever seen. I remember on one occasion (perhaps two) going to bed thinking that he had done wonderfully well but not expecting him to win only to hear the next morning that he had won. Several times I said to my wife as we were watching, 'No matter what happens, it is fantastic for him to be getting this sort of practice against the other top seven players in the world'; but, good on Lleyton, he came through.

It is fascinating to see how he has progressed since 1997. In 1997, he was No. 722 in the world; in 1998, 113; in 1999, 22; in 2000, 7; and, of course, in 2001 and 2002, No. 1. What a meteoric rise to fame in the tennis world! I speak to this motion not only as a fellow South Australian but also as a former student and former deputy head of Immanuel College where Lleyton has also been a former student. In fact, all my children have gone through Immanuel; my father is a former headmaster of Immanuel; and my sister also went through Immanuel. So, Immanuel is in our blood a little bit. It is wonderful to see Hewitt progressing through to World Champion.

On 5 January 2000, I was present at a match at Memorial Drive when Lleyton played at the AAPT championship. It was the first time that I had the chance to see Lleyton. I was privileged to be in the AAPT tent, looking down on the tennis courts, and I had an excellent position. I was most impressed with Lleyton's performance that evening. In fact, as I was watching, I thought, 'How come members of the media have criticised this lad as not being mature enough on the tennis court?'

By the end of that match (he had defeated Dejan Petrovic with a score of 6-0, 6-2), I thought, 'Well, that was a magnificent match: Lleyton did everything right; the crowd was very unbiased, giving support to both players, acknowledging their good shots.' It was with total and utter astonishment and amazement that the next morning I saw an article in the *Advertiser* entitled "'Fans stupid," says Lleyton. Heckling angers tennis star', and I thought, 'Shivers, when did this occur?' It had occurred during the match that I had been watching, apparently. I had not seen it during the night, and nor had any of the people I was with that night, and I felt that I had been watching for 99 per cent of the time. Of course, it was a trumped up story.

Lleyton has to be given full credit for having overcome a hostile press initially; for having overcome a press that typically seeks to sensationalise things; a press that typically seems to denigrate anyone who is a rising star. Of course, the truth came out some time later that it was a journalist by the name of Leo Schlink who had apparently put the words into Lleyton's mouth by asking, 'Do you think, Lleyton, that the fans are stupid?'. Lleyton took on from what the journalist had suggested to him, and the journalist had his headline.

Many in this game who are high profile people—at least in our electorates; many in the state—have been subject to similar type denigration from members of the media where they seek to put you down. I well remember some years ago when I was doing a radio interview (it was not live; it was for a take) and the journalist obviously had not got what he wanted from me. He said, 'John, would you say such and such?', and I replied, 'I suppose one could say that.' It was not what I had said but what the journalist had said. Can you guess what I heard on the radio the next morning? I heard, 'The member for Goyder, John Meier, said such and such,' because he had put the words into my mouth. I learnt a lesson from that. Obviously, Lleyton was taken by a similar tactic.

The other thing I learnt some years ago, while being interviewed I said, 'There is something I could say on that point you have just asked, but I would like to go off the record,' and the journalist said, 'Yes, that's fine.' So, I went off the record, and I gave the real home truth in relation to that particular point. The next week that home truth was the first paragraph and the key headline. Again, I learnt that going off the record does not mean a thing to some journalists. I would say that to my own press—

Mr Koutsantonis: Name them, John.

Mr MEIER: No, there is no point now, because they have moved on. I would say that my own home newspapers—the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* and the *Plains Producer*—are absolutely excellent. They do not seek to sensationalise; they seek to give the truth; and I always seek to make sure that it is the truth. If anything is ever slightly distorted, I am the first one to seek to correct it.

LLeyton, I say congratulations to you. You have overcome a press that tried to bring you down in the early years of your career. Now, thank goodness, they are praising you. You have won through to be No. 1, and I am delighted that they are giving you the press that you deserve. South Australia is absolutely thrilled to bits at your success and for the fact that you have now been made Young South Australian of the Year. You richly deserve it. I am delighted that you can have a little time to relax in South Australia. Keep up the good work. Let us hope that you can make No. 1 again next year.

Motion carried.

CLASSIC ADELAIDE RALLY

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): I move:

That this house:

- (a) commends Silverstone Events Pty Ltd and the South Australian Tourism Commission for the outstanding success achieved in the conduct of the 2002 Classic Adelaide Rally;
- (b) congratulates all volunteers, South Australian police officers, State Emergency Services personnel, South Australian Ambulance Service personnel and St Johns volunteers, competitors, sponsors, local councils and other community groups who contributed to the success of the event; and
- (c) calls on the government to continue funding support for the Classic Adelaide Rally in the years ahead.

I draw the attention of this event to the house, because it is a superb example of South Australia getting it right with tourism festivals and events. The Classic Adelaide Rally was an idea conceived by the former government—along with many other ideas following the loss of the Grand Prix—to revitalise and re-stimulate tourism activity within the state. It is a coming together of entrants from around the world with their classic rally cars to compete in an international standard competition around the streets of Adelaide and surrounding districts.

It has been run for several years, and it was originally set up by the Tourism Commission. In fact, Australian Major Events ran the event. I understand that AME had three or four people involved, and they hired a lot of outside people to get it up and running. Having got it up and running and having done an outstanding job getting it to a high calibre event, the SATC very shrewdly sought to outsource the event and engaged the services of Silverstone Events to take over the management and conduct of the rally.

I particularly commend the Executive Chairman (David Edwards) for his brilliant leadership not only in agreeing to take on the job of managing the event but in turning it into such a success—and, indeed, a success it has become. Last year, it managed to put together 135 entrants from around the world, interstate and South Australia. However, this year, the event saw 200 competitors join the fleet. It is understood that next year the target is to secure 250 entrants. The event is growing in stature and reputation and, indeed, it should. It was held this year from 16 to 20 October. It takes place over a number of days in that spring period when Adelaide has so much to offer the international and interstate visitor. This

year, day one was in the Murray Bridge area, starting from its base at the Hilton Adelaide.

The idea of starting these events in Victoria square and interconnecting with the Hilton Hotel is a good concept. It is the same concept we use for the Tour Down Under, and it is convenient for competitors, supervisors and the public. It is a great location to use as a hub for these events. The vehicles, of course, are secured overnight in the car park of the Central Market behind the Hilton Hotel. It is very convenient for everybody involved.

The first day to Murray Bridge was terrifically successful. There was a parade of the street cars, of course, in the period leading up to that. On day two, the Classic Adelaide Rally headed to the Barossa Hills and Barossa Valley, visiting places such as Gumeracha, Mount Pleasant, Tanunda and Williamstown. It was a splendid day, with beautiful weather, and was very challenging for the competitors. On day three, the Classic Adelaide Rally went to the Fleurieu Peninsula, visiting places such as Wickhams Hill, Willunga Hill, Myponga and the Victor Harbor Esplanade, where a lunch was held, and of course returning to Adelaide.

On day four, the Adelaide Hills came alive, with the event going through Basket Range, Macclesfield and Stafford Ridge. I particularly enjoyed this day because I raced in a serious racing car—a Mark 2 Jaguar—and it was an absolutely fantastic event to be involved in. The weather was splendid, and all the competitors pushed their cars to the limit.

I saw Macclesfield during the lunch break and met members of the local Lions Club, and people from the Adelaide Hills area who were involved in the event by operating stands and selling produce—doing business, if you like—as well as enjoying the festivities of the day. It was a terrific way for everybody to become involved.

On the following day, day five, the event again headed to the Hills and southern parts of the Adelaide district. It went to Montacute, Echunga, Strathalbyn, McLarens on the Lake, where a lunch was held, and Chapel Hill, coming back through Windy Point. During the course of the Classic Adelaide Rally, terrific exhibitions of the cars were held in Victoria Square and other places, so that enthusiasts and the general public could see these fabulous racing machines, talk to the drivers and get involved in the event.

I again commend the way in which Silverstone Events has picked up the cudgel with regard to this event, and also the way that the tourism commission and AME, after getting it going, have continued to provide support to Silverstone. The continued involvement of AME and the tourism commission in this event is vital to its future success because they act as a conduit between Silverstone and the other government agencies which are involved.

In particular, I commend the South Australia Police (SAPOL), which did an outstanding job helping to manage traffic and isolate the areas of contest. The vehicles transit between race segments each day at normal road speeds, obeying the speed limit. When they get to the entry of the race segment, which might be anything from two or three kilometres long to six or seven kilometres long, that area of road is completely and safely blocked off by the South Australian police. All entrances and approaches to that road are secured, the local people are notified, and considerable effort goes into ensuring that safety is paramount. The cars then race during that segment. There are still, of course, strict speed limits, and they are slightly in excess of the normal road speed limit, but to an agreed international standard. The

way in which the South Australian police cooperated to make this work is absolutely commendable.

Of course, the emergency services—the CFS and the SES—were out in force, in uniform in their vehicles, standing by for emergencies, along with the ambulance service, to respond should anything go wrong in the way of fire, injury or any other event that might require their brilliant volunteer services. All those agencies of government did an absolutely fabulous job and did South Australia proud. Without the involvement of AME, all that liaison, consultation and cooperation would be that much more difficult for Silverstone Events. So, AME, Belinda Dewhirst, all the staff of AME who were involved in the event and also Bill Spurr at the SATC should be given an enormous pat on the back for the way in which they helped Silverstone get this whole event over the line so successfully this year. It was, indeed, one of the most successful Classic Adelaide rallies on record.

That brings me to the subject of funding. I know, from my own time as minister, that there has been a substantial investment in the Classic Adelaide rally over the years, and that that investment remains certainly for this year and, I understand, for next year. I understand that it is quite a significant contribution; about \$175 000. It is vital that investment does not simply vanish. It is vital that investment is either maintained or, if it is to be slowly wound back as the event becomes more self-sustaining, that it is ratcheted down progressively over a period of five to 10 events, so that the event just does not suddenly flounder through a lack of adequate capital funding.

Silverstone has really taken on quite a bit of risk here. I understand that this year, as a consequence of the event just held, it is out of pocket. I understand that the event did not break even but that, in all likelihood, it will return a profit in future years. But, of course, that is very dependent on support being maintained by government. If these events are to be successful, they must be maintained and must continue to enjoy support from Australian Major Events. The \$175 000 commitment this year from AME was vital (and I understand that it is ratcheting down to \$150 000) but, of course, it pales when one looks at the \$1.5 million or so involved in running the whole event. I would really like to see (as would, I am sure, all of us in this house) the event continue to be a success and, certainly, we would like to see that the investment of \$150 000 in 2003 does not vanish thereafter.

The opposition calls on the government to continue funding the Classic Adelaide beyond 2003. The opposition understands that there are good reasons why, over time, that investment (we would hope) could be wound down, but we certainly hope that it does not vanish; rather, that it continues at either \$150 000 per annum (or not much less) in the years ahead, so that Silverstone still has a chance to maintain it as a viable event.

I want to turn to the sponsors of the event, because they also deserve credit for its success—and I am talking particularly about Adelaide City Council, which bent over backwards to cooperate with Silverstone to make it work. Another sponsor was P&O Nedlloyd, which arranged for many of the international cars to come to South Australia. I have mentioned the state government and SATC. Other sponsors were Peter Lehmann Wines from the Barossa; Bowden Printing; Shannons Insurance; the Hilton Hotel; Channel 10; Malaysia Airlines; the Advertiser; Mitsubishi; Coopers; BankSA; Gun and Davey; Bickfords; U-Park; Renniks and others. These sponsors are vital to the event. Without them, it simply would not happen. I suggest to those who may be considering

becoming new sponsors for the event that this is an absolutely fabulous way in which to get their brand out there on the streets of Adelaide and the surrounding areas.

Debate adjourned.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORTS

The SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 131 of the Local Government Act 1999, I lay on the table the annual reports for 2001-02 for Alexandrina Council and the Barossa Council.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:
By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)—

- Regulations under the following Act—
- Local Government—By-laws—
- District Council of Robe—
- No. 1—Permits and Penalties
- No. 2—Moveable Signs
- No. 3—Roads
- No. 4—Local Government Land
- No. 5—Dogs
- No. 6—Bird Scarers
- District Council of Yankalilla—
- No. 1—Permits and Penalties
- No. 2—Moveable Signs
- No. 3—Roads
- No. 4—Local Government Land
- No. 5—Dogs.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): I bring up the report of the committee on regulations under the Passenger Transport Act 1994 (No. 243 of 2001).

Report received.

Mr HANNA: In accordance with the preceding report, I advise that I no longer wish to proceed with Private Members Business, Bills/Committees/Regulations, Notice of Motion No. 13.

Mr Brindal interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Unley knows that if he wishes to hold the motion he has the prerogative right as a private member to put on his own notice. It is not necessary for him to regale the member for Mitchell by way of interjection.

QUESTION TIME

DROUGHT

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Premier advise the house whether the government has yet put in an application for exceptional circumstances funding to help South Australian farmers affected by drought, especially those in the north-east pastoral areas of the state?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I have an answer for the Leader of the Opposition. I can tell him that I have asked for the whole issue of drought relief to be placed on the agenda of the Council of Australian Governments, that is, the Premiers' Conference that is coming up in a couple of weeks

time. My view is that, following consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, we have made our commitment to the \$5 million that went towards drought relief. The whole procedure for securing commonwealth drought relief is unbelievably cumbersome—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —and unfair. It involves the demonstration of whether or not it is a once in a generation experience, and the circumstances are so cantilevered as to make it damn near impossible to secure it. I can assure the honourable member that I have great confidence in Bill Davies and other members of PIRSA who used to work for the Leader of the Opposition when he was a minister, and I wanted to see whether we could expedite the process. The truth of the matter is that, whilst we have made our allocation, as a nation we have to recognise that this is an exceptional circumstance nationally. Now that the states have shown the colour of their money it is important for the commonwealth to do likewise, and I will make sure the leader gets a briefing.

MUSIC HOUSE

Mr CAICA (Colton): I direct my question to the Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts. What has been the response to the news that Music House is in serious financial difficulty?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts): Earlier this week I informed the parliament that Music House had run out of money is on the verge of collapse. Yesterday in response to that the member for Waite asked whether the Premier or I had met or received a request to meet with Music House. I replied that neither the Premier nor I had received a request. In the grievance debate yesterday the member for Waite implied that my answer was incorrect. This morning I had my office ring the Chairman of Music House, Mr Steve Riley, to ask whether he knew of any request to the government to meet with Music House. He said:

No written request for a meeting was made to minister Hill or the government at all.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: My office then quoted to Mr Riley from a letter that he had sent to the Premier dated 13 May 2001 thanking the Premier for a government grant. This letter included a general invitation to the Premier to visit Music House at a convenient time. Mr Riley was asked whether he regarded this as a formal request for a meeting. He continued that he did not.

Mr Hamilton-Smith: You misled the house!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I rise on a point of order, sir. The honourable member has just accused the minister of misleading the house. That can only be done by substantive motion; he should withdraw.

The SPEAKER: I direct the member for Waite to withdraw.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Yesterday the minister stated very clearly that neither he nor the Premier—

Members interjecting:

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Very well; I withdraw it.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The member for Waite is obviously confused by the difference between an invitation and a request for a meeting. For example, when his party was in government I received an invitation to have dinner with the Queen at the Festival Centre. I did not interpret that to be a

request for a meeting with Her Majesty; it was an invitation to attend. The letter included a general invitation to the Premier to visit Music House at a time of his convenience. Mr Riley was asked by my office today whether he regarded this as a formal request for a meeting. He confirmed that he did not. Mr Riley also commented:

If I had formally asked for a meeting then I would have chased a response.

So, it is untrue to say that Music House made a request for a meeting with either the Premier or me. Yesterday the member for Waite also said that I had announced 'the slashing of funding to Music House'. That is simply wrong; there has been no budget cut to Music House whatsoever. Either the honourable member is seriously ill informed or he has deliberately misled this house. I know the member to be an honourable person, so I assume that he is seriously ill-informed. In either case, I invite the member for Waite to contact my office, and I will arrange a full briefing for him with officers of Arts SA and Treasury officials, if he would like, to go through funding for Music House. The only decision I have announced in relation to Music House is that the government will not bail it out.

Mr BRINDAL: I rise on a point of order, sir. The question, as I heard it, related to what has been the response. So far, I do not think the minister has addressed the substance of the question that is required. I ask you to rule on that matter, sir.

The SPEAKER: I do not share the member for Unley's perception. I believe the minister is responding to the question entirely appropriately.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The fact is that Music House has spent all its available funds three years ahead of schedule. That is why it is in dire financial straits. There has been no budget cut to Music House. The government is committed to a music industry that is live and local, Mr Speaker, as I know you are, and we will work with the industry to create new ways in which to develop an even more vibrant industry into the future.

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Davenport might like to browse through the standing orders for a minute or two, rather than interject, and see what devices are available to him to make his objections known.

FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTRE

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland): Will the Premier advise the house of the amount of funding that will be provided to the Minister for Administrative Services to appropriately administer the forensic science unit to address the backlog of DNA testing and the expected increase of sampling and testing; and will he advise the house when this funding will be made available?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier): I thank the honourable member for her question to the Premier on a matter of funding. As always, I will be more than pleased to get a detailed response for the honourable member at the earliest opportunity.

FIFA WORLD CUP, 2014

Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens): My question is directed to the Premier. What is the progress of Australia's World Cup football bid following the meeting with officials

of the world football governing body FIFA in Zurich last week?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): Some months ago, the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria announced that Australia would bid for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Members would be aware that the World Cup is a much bigger event than the Olympic Games in terms of economic impact and world media interest, and massively more in terms of television ratings. From memory, there are 2 004 country members of FIFA. More countries are members of FIFA than of the United Nations.

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

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I have been challenged by the Treasurer to name all members of FIFA. I can name some. Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England qualify as countries as part of FIFA. Individually they do not qualify to be members of the United Nations, but collectively they do as Great Britain. I thank the Treasurer for his interjection.

I have been asked to be on the working party for the 2014 World Cup, for reasons obvious to us all. I believe that we have a very real case. The 2006 World Cup will be held in Germany. The 2010 World Cup has not been individually allocated to a nation, but the FIFA board has said that it will be an African nation; the favourite is South Africa, although the possibility of a North African World Cup has not been ruled out; it may be Nigeria or even Egypt or Senegal. Therefore, 2014 becomes the first real opportunity for Australia to secure a World Cup.

Cities bid for Olympic Games. Sydney bid as a city for the Olympic Games, but no city can bid for the World Cup—only nations can bid for the World Cup, so if Sydney or Melbourne individually try to bid for the World Cup it cannot be achieved. It is important that this be a national effort. I am pleased to be on the working party and pleased that we have in South Australia Basil Scarcella who, apart from being the CEO of ETSA, is the only Australian member representing Oceania on the FIFA executive—I think he is Chairman of the audit committee of FIFA. We have to demonstrate to FIFA that we are capable as a nation of holding a World Cup, which of course we can because of our exemplary record in staging the best Olympic Games. We have world-class facilities in each of the states.

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Hindmarsh stadium is not big enough to host a World Cup game, and I am surprised that the honourable member even contemplates suggesting that. However, if we are successful in winning the bid for the World Cup, games will be held in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and, I imagine, Perth and elsewhere. About eight to 10 stadia will be required and I imagine that we are in a very strong position to win either the 2014 or 2018 World Cup. I have spoken to the Acting General Secretary of FIFA and also to Monsieur de Champagne, who is also known to members for his role in FIFA. They were very encouraging about Australia's chances. I was unable to meet with Sep Blatter, the international President of FIFA, because his father had passed away a couple of days before and he was attending his father's funeral. However, I will do that some time in future.

We have a very good case, but we must also do some things and we should apply to host the World FIFA Congress, which involves several thousand delegates, maybe in 2005. We should also consider applying to stage the Confederation's Cup in 2007 or, whilst there is a question mark over the future of the Confederation's Cup, maybe for the Under

20s World Cup or the Women's World Cup as a demonstration of our interest and sincerity in securing the 2014 World Cup.

The federal government has ordered an inquiry into Soccer Australia, and I support that inquiry. It is vitally important that soccer nationally cleans up its act. At the moment there needs to be a stronger national body at the centre and I hope we will see some resolution of that matter next year. We have until about 2008 to mount a case. I am pleased that the other premiers have asked me to be a negotiator and to kick off the process.

ELECTRICITY CONCESSIONS

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): My question is directed to the Minister for Energy. Does the government propose to provide pensioners and low income earners with any additional assistance with increased electricity bills from 1 January next year and, if so, what form will this additional assistance take?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier): The issue of concessions is such that we have brought down a budget this year—a good, responsible and financially prudent budget, unlike budgets in recent years.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Schubert may choose to absent himself from the house for the purposes of consultation, or otherwise come to order. The Deputy Premier.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I was reminding the house of the good quality of the budget brought down by this government. We are preparing the ground work for the next budget and any matters relating to the subject the honourable member referred to, if it is to be dealt with, will be dealt with in that budget.

EXPORTS

Mr RAU (Enfield): My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. What is the government's position on the Economic Development Board's issues paper on exports?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier): I thank the honourable member for his question, and I know as a fact that the honourable member is a diligent reader of all the reports coming from the Economic Development Board.

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: We can certainly arrange that.

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Well, if they have not been, I will undertake to ensure that that happens. I am more than happy to help my good friend the member for Davenport. I am in your corner, by the way, on the leadership stuff.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: You have got one there.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Economic Development Board has highlighted several key matters as pathfinder issues that they think are extremely important for the state. Getting these issues right will help provide a path for the state on which we can navigate our future prosperity. Discussion papers on the following issues have been, and are continuing to be, released over a number of weeks: government efficiency, exports, population, higher education and the soon to be released paper on finance.

The paper on export capability was released on 7 November this year. The discussion paper highlights that,

for a small economy such as South Australia with less than adequate growth in domestic demand, exports are clearly the key to achieving sustained economic growth. I have to say, Mr Speaker, that the state's recent export growth has been impressive, and the former government can take credit for its role in that. It can take some credit for that, because we are a generous government and are not a government that wants to take credit for work that is not necessarily our own.

Notwithstanding that, high volume of grain and high prices for grain and other rural produce have helped but, clearly, the very strong exports, particularly in the automotive and manufacturing sector, have been outstanding. The reality is that, when you have a look at the exports from our state, they are, unfortunately, from too small a number of businesses that have both the capacity and the drive to succeed in the export market.

The Economic Development Board is saying to the community that we just cannot rely on a small number of export-capable companies to continually drive our export performance. We need to broaden the export base and, in particular, bring a lot of small to medium-sized enterprises up to export capability. The Economic Development Board proposes to develop a detailed export strategy for South Australia that will be characterised by the following elements: industry leadership and commitment in implementation of export development initiatives; a more highly focused targeting of key export and potential export industries and export markets; coaching of small, non-export ready businesses to build export capability, including mentoring by successful exporters; promotion of collaboration between firms through industry clusters; and enlisting increased efforts by the commonwealth to lower trade barriers to target markets.

The paper has been made available to a wide range of organisations and individuals for comment over the next few months. I understand that the opposition have the papers but, if they have not been as widely distributed as I would have thought, I certainly undertake to ensure that that happens. The government welcomes the paper on export capability and looks forward to public comment on the issues within that paper over the weeks ahead. We will continue to keep the house and the community updated on further reports from the Economic Development Board.

SCHOOLIES WEEK

Ms BREUER (Giles): My question is directed to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. Does the minister have a message to young people who are about to complete year 12 and begin celebrating the end of their schooldays, particularly during schoolies week?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): Yes, as it happens, I do. Tomorrow the last SSABSA year 12 examination will be conducted, and this will draw to a close the school life of many young people. I would like to congratulate all year 12 students for the hard work they have put in not only this year but also, of course, over the 12 or so years of their school career. Now is the time to celebrate and I would encourage everyone to celebrate with their friends. However, I encourage the young people of South Australia to celebrate responsibly and safely. In the past some horrific accidents and incidents have occurred involving young people celebrating their end of school years, with consequences that can remain with those people for the

rest of their life. So, I do urge young South Australians to think about the consequences of their actions at this time.

Brochures developed by the Office of the Liquor and Gaming Commissioner in cooperation with my department about the legal responsibilities of parents regarding teenage parties and alcohol have been distributed to each secondary school. Young people have responsibilities as well and, although I do understand that the words of adults sometimes do not always have the impact on young people that we would wish, it is important that young people do not waste their hard work over the past year with a reckless act.

Another group of people to whom I want to offer my sincere appreciation on behalf of young people—and, just as importantly, on behalf of our community—is the teachers, who have worked tirelessly to assist their students. Without the dedicated and inspirational effort of many teachers and support staff, a lot of young students would not be completing year 12 this year. While it is the government's wish that all young people complete their schooling, the work and effort provided by our teachers and support staff to those who are completing their exams this week should be acknowledged and our appreciation shown for a job well done.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): My question is directed to the Minister for Energy. Does the minister agree with the South Australian Council on the Ageing that the supply charge for electricity, proposed at \$31.05 from 1 January 2003 for all householders, disproportionately disadvantages pensioners and low income earners and that the charge should be 'removed or reduced to a minimum'? On 22 October this year, the South Australian Council on the Ageing submitted this view to the Essential Services Commission in response to a call for submissions on Labor's recently announced 32 per cent electricity price increase. The South Australian Council on the Ageing is a peak body representing the interests of older South Australians and has over 20 000 individual members in addition to some 200 seniors organisation members.

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): The immediate interjection from the member for MacKillop, whose only great achievement in this place has been to move from one pillar to the other, is that we do not care. Well, we do care. It was not we who sold off the assets or caused this problem. Once again, the member for Bright's question has a fundamental dishonesty in it: he is calling it Labor's price increase. Everyone in the community knows whose price rise this is; everyone knows that at the last round of contestability under the previous government—this opposition—the average price rise was 35 per cent for businesses, including government sites. If you took out the government sites, the average price rise was 45 per cent. So, let us just clear that up straightaway. As I have said before on this issue of electricity pricing, the opposition is like the bloke who rings the local council to complain that his own dog is barking. It is a disgrace.

I am not happy about the price increase that will be introduced on 1 January, but let me also make this plain: I do not make the decisions on tariffs: the Essential Services Commission does. The opposition had an opportunity to make a submission to them, and when it did it was a laughing stock. It was shown to be a laughing stock by the Independent

Regulator, and I really think that members opposite should consider the beam in their own eye.

ENERGY CONSUMERS COUNCIL

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): I direct my question to the Minister for Energy. Will the Energy Consumers Council, to be chaired by Professor Richard Blandey and which will have its first meeting next week, consider the issue of assistance to low income earners, or is this council to be of no influence and no value?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): There is a bit of a split personality about this council. Apparently, it is so important that it should have been set up long ago, but it will not be of any use once we set it up. We are talking about appointing an independent who is already on radio making criticisms of a whole range of issues, including members opposite. He is the professor who told them that, if they privatised ETSA, this is what would happen. He is the person they vilified. He will—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I have explained this before. I will not go to great lengths, because I am sure there is something useful they will eventually get to. The council is set up to give high level policy advice to the government. It will do that. A consumer council has been set up under the Electricity Act that has been giving advice on other matters throughout this process. We are very pleased to have Professor Blandey head the council. We believe that the solution to our problems relies on good planning and good policy, and that council will assist us in developing that policy.

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): I direct my question to the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education. What was the success of the South Australian finalists at the recent Australian Training Awards?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism): I thank the member for Florey, who shows a keen interest in apprentices and training. A South Australian has been named runner-up to the national Apprenticeships Apprentice of the Year, and a local business has taken out a key industry award at the Australian Training Awards, which I attended in Sydney last week. Both were winners at the South Australian training awards and went on to represent the state in the national finals. Timothy Carpenter, a gun-hand plumber from Blackwood, received his award and a cash prize of \$2 500 in the New Apprenticeships Apprentice of the Year category. He adds this award to a string of achievements, including being named a regional and national winner for Workskills 2000, a fourth at the international Worldskills Competition 2001 and the Master Plumbers of Australia and the Trainee and Apprentice Placement Service's Most Outstanding Apprentice Over Four Years to 2001.

Timothy completed his apprenticeship with group training company Trainee and Apprentice Placement Service Inc. and attended the Regency Institute of TAFE. Schefenacker Vision Systems Australia Pty Ltd, an international leader in the design and manufacture of vision systems for the automotive industry, was also honoured with the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Industries Award. This follows its CIBM award for business in South Australia only two weeks ago.

Schefenacker Vision Systems has been recognised for its commitment to vocational education and training, in its offering of a comprehensive range of training programs for its 679 staff. The Australian awards are hosted by the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA). It recognises Australia's best training providers, students and enterprises, and acknowledges their contribution to vocational education and training and skills development in the workplace.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REVIEW

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is directed to the Minister for Emergency Services. Given that the government has been in office for eight months and the minister has only just made an announcement about doing a review into the structure of emergency services, why has the government only given parties with an interest in emergency services approximately three weeks to put submissions to the working group, and will the minister agree to give them further time? I have had several volunteers from emergency services contact me and call to see me to express their concerns about the tight time line on review of emergency services submissions.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Emergency Services): I must say that at least the member for Mawson shows courage, getting up to ask me a question about the handling of the budget with respect to emergency services. The reason why we are trying to carry out this review in that time frame, and the reason why it started late, was that we spent the first five or six months trying to fix up the absolute disaster in emergency services—

An honourable member: Rubbish!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: The member said 'rubbish', but another person will come back with a report to this place in due course that they will not like. That is my tip. It will be the Auditor-General, who is looking at the management of emergency services budgets. I look forward to the member for Mawson asking me a question about that report. The reason why we are doing it in as fast a timetable as possible is that we inherited a situation where the CFS budget was in permanent crisis. For three years in a row, the Country Fire Service spent some \$3 million—with the apparent acquiescence of the previous minister—of its capital budget on recurrent expenditure. How far was it going to go before they were selling fire trucks to pay for their recurrent funding? That was the situation that we inherited.

The review will be carried out as quickly as possible, because we know that we inherited a bloody awful situation. We want it done quickly so that money that is being wasted is addressed at the coalface for the volunteers who deserve it. I am happy to answer any questions that the member for Mawson has about emergency services budgets any time he is silly enough to ask one.

EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is again directed to the Minister for Emergency Services.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Exactly. Mr Speaker, will the minister agree to make copies of the submissions to the emergency services working group and the subsequent report from the group available to the opposition, and will the minister also agree to allow the working group to brief me,

as shadow minister for emergency services, after it has completed the report and given you a copy?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Don't hold your breath.

The SPEAKER: Can I advise the member for Mawson to begin with that I do not expect a copy of the report. But I will invite the minister to answer those elements of the question that were directed to him.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Emergency Services): Enormous hide once again! The member's interjection was, 'Don't hold your breath.' We delivered a report and set out the terms of reference and tabled it in this place, and we did it all entirely openly. We appointed the former Liberal treasurer, Stephen Baker, to it, and somehow they have a difficulty with that. The sheer hide of these people! With respect to the member's question, I will find out who has made submissions, and I will consider all those matters and provide an answer to the house. But I will say this: we will always err on the side of openness.

HILLS FACE ZONE

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): Mr Speaker—
Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Finniss is a long way from Norwood. The member for Norwood has the call.

Ms CICCARELLO: My question is directed to the Minister for Urban Development and Planning. How will the government honour Labor's pre-election commitment to protect the hills face zone, and what steps have been taken by the government to ensure the safety of this important visual landscape character to Adelaide?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Urban Development and Planning): The hills face zone is a crucially important part of this state. Obviously, it stretches some 90 kilometres, from Sellicks Beach in the south to Gawler in the north, but it is probably better known—at least, in popular political terms—as being the Adelaide hills face. Certainly, along that stretch, an amazing number of complex issues are involved, and we made a very clear commitment at the last election that we would take steps to protect that zone. We have announced a review that will look into issues of the protection of the zone. We thought of adopting the approach of the former government in its dying days of cobbling together a plan to get the councils together. But, of course, it fell apart.

Under political pressure, the former government thought that it might cobble together something to protect the hills face zone. It ended in horror, as one would expect a cobbled together proposal would end. We are serious about getting this right, so we are undertaking a review. It will be chaired by the Hon. Terry Groom, a former minister in this place; a well respected member of this place and one who has been well received as being able to undertake a careful review of each of the important issues. The hills face zone—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Members opposite are very touchy about this, because they know that this was a crucially important failure of their last government. They realise that, when we committed to doing something about protecting the hills face zone, people came to us in droves because they knew they could not trust those opposite with the custody of the hills face zone. We have been asked by the people of the state to protect the zone, and we will. The review will undertake a number of things. First, it will involve itself in understanding the various land use conflicts

that exist in the zone. It is an unusually sensitive catchment area which at the same time has a number of strange features in that it actually has residential area, it has farming and it has a range of uses, which one would find quite inconsistent with the fact that it is an important visual aspect of the city and that it is a crucial water catchment area. That is not to say that there are not very complicated issues. It is also true to say that, because it covers so many councils with different ambitions for their area, that raises another element of complexity.

We are confident that with his report Mr Groom will hand down a number of recommendations directed not only at policy and planning issues to protect the zone but also at legislative options. We have committed to legislative options to enshrine this important area of the state in something that simply cannot be unravelled, and we will offer to the people of South Australia a layer of protection for this backdrop to our city which is secure.

WATER SUPPLY, EYRE PENINSULA

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Will the Minister for Government Enterprises advise the house of the true water situation on Eyre Peninsula? I have received disturbing information that a stock agent at Kimba has been instructed to reduce stock numbers due to insufficient infrastructure, yet farmers have been asked not to bring stock in and even to de-stock, which would indicate a lack of water, not infrastructure. Farmers on Eyre Peninsula have been in the enviable position of having good stock feed available despite the drought. Stock levels are down to less than half of what they were many years ago and infrastructure is not an issue. However, farmers are being accused of being opportunistic and speculating, because they are following good business practices and agisting or buying more stock. I also refer to an article in the *Advertiser* of 14 November 2002 headed 'Save our stock', the Deputy Prime Minister's cry to the nation, in which he states that preserving the country's core breeding stock during the current drought has become a matter of national importance.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I thank the member for Penfold for a serious question on a serious topic.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Flinders.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: The member for Flinders.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: You like that word 'Penfold', don't you!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I do like the word 'Penfold'. Turning water into wine: now, that's a serious business! This is a serious business. I note that the member for Flinders treats it seriously but the would-be leader does not; he is not interested. I am not surprised, because even the member for Flinders would have to acknowledge that this government has done more for water on Eyre Peninsula in eight or nine months than the previous government did in eight years, in our commitment to a desalination plant on the Todd River.

Mr Brindal interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: The member for Unley is saying 'rubbish', but I see that the decent, honest and respectable member for Flinders is not shaking her head. In very recent days I have been apprised of some very disturbing information in regard to water resources on Eyre Peninsula. Of course, the long-term solution will be provided with the infrastructure and the commitment that we have made, but I have been advised and am taking further advice about the fact

that water consumption levels in rural areas are 19 per cent higher than estimates. It does appear that one of the answers may be that people have moved extra stock there, either because of the availability of feed or for agistment from drought areas. This is a serious problem that we will have to address because, until we put in place the infrastructure to which we are committed, the condition of the water resource and extractions upon the basin will continue to be extreme. You raise a serious question. I expect to be able to make an announcement about this some time this week.

HEALTH REVIEW

Ms RANKINE (Wright): I direct my question to the Minister for Health. What was the response to the call for submissions from the public by the Generational Review of Health Services, and how is the work of the review progressing?

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I thank the honourable member for her question and her interest in the rebuilding of South Australia's health services and system. The generational review received over 320 written submissions—not quite as many as the dog and cat review—in response to a public call for submissions over July and August. This demonstrates a high level of community interest in the future of our health services. Submissions came from people working in the public and private sectors, academia, members of the public themselves and professional associations.

I acknowledge that two submissions came from members in this house: my ministerial colleague the Minister for Urban Development and Planning and also a newly elected member from the other side of the house, the member for Kavel. Both those members submitted very valued submissions to the review. In fact, I know that at least one of the aspects of the member for Kavel's submission has already been fixed and dealt with. I must say, however, that I am disappointed that the shadow minister has rejected invitations from the chairman of the review and me to make a submission and a positive contribution to the reform of our health system—reform that everybody agrees is urgent.

In July, the review established five strategic task groups to consider options for health care models: community participation; governance; research, training and information technology; telecommunications; and capital. These groups developed discussion papers which I mentioned yesterday and which focus on key strategic issues raised in their deliberations, and these papers are now being used in over 50 public consultations and community meetings being held across metropolitan and country areas of South Australia. I must say again that details of all submissions and the public consultation meetings are open to all interested people and are on the review's web site.

HINDMARSH RESERVOIR

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Will the Minister for Government Enterprises give an assurance that the water in the now disused Hindmarsh reservoir on the Fleurieu Peninsula will be used to maximum benefit to assist local farmers affected by the drought, rather than allowing the reservoir to be emptied into the Hindmarsh River over the next few months; and will the minister insist that SA Water consult with the local community on how to use that water? Until recently, the

Hindmarsh reservoir was used to supply the southern Fleurieu region. Now it is full but entirely off-line from the main water supply. Eventually, it will be used for effluent from the new Victor Harbor treatment works. Two weeks ago SA Water opened the reservoir valve and a large amount of water was just run into the Hindmarsh River for more than a day. Local residents, who have been very concerned, have asked that the water be available to assist those affected by the drought and that there be consultation as to how that should occur.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): Let me start by saying that the concerns of the member for Finnis and deputy leader about his local residents and water use from the Hindmarsh reservoir must be of doubtful moment to him, because I have not been approached by him or any of the residents. I would think that if the honourable member was genuinely serious—and he has approached me before on other matters—he knows that, if he approaches me, I would treat his approaches on their merits. I have to ask what is—

The SPEAKER: Order! I have to tell the minister that he must not imply that improper motive is the reason for the question's being asked. The minister needs to know that all members are entitled to approach ministers during question time for answers to questions that may vex them. I ask the minister to address himself to the question, rather than the motives the member for Finnis may have or may not have in his speculative appraisal of his reasons for asking the question.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I will not reflect upon the motives but, rather, upon the wisdom of whether the best approach, if there is a better use for the Hindmarsh Dam water, is to ask me a question at question time. Perhaps a better approach might have been to raise the issue with me. Just before coming in here today, I spoke to the member for Finnis about another request he made of me for a photocopier for one of his local neighbourhood watches, which I have referred on for further action. If the honourable member is really interested in getting the water, maybe he should do it that way. I am not imputing improper motives, Mr Speaker, but I suggest that might be a wiser course—if he is seriously interested in the matter.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): My question is directed to the Minister for Consumers Affairs. With the annual Christmas shopping rush just around the corner, what steps is the government taking to ensure that traders in this state are complying with South Australia's consumer laws?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Minister for Consumer Affairs): The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs is taking a lead role to protect shoppers as they ramp up their spending for the busy festive season. Its officers have already been inspecting products on the market to ensure they comply with safety standards. As a result of focusing on children's toys, South Australian inspectors identified a small folding chair that posed an unnecessary risk of jamming children's fingers. I am pleased to report that the local chain store selling the chair has acted responsibly by voluntarily withdrawing it from sale. Consumers can be assured that similar monitoring will continue in a bid to identify any product which may pose a threat to our children.

Consumers Affairs officers are also about to target general retailers in all major shopping precincts as part of the pre-Christmas program. They will reinforce refund obligations, warranty rights, lay-by purchase regulations, and the need for fairness in advertising. Stores that refuse to abide by the Fair Trading Act when it comes to these matters can consider themselves warned. These initiatives will complement an ongoing statewide education and monitoring program which has resulted in visits to more than 2 000 traders since July 2001, keeping an eye on practices. Retail premises, supermarket price scanners, hotel spirit measures and licensed traders are regularly assessed for compliance with product safety and fair trading laws.

Currently, OCBA aims to resolve potential problems at an industry level before they surface in the retail market. For example, before summer officers visit pool installers and airconditioning retailers and specialists to ensure compliance with fair trading laws. Consumer Affairs officers have recently attended a number of expos to monitor advertising and trading conduct. Expos and field days have a high concentration of operators at one location, thereby allowing a greater number of contacts to be made. This approach has been particularly resource effective for regional officers.

WATER, POTABLE STANDARDS

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): My question is directed to the Minister for Government Enterprises. In view of the minister's reply to my colleague the member for Finnis, when will he give me the answer to the question I asked his office on the World Health Organisation standards for potable water? Some weeks ago I and my office rang the Centre for Water Quality, a subsidiary of SA Water—an independent corporation. I simply asked what the World Health Organisation's standards were for potable water and was told I would get an answer. Several days later I rang back and was again told I would get an answer. A couple of days later again I rang and was told that the minister's office was handling it. Since then I have heard nothing.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): For the benefit of the member for Unley, I signed the letter today.

ROADS, MOUNT BARKER

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): Will the Minister for Transport advise the house what action is being taken to address the issue of speeding motorists, particularly motorbike riders on the Mount Barker Road at Leawood Gardens? A local residents group has been formed to tackle the issue of organised motorcycle and car races being held on the old freeway between Devil's Elbow and Eagle on the Hill. Residents claim that drag racing occurs regularly, particularly on weekends, that there is a serious noise problem and, most importantly, that dangerous driving may lead to a serious accident. The police have been called on a number of occasions, as the minister is aware, and the group has met with a Department of Transport officer and senior police. Last week I wrote to the minister concerning this issue, but the residents advise that this is now a much more serious situation, and I seek some response.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport): I thank the member for Bragg for her question and I am

delighted to have a question of this importance. The member would be aware that we have a comprehensive piece of legislation before the parliament and I cannot comment on it, but that will go a long way to highlighting some of the issues the member for Bragg brings before the house. It involves a combination of areas that need to be addressed.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: The honourable member has asked a very important question: please pay her the courtesy she deserves. She is a very important member on your side of the house—one of the leadership aspirants, as you know, member for Mawson.

The SPEAKER: Order! In the first instance the minister must not respond to interjections and, secondly, I am not on either side of the house. Thirdly, the member for Mawson may fancy himself as attractive, but may I remind him that he is nothing like the member for Bragg. The minister.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: As I was saying—and I apologise for responding to the interjection from the member for Mawson and I will not do so again—the honourable member does highlight a very serious issue and, as she has drawn to the attention of the house, a combination of factors are involved here. There are the police, and that is obviously operational, but there are also the specific issues that she talks about in relation to speeding and transport. I presume the letter was to me.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: I will look at that correspondence. Incidentally, at the last meeting I had in the Garden Room you had eight votes on the white board. You were level with, I think, the member for Davenport. The member for Finnis was on four and two of his were undecided and they were pointing towards you—which I guess makes you the new favourite.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable the minister, it is entirely improper to make books in parliament!

FIREWORKS

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): My question is directed to the Minister for Industrial Relations, as I wanted to hear more from him. Have there been any developments in his efforts to persuade the federal government to assist the states and territories to enforce safety-based restrictions on fireworks?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Industrial Relations): I thank the member for Mitchell for his question and his ongoing interest in this area.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: This happens to be true! I do not know why you are laughing.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: I am very pleased to advise the house that the federal government has agreed to assist the states and territories in monitoring the importation of fireworks. South Australia, along with most other states and territories, has been urging the commonwealth to assist us in monitoring the importation of fireworks to ensure that illegal fireworks shipments are detected.

Regulatory authorities believe that considerable quantities of fireworks enter South Australia and other parts of the country undetected, simply because the regulator is not notified of imports that customs may be aware of. In relation to one South Australian importer, this amounted to 58 tonnes of fireworks over a relatively short period of time.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: Well, you can say it either way. Scrutiny at the first point of entry allows the regulator to inspect and track the shipments of fireworks to ensure that they are correctly classified, and to ensure that quality control tests are arranged. It also significantly increases the chances of detecting illegal fireworks.

A recent fireworks explosion in Western Australia involved damage to 35 houses. Although it did not involve illegally imported fireworks, the explosion dramatically illustrated the extremely hazardous nature of fireworks. Had this explosion occurred in a more densely populated area, the consequences could easily have been catastrophic. The previous government introduced regulations to control fireworks. Now that federal support has been gained in monitoring imports, this government can ensure that these systems of regulation are effective and have the maximum impact. This is part of our ongoing commitment to protecting public safety and, in particular, children's safety. I thank the member for Mitchell and the member for Torrens.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): My question is directed to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. Will the minister guarantee that those schools in my electorate that have been recategorised in terms of the index of disadvantaged schools will not lose funding vital for the continuation of special education and learning programs in 2003? I asked a question of the minister several weeks ago concerning the index of disadvantaged schools. At the end of question time, the minister made a ministerial statement advising that no schools identified in my electorate would lose their school counsellor position. However, the issue of the effects on special education and learning programs was not addressed. I am advised that one of the schools is anticipating a reduction of \$40 000 in its budget as a direct result of this recategorisation—moneys previously provided to deliver special education and learning programs to students.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services): Mr Speaker, I think I have now stated three times what will happen for funding of all schools in 2003. In addition to that, in response to a question from the honourable member previously, I gave him that information again. For 2003, schools will get the same amount of money that they got in their budget. For those that are locally managed it is called a global budget, and for others it is the money that is put into their school accounts. Schools will get the same amount of money they received in 2002 except that, as always, it is adjusted for the number of enrolments. Therefore, if enrolments go up they get much more money; if enrolments go down, I remind the house that staffing is based on the number of students. That is the normal process: adjustments are made according to the number of students. They get the same amount of money, adjusted for the number of enrolments and adjusted also for inflationary factors. Those inflationary factors are things such as the 4.5 per cent salary increase awarded in the recent enterprise agreement. So, it is the same amount of money as in 2002, adjusted for those factors. On top of that, they get those parts of additional funding announced in July in the state budget—and there were many—that are funded to schools through their local budgets. If schools are entitled, for instance, to extra junior primary teachers, they get those; if they are entitled to extra

primary school counselling resources, they get those as well; if they are entitled to extra SSO hours, they get that entitlement.

Every primary school in the state gets an increased industrial entitlement of SSO hours, in addition to what they received this year. For example, if a school has the same number of enrolments, it will get more money next year—at least, not less money. That applies to the honourable member's electorate; it applies to all the schools in our electorates. That is what is happening. Significant additional moneys—something exceeding \$50 million extra above inflation—will be going into schools next year.

I hope that the honourable member has spoken to his school recently and is not going on a wrong perception they may have had several months ago. If it is the case that he made a call to his school today and there was a wrong perception, I ask the honourable member to let me know and I will ensure that the school is contacted and it is explained to them. It is my understanding that schools have received their global budgets and that all the schools in his electorate are locally managed schools.

Mr Goldsworthy: The vast majority of them.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: It is my understanding that they have all received their global budgets for next year, so they should be aware of that. If that is not the case, I ask the honourable member to come and see me privately and I will make sure that any misunderstanding is clarified.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The house will note grievances.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

SCHOOLS, HACKHAM SOUTH

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I want to talk about a school that is doing very well, and has been doing well for many years, in spite of the cuts that are now starting to appear, as we have just heard the minister say. We will watch that closely, because the former Liberal government put enormous resources into schools. There is still a lot more to be done, and one thing we will not stand for is a government which said that it would continue to grow education but which now appears to have cracks in its policies in this respect. As the budgets come out, we are seeing funding cuts to these schools.

I want to talk about the Hackham South Primary School CPC-7, and I refer to that school's 21st Anniversary Year Book and the 21st birthday celebrations at the school. I thank the teachers, etc., who were the driving force behind the production of this 21-year history of the school. I refer to Robyn Ashman, Bev Machin, Bronwyn Andrews and Sarah McClure and also Ana and Gary Tate, and I thank them for their efforts in putting together a document of which the whole district is proud. It will be a great record for all students who have attended the Hackham South school over the last 20 years.

Ever since I have been the member for Mawson, looking after and working with the Hackham South Primary School, I have always been impressed by the great initiatives that it has put forward to provide special learning opportunities for young people. Its Aboriginal education learning program is as good as one would find anywhere in this state or Australia. It builds up good empathy with its students, encouraging them to be caring and sharing. It works on mentor support.

It also has a great resource centre that is a credit to many of the educators, the school council chairs, the school counselors and the SSOs who have been in that school for more than 21 years.

I know why Hackham South Primary School has been such a success over this period. When you look at the book from the beginning, you see people like Mrs Olive Reader, who has now retired to Willunga and is involved in the arts but who was one of the foundation teachers there. Given the quality and calibre of people teaching there from the beginning, it is no wonder that the school is delivering good outcomes.

I also want to commend the way that the school teaches a language other than English. It is so important. As we become more of a global economy, people will need at least one other language to be able to capitalise on their education when it comes to jobs. I have attended the school on many occasions at SRC presentations, and it gives me a great deal of pride as the local member to be able to hand over the badges to these young people who, as I say to them, are performing roles similar to what we do in the parliament. I stress to them the importance of their role in ensuring that they show good leadership and help develop further opportunities for their fellow students in the school. I commend the teaching staff and the school council also for the way that they work with and listen to the ideas of the young people.

As I said earlier, the school's Aboriginal education and the Aboriginal cultural week it has each year are good. Physical education is another of the focuses there, and it is a feature in this report. One of the things we clearly note today—particularly with the advent of information technology—is that it is important that we get physical education back into our schools. When the Liberal government was in office, we were certainly pushing in that direction. I am glad to see that Hackham South Primary School has seen that as a focus and as of importance.

The child-parent centre is a good concept. Having a child-parent centre going through to year 7 allows for a great transition from a young person in preschool heading into their schooling career. I also commend the school for the arts and the environment subjects that it has undertaken over the years.

Given the quality of the anniversary year book of this school, the leadership shown by Principal Keith Kuhlmann, the dedication of the teachers and the council's positive approach to try to improve the school, Hackham South Primary School will continue to deliver good opportunities to students for more than another 21 years. I commend the hard work of all the volunteers who put this book together, and I look forward to continuing to support this important school.

NOARLUNGA TOWARDS A SAFE COMMUNITY

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): I am happy to have this opportunity to add my congratulations to those of the member for Mawson for the community at the Hackham South Primary School in attaining 21 years of age. That school has never been in my electorate, but I have had the pleasure of responding to its invitation to address its annual general meeting, particularly on the topic of absenteeism among primary schoolchildren, when some work was being done on that topic from my office. I have met a number of the staff at various community fora, and they are dedicated to providing excellence in educational outcomes that are relevant to the

families of their community. I am happy to add my congratulations on its attainment of 21 years of age.

However, I rise today to talk about another achievement of the south, the Noarlunga Towards a Safe Community program, and its recent review, as a member of the World Health Organisation Safe Communities Network, by Dr Bo Henricson from the Carolinska Institute in Sweden. I was very pleased to be able to attend a function recently to celebrate Dr Henricson's very positive review of the Noarlunga Towards a Safe Community program. I was particularly pleased that Minister Stevens attended and announced a grant of \$60 000 to assist this amazing organisation to continue its excellent work.

The City of Onkaparinga, through Noarlunga Towards a Safe Community, is a member of the World Health Organisation International Safe Communities Network. Membership was awarded in 1996, and the program is sponsored by the regional health service, Noarlunga Health Services. The program includes five priority areas of home safety, workplace safety, personal safety, recreational safety and community safety. Each of these program areas has supported a highly innovative and practical program at some time over the last few years. For instance, in the workplace safety program, an eye injury program has originated out of the observation that Noarlunga Health Services had a disproportionate number of attendances for eye injuries. When an analysis of those figures was carried out, it was identified that these often came from small businesses in the area. So, it was determined, as part of the Noarlunga Towards a Safe Community program, to develop a way in which to work with local small businesses on the importance of eye safety programs. This was a highly practical and highly successful program, which has had measurable outcomes in relation to the decrease in the number of eye injuries.

In the home safety area, there is a program called Be Safe—Prevent Falls at Home, which allows people aged over 55 to receive a visit from someone who can assess their home and give them an idea of improvements that can be made to prevent falls. We know that, in the elderly (and I am in no way suggesting that those over 55 are in fact elderly), as people become much older than 55 and become frail, a fall can have very severe consequences. Part of that Be Safe—Prevent Falls at Home program includes a Balance Education Workshop, which people can attend. There is a Safe Schools project, which assists school children to identify hazards in the areas around their schools and involves them in writing to the relevant authorities to ask for these hazards to be rectified. Another important program is the Keep Safe and Stay Cool youth peer education program which, using peer educators, assists young people to develop healthy relationships which do not include violence in the community, and to model effective ways in which to interact with each other and resolve difficulties. There is at the moment an international partnership program on eye safety, and I hope to have the pleasure of informing the house more about that on another occasion.

FESTIVAL CENTRE CAR PARK

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I want to continue to make some comments in relation to the inalienable right of this parliament to use the car park at the back of this building. There should be no misunderstanding about the history of this car park. If anyone tries to rewrite what took place and what are the rights of this parliament, they will see that the facts

are very clear. I was a member of the old Joint Parliamentary Service Committee some years ago, so I have some understanding of the facts of this matter. There are those who would try to chisel out parliamentarians' rights, and the parliament's right, to exercise at all times the use of a certain section of that building.

The clear understanding and agreement was that, because the parliament ceded some of its land to that organisation when that car park and plaza were constructed, it would have an unfettered right to use that facility. There was no consideration that the parliament should pay any rent, any surcharge, or have any other encumbrance placed upon it. I think it is important, as the only person left in this place from when it was constructed, that this matter be cleared up once and for all. I am aware that from time to time there are those who occupy offices on the other side of the car park who seem to lose sight of the correct situation in this matter.

I want it clearly understood that, because the parliament ceded what used to be the old stable car park, that belongs to the parliament and it has a right to use that car park at any time, day or night, and to leave vehicles there for safety reasons as it sees fit. It is not a privilege that it should not have or that someone should write about: it is a part of an agreement that was entered into in good faith. There was no ambiguity in it, and anyone who tries to make out that it is anything but that is misleading the public and, in my view, acting contrary to the agreement and should not be tolerated.

Let me come to another topic. I noted today going down King William Street, that nice thoroughfare which is perhaps the main thoroughfare in the city of Adelaide, that pink banners have suddenly appeared on all the light poles, and I wondered what the purpose of this exercise is. I took a close look at them and, much to my horror, I see that they are advocating and promoting a cultural festival for gays and lesbians. Goodness me, Mr Speaker, what is the country coming to! Do we have to advocate this sort of activity? Do we not have better things on which to spend the taxes that people have worked so hard to provide to the government? The banners are even coloured pink! In my view, it is worse than visual pollution.

Surely, we have better things to adorn the City of Adelaide—the city of churches, of culture. Do we not have better things to adorn this wonderful city with? We certainly have better things to spend taxpayers' money on. It was drawn to my attention, so I took a closer look, and all I can say is that I wonder what we are going to promote next. I think that this is not only unfortunate, unnecessary and unwise, but contrary to the best interests. I have to say that, not only was I surprised but rather disappointed and amazed.

MANAGING WELL

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): Earlier this week it was my privilege, through your good offices, sir, to host a very special dinner here at Parliament House. I was honoured to welcome the indigenous participants of Managing Well, a professional development project for managers and board members of indigenous organisations. The Department of Human Services funds a number of community-based indigenous organisations throughout South Australia to deliver programs and services for families, children, young people and community support and infrastructure. Individual organisations may deliver one or a number of these services, necessitating a high level of organisational and management

capacity for both coordinators and management boards and committees.

Managers and directors of indigenous organisations face complex issues, necessitating highly developed leadership, management and organisational development skills. These issues pose significant challenges for managers wishing to access relevant professional development, skills training and vocational or higher education learning, whilst coping with demanding professional, community and personal pressures. Prior extensive consultation took place with managers and directors of some of these organisations, who identified the following training and development needs: cultural planning, organisational development, management skills enhancement and career development.

Following these consultations, the project team developed a range of services that responded directly to the stated training needs of indigenous and non-indigenous managers.

Managing Well:

- provided a capacity building program for managers and directors of 10 DHS-funded indigenous organisations, which responded to the training needs identified by indigenous managers;
- adopted DHS priorities for reconciliation and organisational best practices;
- incorporated the Iga Warta principles in relation to all aspects of its planning and delivery;
- worked within a framework of a statewide Best Practice in Aboriginal Management plan and agreed standards of practice;
- provided for wider and ongoing application within the indigenous management field; and
- comprehensively documented and evaluated the project and partnership process.

The project offers culturally appropriate and customised professional development and training for 10 participating organisations through University SA or other brokered training providers. Managing Well offered, through workshops and seminars, one-to-one assistance with training plans, work pairing and mentoring programs and comprehensive support, research and advice regarding best practice indigenous management and service delivery. It provided opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous managers to network, and gave access to resources such as research assistance, training manuals, books, videos, articles and conference details. It also facilitated entry into formal study programs.

The Social Policy Research Group was heavily involved in the project. The group provided quality research and academic and professional leadership in social policy development and human service provision. Research includes reviews of human service policies and programs, the impact of social class, gender and culture on social policy, and the design of models for policy development. The Project Reference Group provided essential advice and support in each phase of the project. Members of the reference group were in contact with stakeholders and managers of indigenous agencies, and also provided resources and input into workshops.

Members of the group included Uncle Malcolm Anderson, Chairperson (DOSAA), Jackie Ahkit (Director, Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Services) and Polly Sumner (CEO of Nunkuwarrin Yunti). From the University of SA we had Associate Professor Ed Carson, Deirdre Tedmanson and Associate Professor David Roberts, as well as Tim Agius and Marigold Francis, and support from Lisa Komljenovic. Through the DHS we had Nick Heyne, Sue Foster, Sonia

Waters, Nick Schubert (Manager of the Aboriginal Services Division Work Force Support Development) and Hans Pieters (Chief Project Officer, Metro Division).

The majority of participants came from rural areas and, as such, rarely have an opportunity to visit Parliament House. Participants were addressed by Minister Terry Roberts and CEO of DOSAA Mr Peter Buckskin, as well as Pat Anderson, national chair of NACCHO, who had come from interstate for the evening. I was pleased to take the group through the building and they were able to see the Legislative Council in action. Feedback since completion of the project has been that no-one had ever had such close contact with parliament before, and participants, particularly those from interstate, had seen a new and exciting side of democracy, which has encouraged them to begin a close relationship with the process, and they have gained a better understanding of the workings of this system.

They all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were grateful to you, sir, for the use of the Speaker's Dining Room.

KAPUNDA

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I rise today to speak in support of the Kapunda community. I was appalled and disappointed by Channel 7's decision to air damning reports about Kapunda and its residents on the *Today Tonight* program on Monday 12 August, Tuesday 13 August and again since (I have not written the date down). The story suggested that Kapunda was 'a cesspool and home to a ring of paedophiles.' This is a town with a unique history, being Australia's oldest mining town and home to a number of acclaimed tourism attractions, vibrant business and community-minded residents.

My own electoral office is in Kapunda and I am a proud supporter of the Kapunda community, so I find these smears particularly damaging and negative. An overwhelming majority of the citizens of Kapunda are good, law-abiding citizens who contribute to their vibrant community, and it is not fair to besmirch the total community as a result of the actions of a few. Insinuations from the *Today Tonight* program included claims that link Kapunda township residents with convicted paedophile Peter Liddy and ex-criminal Terry Stephens.

Suggestions and allegations were made that residents, including local antique dealer the late Charles Smythe, were involved in a paedophile ring headed by Peter Liddy. Untrue and defamatory statements have naturally caused stress, anger and anxiety for those named, as well as innocent town residents. Accusations were made by a lady who was a former resident of Kapunda, having left the district some six years ago. Mr Smythe was the target of some of these accusations. At the time the story was aired, Charles Smythe was terminally ill with cancer, and he has since passed away on 1 October 2002. I attended his funeral on Friday 4 October, as he was a committed member of the community, having been actively involved in a number of community projects such as the upgrading of the war memorial gardens, which at the moment look an absolute picture. Charles Smythe's reputation has been damaged by the unfounded allegations regarding paedophilia and unorthodox antique dealings. This is causing grief to his family and friends.

An unfortunate incident resulting in legal action being taken has outraged many local residents because of the negative publicity, which sticks and is hard to undo. They are fearful that the allegations will detract from the many unique

tourism attractions that Kapunda has to offer and may lead to a reduction in business to the town. Kapunda residents have circulated a petition signed by over 400 residents calling for the Light Regional Council to act on their behalf. Some residents believe that concrete evidence to substantiate these wild allegations should be made available. Consequently, when presented with the petition, Light Regional Council sought legal advice in relation to how Kapunda was portrayed by the program. After legal advice was taken, the resulting letter from the council suggested that concerned residents individually write to Channel 7. The petitioners' letters to Channel 7 can express their disappointment and invite *Today Tonight* to return to Kapunda and present a more favourable report on the town and its people.

There is no doubt that Kapunda's good name and reputation have been besmirched by the actions of certain individuals who chose to live in Kapunda, which actions in no way reflect the situation relating to the wider community. I again state my support for Kapunda and my constituents who live there. It is a great place and it is a nice place in which to live. It has a lot going for it. As I have said, the war memorial gardens are an absolute picture, and the town has a new playground. This go-ahead place has a very proud place in South Australia's history and will feature strongly in the future of South Australia.

Kapunda is not the only town to be besmirched by actions like this. If we say the names of the towns of Snowtown and Truro we immediately have bad feelings. I feel that the media and others should consider this when reporting acts of crime and try to protect these communities, because it is not fair that the communities of Kapunda and Snowtown, given the recent actions there, and Truro, given the deaths there, should be forever remembered in a negative way. I again pledge my support to the Kapunda community.

PISA

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): It is with great pleasure today that I speak about a function which I attended yesterday at the Marche Club which was held by PISA, which stands for Pasti Italiani e Servizi Assistenziali. This was formerly known as the Italian Meals on Wheels Service and is a Home and Community Care Service funded by HACC under the auspices of Multicultural Aged Care, targeting frail and disabled members of the Italian community and their carers. This service commenced in March 1999 by delivering Italian meals in the western suburbs and, soon after a rapid development which was justified by the enthusiastic response from the community, the service was extended to the eastern and south-western suburbs.

So far, PISA has helped more than 230 elderly and disabled members of the community, thanks to the support of some 70 volunteers. The range of services provided by PISA was expanded in 2001 and includes minor gardening and home maintenance, home help such as small cleaning jobs and household jobs, transport for daily activities such as outings and medical appointments, shopping, home visiting to relieve loneliness and isolation, respite for carers, information on and referrals to other services and, of course, the very important home delivered meals. I congratulate the President of PISA, Miss Cathy di Giacomini for her outstanding leadership; Teresa Sandona, who coordinates the volunteers and the distribution of meals; their secretary, Rita Palumbo, and all the committee; and particularly the 70 volunteers who bring comfort to those who are isolated in their homes.

The importance of this service cannot be overestimated, as the Italian community is ageing at a much faster rate than the rest of the community. We keep hearing from all quarters—even from the Prime Minister recently—how important it is to keep people at home as long as possible. Without this type of assistance, it would not be possible to do so. The hot meals are delivered five days a week and frozen meals are provided on weekends. Whilst the service now provides meals for some 60 people a day, it currently has 30 people on a waiting list.

In order to meet the ever-increasing demands of the community, the purpose of yesterday's meeting was to have a consultation with the community about the efficacy of the current service provision and, most importantly, to present its strategic plan for 2003-06 which is very detailed and far reaching in its aims and which I will be discussing with the Premier and Minister for Social Justice, both of whom have responsibility for different aspects of this proposal. The meals are currently being prepared by various nursing homes, including Montrose, Campbelltown St Hilarion and also the Maltese Community Kitchen at Beverley.

PISA would like to establish its own premises, which would certainly facilitate the provision of services to meet the ever-increasing demands. To this end it has been successful in securing premises at Adey Reserve, Firle, thanks to the Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council. The premises include an office, hall and kitchen, which requires much upgrading, and to this end the community will be seeking assistance from the community, business and government. Given all their best endeavours in the past, when they have been told they should work with existing services, it really has been very hard, and for this reason they would be much happier being able to establish their own kitchen and therefore be able to provide these very complex services in a much better way.

With that, once again I extend my congratulations to the hard working people of PISA for what they are doing, and I will certainly be providing what assistance I can when they present their application to our community to enable them to be able to provide their own services.

SCHOOLS, FUNDING

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: Today in question time the member for Kavel asked me a question regarding funding of schools in his electorate for 2003. This was not the first time he had asked me a very similar question. I reconfirmed information that I had given each time he had asked that question, and that was that there was no reduction in funding for the 2003 global budgets due to changes to the index of educational disadvantage. I have written to both the schools that the member for Kavel later identified as being the schools that had indicated the belief they would suffer a funding cut. I checked my records, and I have written to both those schools, being Nairne Primary School and Mount Barker South Primary School.

My letter to the Chairperson of Nairne Primary School governing council is dated 13 November, and the letter to the Chairperson of Mount Barker South Primary School governing council is dated 14 November. I believe I might have also written to the principals of those schools but, in any case, I wrote to the chairpersons of their governing bodies. In those letters I confirmed that the schools would not be losing funding for 2003 as a result of their change in index.

I am concerned that the member, yet again, raised this question today, even though I have given this information to parliament several times. However, I personally made phone calls to the principals of both schools following question time. While I was unable to speak with the principal of Nairne Primary School, I did speak with the Deputy Principal of Mount Barker South Primary School, who confirmed that his school had received my letter. He also indicated to me that the school was ecstatic about the fact that they were not receiving cuts to funding.

While I acknowledge members' interest in issues concerning local schools, I request that they be clear about their information. If they intend to ask questions about schools, they should check whether there are issues in relation to the schools, because both these schools had received my correspondence and knew that there were not going to be cuts to funding, as indicated by the member for Kavel.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Snelling): Order!

CONSTITUTION (MINISTERIAL OFFICES) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 19 November. Page 1846.)

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): I say at the outset that the opposition will not oppose the bill.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: No, we have been consistent all the time. The honourable member takes too much notice of the *Advertiser*—and it got it wrong.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: No, have a listen!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Snelling): Order!

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Mr Acting Speaker, I will start again—and please protect me from the Treasurer. The opposition will not oppose this bill. However, as I said this morning, we wish to ensure that the government is held accountable for the outcomes of this measure, and also to correct the very misleading statements that this bill is necessary for the member for Mount Gambier to enter the cabinet—because that is just not correct.

Two weeks ago, the Liberal Party caught out the government. The government was attempting to cut the budget at the Julia Farr Centre, that is, cut services to some of the most disadvantaged elderly people in our community by \$1.8 million. Today, the Labor Party wants the opposition to remain silent while it quite unnecessarily squanders \$1.8 million on having an additional minister, ministerial office, and everything that goes on it. This bill has nothing to do with whether or not the member for Mount Gambier can enter cabinet. The Premier has options already to arrange that. This bill is about removing the need for the Premier to make a hard decision and to replace a current minister with the member for Mount Gambier. That is something which the

public of South Australia was not told and which they need to understand.

This was a golden opportunity for the Labor ministry to be rid of one of its obvious non-performers and to bring in the member for Mount Gambier—and we would have seen that as a very positive move. But the Labor Party will rather throw sick, elderly people out of government-funded health facilities before it will throw out an incompetent minister. The bill typifies this Labor government. It is a power grab at any cost; it reflects an inability to make tough decisions; and it is a package of spin instead of substance. Again, we are seeing a government that is obviously prepared to abandon its so-called principles of the past for political expediency in order to avoid having to make a hard decision.

Let us take a look at what Labor has said in the past. In 1997, when the Liberal government extended its ministry to 15 at no extra cost, the then leader of the opposition said:

Instead of being about jobs for South Australians, it is about jobs for politicians.

On the same day during the same debate, the Treasurer (Hon. Kevin Foley) said:

Thirteen ministers in cabinet is enough. . . It could be argued that it is more than enough.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: I was wrong!

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: The Labor Party opposed a similar move of the Liberal government, even though in that case, unlike now, it was to cost no more. Legislation was passed in the upper house with the Liberal government's agreement to ensure that the increase in ministers would not come at any extra cost. Haven't times changed!

Let us address more of the misinformation that has been spun by the Labor Party now that it is in government. The Liberal Party does not oppose the member for Mount Gambier's appointment to the ministry. In fact, I contend that the three to four ministers who dominate cabinet meetings at present will not find the member for Mount Gambier as easy to dismiss as some of their current cabinet colleagues. On behalf of those members in regional areas, we look forward to a lot of the future minister's input. I know that he has a good grip on issues in regional areas, and we probably would not have seen some of the debacles of the past six months if he had been able to run his eye across the situation.

The appointment definitely can be made under existing legislation: to say that it cannot is just not correct. The Constitution Act allows the government to appoint up to 15 ministers. Under the act 10 ministers would be members of Executive Council (cabinet) on salaries of around \$170 000 and five would be out-of-cabinet ministers still attracting a salary of more than \$140 000. The Premier has the power to invite all ministers to sit around the cabinet table at any time to be part of the decision making process, despite what the Treasurer said on radio this morning. This legislation shows that the Premier cannot make the hard decisions. Believe me, hard decisions have to be made, and I know it was not easy for me to reshuffle my ministry; and it certainly was not easy to call on two senior ministers, who had a done lot for this state, to tell them that I was replacing them. But it had to be done. Quite frankly, that is what being Premier is all about: it is about making those decisions.

South Australians have been told that this legislation is necessary for the member for Mount Gambier to be able to join cabinet. Does the Premier honestly want us to believe that the member for Mount Gambier is his 14th pick for cabinet and that there are another 13 better performers? I

certainly think not. This legislation is about keeping the factions at bay. The Premier must explain to South Australians why he wants to extend cabinet and the salary bill to the taxpayer. At the moment it boils down to nothing other than extra money for politicians—and that was certainly not on the pre-election pledge card. This Labor government promised to focus on health and education. It promised to focus on law and order. All we have seen so far is a total focus on itself and its internal security and stability.

The Liberal Party will not block this legislation. It is the government's legislation and it has to live with the repercussions of that, and live with it it will. We will remind them that extra funds are required because of the lack of decision making—every time they claim more beds have to close in hospitals, every time they claim we cannot afford more teachers and every time they claim there is not enough money for additional police patrol cars. It is time this government got down to decision making and started taking ownership of some of the real issues.

It is time that, instead of its daily press releases, the government got down to the actual work of running a government. Once they know the facts, the people of South Australia will quite rightly be angry about what they were told about this legislation and what it actually does. They will be angry for one reason: it was not necessary and it is a waste of hard-earned taxpayers' funds—funds that would not be necessary if the Premier had made the hard and correct decision and replaced one of his ministers with the member for Mount Gambier. We have no problem with the member for Mount Gambier being appointed. We are, however, very disappointed that the Premier has chosen to rely on the parliament to make the hard decision that he would not make himself.

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): I will find contributing to this debate a most difficult dilemma. Like my leader, I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier on his appointment. He will bring some skills to the cabinet that I wish we as an opposition had had the opportunity of utilising in our government.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: If the Treasurer wants to go back in history, that is very good: he is inviting me to do so and I will. Four years ago the member for Mount Gambier was not so vain as to have thought that, having walked into this place, he could sit in cabinet—not a modesty shared by the minister sitting opposite, nor by one of the junior ministers who galloped in here and took the purple before knowing the rules. I do not see the member for Mount Gambier as having quite the same level of vanity, but at this stage in his career I see him as a valuable attribute to the Labor government.

My contribution is based not on the quality or merit of the member for Mount Gambier but on the hypocrisy of the current Treasurer. I find it very difficult indeed to sit here and be asked, as part of the intellectual debate of our party, to support a measure—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: You will never be involved in that.

Mr BRINDAL: I can tell the Treasurer something, without ever having been in his Caucus. If he puts the brain power of the two parties together and subtracts the intelligence of his Caucus from ours there would be no difference in the answer—work it out! Not that long ago the Treasurer stood here and argued that there should be no more than 13 ministers, as the leader pointed out, and that perhaps there should be fewer ministers—that perhaps we were over

governed. He then put the second argument that, if it was not good enough, we had to have fewer ministers and that we could least afford more expenditure. In a compromise, this side of the house when in government agreed that, yes, we wanted more ministers, but we would do it for the same price as 13, and that became the law. That is what the leader pointed out.

I believed then, as I do now, that if anything we have too few ministers. Executive governments's role is to oversee quite clearly the work of the Public Service and to be accountable to parliament. The better that workload is spread and the better the abilities of the people involved, the better this place and the people of South Australia are served. That was my position then and is my position now. Like them then, I wonder why this has to come at an extra cost.

I take up the leader's theme, namely, that the Premier himself, and without rebuttal from the member for Mount Gambier who thinks he can make a contribution, which was not refuted by the government, has clearly said that this government needs the skills and services of the member for Mount Gambier, and this side of the house agrees. That clearly means that the member for Mount Gambier is not only better than any backbench member on offer—which says something for the future of this government—but also is in fact better than some of its ministers.

As the leader said quite clearly, leadership is about making difficult decisions. If the member for Mount Gambier has more talent than people on the current front bench, then it is not a matter, as the Treasurer interjected a while ago, of some people being born lucky. I never considered being a minister a matter of luck; rather, it is a matter of privilege, a matter that required hard work and a matter that required you to be there only by dint of your talent. When you were deemed to be not talented enough, you were dropped, that is, unless you were owed something by the current leadership.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: The Treasurer has absolutely and definitely imputed improper motives to me. I object and demand his immediate apology and withdrawal.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: I will never apologise for the fact that it is my long-held belief that the decision to—

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. Foley: No, I don't withdraw.

Mr BRINDAL: Mr Acting Speaker—

The ACTING SPEAKER: While I am conferring with the Clerks, the member for Unley will remain seated. Is the member for Unley aggrieved or is he stating that the comments of the Deputy Premier were unparliamentary?

Mr BRINDAL: I am stating that he quite clearly imputed improper motives to me. I take absolute objection, and I believe that under the standing orders I am quite competent in demanding his withdrawal.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: It is a joke, Mark.

Mr Brindal: It's not a joke to me.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: You knocked off Dean Brown—that is it.

Mr Brindal: I will take credit for what is due to me but not for what is not, unlike you.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am not able to make a ruling on whether the remark was unparliamentary. I ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw the remark that so clearly aggrieved the member for Unley.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I humbly apologise to the member for Unley for any comment that may have somehow hurt his sensitivities in this robust chamber.

Mr BRINDAL: It then comes down to why the people of South Australia have to pay for a Premier who does not have the courage to dismiss people who are less competent in order to keep his best team, and I will not reiterate the words of the leader in quoting the Treasurer. I also ask who is leading this state because, if press articles are to be believed, this matter was negotiated, in the absence of the Premier, by the Deputy Premier. The Premier was obviously consulted, one would have thought, on the process and timing by which the member for Mount Gambier could be not only offered the position but also elevated to the cabinet. It strikes me as being absolutely extraordinary that, having negotiated a deal in the absence of the Premier, we are then asked to ratify the deal by voting another \$1.8 million for this government to extend executive government.

I want to take up the point that the leader made. Julia Farr is in my electorate, and \$1.8 million has been taken from the Julia Farr budget—almost, coincidentally, the same amount, as the leader points out, as is now glibly being asked for by the executive government to create this new ministry. Julia Farr Services, and many people in this house would not be aware of this, is not the property of the crown. It is an old bequest, and the buildings and their fabric are under the control of the Board of Governors. In fact, Julia Farr is so intertwined with the government that the daily running costs of that institution now require government funding. But, if Julia Farr were to close all its services tomorrow and the buildings had to be sold, the conditions of the bequest will apply and the government is not a beneficiary. It is in many ways a private institution, under private trust, where we will not benefit by strangling it to death.

We have demanded, as a series of governments over a series of years, a rethinking of what happens there. There are empty buildings and there are wasted facilities and, in trying to fit into a modern world and the dictates of the current government, Julia Farr Services has looked at aged care as a possibility.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I think the member for Unley is straying from the debate and I ask him to return to the bill in question.

Mr BRINDAL: I will, because I can talk about Julia Farr at another time.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Indeed you can. There will be plenty of opportunities.

Mr BRINDAL: Good. And I will circulate, as well, a copy of this speech where I was cut short on the topic of Julia Farr, sir.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: No, it was not. Just a statement. As the leader pointed out, under existing legislation there is the capacity to appoint up to 15 ministers; that provision already exists. There is the capacity of the Premier of the day to make a decision and to reshuffle his cabinet if he wants to put the best 13 in, and to drop that person or those persons who are not performing adequately. Those capacities exist.

The Hon. P.L. White: Who are they?

Mr BRINDAL: The Minister for Education asks me who they are. If I did a quick runaround of my colleagues, I am quite sure that we could come up with 13 names, but it is a matter of in which order we would put the names. I actually have some time for the Minister for Education, and I hope she is elevated progressively up the benches because she shows a bit more flair than some of her colleagues.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: Yes. Having said that, I do not think it is our job, and I do not think my leader would like my helping the government by telling them which of their ministers are incompetent. If they do not know that themselves, the people of South Australia can decide that at the next election. It is not our job to help them.

The ACTING SPEAKER: You have only eight minutes to go.

Mr BRINDAL: Five years ago we saw the Treasurer—
An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: Thank you. That is very kind of you. Five years ago we saw this Treasurer argue a particular line. We now see him coming in and arguing another line. I have to say that I find it difficult because, on the one hand, I support, as the leader does, the appointment of—

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: As a matter of fact, I am not because I was prepared to concede five years ago that, if the way to get better executive government was to pay less to some ministers, I was prepared to wear that line and it was the line that, in the end, took the wisdom of the house. But what you are now arguing is not only contrary to where you were five years ago: it is poles apart. I am trying to argue a line that is at least somewhat consistent. So, for those reasons, I find it abhorrent to support this bill. I do not want to support this bill. As the leader said, this government is copping out on the people of South Australia. This government is settling its internal problems at a price, and that price is \$1.8 million—not for hospitals, not for roads, not for schools, but \$1.8 million to sort out the factional strife in the Labor Party. It is \$1.8 million to tell the parrots on the backbench what they already know—that any member on this side is more likely one day to join the frontbench on the other side than they are. Everyone of us will be given a chance before them. And why? Not because—

Members interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: Listen to them. It's a regular aviary, sir. There are rosellas and parrots and all sorts of things. It is not the fact that this government wants to keep power at any cost: that is not in question—

Members interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: Yes. Well, you should have returned it. I should have thought about making it because I did not realise how desperately this government wants to keep in power.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: That may well be true. But what you have said, Treasurer, and what your Premier has said, is that you have moved past party politics. You are looking for the best people in this state to help you govern. You have chosen the member for Mount Gambier so, undoubtedly, you would consider, if not me—and I am fairly modest—many of my colleagues on the frontbench, because our frontbench is certainly much more talented than your backbench. Just listen to them.

I strongly object to this bill. It is my inclination not to support the bill, but I have been convinced by those people on my side to whom I have spoken that it is the right of the government to govern, it is the right of the government to determine—

Ms Ciccarello interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: The member for Norwood says 'Hear, hear!' and so do I, because the only reason that I am supporting this bill is that the government is responsible for its appropriation. So, every time I get a chance in Unley, every

single time that something is not funded, I intend getting out there and telling my electorate that the government had money to create a 14th ministry but it does not have money for this school, road or hospital. Every single time during the next four years that any minister refuses me any request, I will tell my electors why. And the 'why' is fiscally responsible when it comes to expenditure concerning the needs of the people of South Australia, but absolutely profligate when it comes to self-interest and looking after themselves. So, for those reasons, and for those reasons alone, I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier on his elevation and I fully intend to support this bill, and long may the government to live to regret it.

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): I rise as a supporter of the government to support the bill. The number of ministers does not incite any great passion in me, whether it be 10, 13 or 15. It is a matter for the government of the day to determine how best to allocate the portfolios among the talent available. But it does have broader implications in respect of the size of our parliament.

Members know that I am quite passionate about constitutional reform. I think that there should only be one chamber and I think there should be some list members, in the sense that Legislative Council members are currently elected, in this chamber—and people can read the speech I made four years ago if they want to know the details. I have been in favour of reducing the number of members of parliament—whether it be in total across the parliament or just in this chamber. I thought the Speaker (the member for Hammond) was cutting too close to the bone when he suggested 31 members in this chamber. However, I think something less than 47 is something that we could bear.

It is in the context of those considerations that the number of ministers is actually quite significant. At the moment, to take an example, we have 13 Labor ministers out of a caucus of 29. For the uninitiated, the caucus is simply that group of Labor parliamentarians. With 13 out of 29 members in ministry positions, almost half of the elected Labor members have a ministry position. My point is simply that it is very difficult for anyone in the parliament or the Labor Party to change the mind of the executive once those 13 ministers have made up their mind about a particular direction to take. In the Labor caucus, at least we have the advantage of being consulted before any final decision is made, and we appreciate that.

However, if the number of ministers increases by one or two or even more in a subsequent measure, it would mean that the executive would receive even proportionally more power than they already have. I think that is a point of concern when one considers constitutional change to affect the numbers of members of parliament, and I think it is a point worth making in the context of this bill.

There is one other point that I wish to make and, as far as I can see, it is a point which has been missed in the debate in this house, it is a point which has been missed in the media, and it is a point which has been missed in the deliberations among the Labor Party before this measure was introduced. The bill itself operates by deleting most of the wording from section 66(2) of the Constitution. I am surprised that the opposition has not made this significant point. It is not just a matter of reading section 66 but a matter of reading section 65 as well. So, with the amendment proposed by this bill, section 66(2) will say no more than:

Every minister of the Crown is, *ex officio*, a member of the Executive Council.

That is all section 66 will say about the number of ministers. However, section 65 is then the determinant of the maximum number of ministers, and provides:

The number of ministers of the Crown shall not exceed fifteen.

The point is that with this bill passing there will be the capacity of the government to appoint 15 full ministers—not junior ministers, but 15 full ministers. Including Rory McEwen, the member for Mount Gambier, we know 14 of them. The fifteenth position, I suppose, is yet to be revealed. I am surprised that the opposition has not made more of this point, quite frankly. However, at this stage, we are faced with the practical situation where it is proposed that we have 14 ministers, and we will see whether the bill gets through on the basis of that understanding.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport): I want to make a couple of observations in relation to this bill. First, I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier for his imminent elevation to the cabinet. I do so on the basis that to serve the state in the parliament is indeed a privilege, as all 47 of us here know and enjoy. To serve the state at its most senior level around the cabinet table is a privilege that few get the opportunity to enjoy. Through circumstance, the member for Mount Gambier now finds himself in that position, and I guess he will look back on having the opportunity to serve as a one of life's privileges. I wish him well in his endeavours around the cabinet table. He finds himself there in an unusual circumstance, but I know that he will put the state's interests first in decisions around the cabinet table.

I have some issues in relation to the matter of the appointment. We now know that the code of conduct has been thrown out; we now know that the Ministerial Code of Conduct is going to be rewritten; and we now know that the Ministerial Code of Conduct is really subject to political expediency. The Premier has now made an agreement with the member for Mount Gambier—as I understand the agreement—that as a cabinet minister the member for Mount Gambier can criticise the government on certain issues.

Under the Labor Party's code of conduct, no other cabinet minister can criticise the government. One would assume (and the Premier needs to confirm this) that all ministers, including the member for Mount Gambier, will need to sign the Ministerial Code of Conduct. One would assume then—to match the agreement signed by the member for Mount Gambier to allow the occasional criticism, if needed, of the cabinet decision—the Ministerial Code of Conduct will have to be rewritten to suit the agreement. So, here we are eight to nine months into the government's term and the Ministerial Code of Conduct will need to be rewritten.

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The member for West Torrens interjects about the matter of the code of conduct. I suggest the member for West Torrens does two things: first, he reads the agreement to which the member for Mount Gambier has agreed and, secondly, he reads the Ministerial Code of Conduct and he will see that there is a clear conflict. There is no way that the member for Mount Gambier can sign both agreements because their clauses conflict. One of the clauses in the agreement says that he can criticise cabinet on certain issues if he goes through a process, as agreed. Under the Ministerial Code of Conduct it is clear that a cabinet minister who criticises a government decision will resign.

Even the poor old member for West Torrens can understand that, when you have a conflict in two documents, one of the documents needs to be changed. I will give the member for West Torrens a big tip: it is not going to be the agreement that has delivered the member for Mount Gambier to the cabinet table. So, my best guess—for the member for West Torrens information—is that the Premier will announce any day a rewrite of the Ministerial Code of Conduct. My point is that the Ministerial Code of Conduct has lasted less than one year and it has been torn up for political expediency.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens): Members opposite always tell us how their members have the freedom to say and vote as they wish and that they believe in individualism and the liberty of dissent, and it is amazing that now we have a senior leadership contender getting up in this place saying that it is outrageous that a cabinet member who has joined a coalition with a Labor government has the right to dissent. What utter hypocrisy!

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: I rise on a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. That point was never made. I never made that point, Mr Acting Speaker. It is totally misrepresenting the argument.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: The member for Davenport is old enough to know that standing orders require him to mention which standing order he thinks I am in breach of. Those members opposite who believe in liberty and the rights of the individual, and who believe that they come here representing their electorates—not the Liberal Party—who come here and say we are actually a coalition of 20 independent members who believe in the Liberal Party and we sometimes vote together, and sometimes not. They always tell us how they believe that we have the right to act as individuals.

Today we have seen members opposite criticise the Labor government for bringing in a coalition member who would bring stability to this government for the next four years. The best members opposite can do is attack one of their founding principles. If you have a problem with us, attack us. Do not attack what you believe in. Do not attack Liberal Party policy, attack Labor Party policy. What is clear is that it is falling apart.

The leadership of the Liberal Party is in complete panic mode. It is extraordinary in politics today to have to call a party meeting of your executives to endorse your own leadership. Imagine that—having to call the state executive of the Liberal Party together to ask, 'Can I stay on as leader? Is it okay? Do I have your full support?' Then, they march out and have a press conference and tell us how everything is okay and that there are no problems. The Minister for Transport noted, when he was in either the Kingston Room or the Garden Room, that somebody had marked a whiteboard with a tally of names and numbers underneath them. I would have thought the Liberal party had been around long enough to know that you do not count on whiteboards. Just ask Ros Kelly! This is whiteboard affair Mark II.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I rise on a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. Sir, I ask you to rule whether the honourable member's comments are in line with what we are debating or whether he is straying from the subject matter before the chair.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I ask that the member for West Torrens return to the bill in question.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: As always, the member for Stuart, in his wisdom, has brought me back to the debate, and I thank him. In his 33 years in this place, he has been a font of wisdom for members, new and old. He is always ready to give advice, and I take his advice on this issue. The one member who gave his support immediately for this bill was the member for Stuart. I congratulate him, because he understands the importance of stable government. He saw what happened to the government in the previous parliament and the way it was racked with instability, infighting, divisions and backstabbing. He knows how bad that is for a government, because he was here. He was Speaker of that first momentous parliament where the Liberal Party received 37 out of 47 seats. He was in here in the Brown landslide. He saw what unity can bring.

Then, four short years later, the member for Stuart saw what division can bring, what a minority government does and the great majority that the Liberal Party won in 1993 whittled away to a minority government within four years. In that four years, he saw how dangerous minority government is. He saw in that minority government the excesses of those who became too arrogant. That minority government caused pain and suffering to the people of this state because it was panicked and did whatever it could to stay in government and to try to buy votes; for example, the Hindmarsh stadium and the failed wine centre. Ultimately, we saw their Premier forced to resign in disgrace.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I have allowed the member for West Torrens some leeway. I ask that he draw some connection to the bill; I think the house would be appreciative.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: Talk about not living in reality, Rob.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: This amendment to the constitution gives the people of South Australia stability and certainty, and leaves them with the knowledge that members opposite will not be governing this state for the next three and a half years. That is what they wanted at the last election, and that is what they will get. Some members opposite realise the virtues of stable government, and one of those is the member for Stuart. He understands the benefits of stable government after the disgraceful behaviour of members opposite that he has witnessed in the last two parliaments.

I think that the member for Mount Gambier will be an outstanding addition to our cabinet. He will bring a rural perspective to our cabinet, and he will bring the new, non-partisan way of politics of reaching out to different groups that we do not necessarily usually represent. The member for Mount Gambier will do an excellent job in helping the cabinet to greater understand the concerns of rural South Australians. Members opposite have always said to us that they do not really understand the needs of rural constituents. I say to members opposite that most of their rural seats are now held by Independents. Because they are held by Independents, it allows this government to reach out to those rural communities and ask, 'What can we do better?' What we are doing now is bringing Rory McEwen into our cabinet to get a perspective of rural communities. The Liberal Party has abandoned rural communities—and you can tell that because it does not hold the seats of Mount Gambier, the Riverland or Hammond. We had 'Switch Williams' (who betrayed his people after being elected as an Independent when he rejoined

the Liberal Party) knocking off disgraced former trade minister Dale Baker. Can I just say what a great negotiator Mitch Williams is; he rejoined the Liberal Party, and what did he get? He got re-elected.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: This bill is a master stroke by the Rann government. It brings stability. And you can tell that members opposite are absolutely shell-shocked. They can run around and say that we are disappointed about missing out, but the truth is that they are shell-shocked. They have been left behind. Hopefully, they will now get on with the job of being a good opposition. Hopefully, they will realise that they will not be in government for the next 3½ years and that their job is to oppose—and maybe the Leader of the Opposition will lift his game.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I hope that the member for West Torrens will read *Hansard* and see what the member for Davenport had to say, because I think that he made a very relevant point. Then, if he reads what he said, I think he will understand that he was way off the mark.

I rise today to support my leader and congratulate the member for Mount Gambier on being asked to join the Labor cabinet. However, I have some concerns. One of those concerns (and I have sought counsel on this, but I will say it anyway) relates to the precedent that this sets. We are not sure whether this situation will remain after the next election in 3½ years and a new government is sworn in. Does the 14 seat cabinet continue, or does it revert to 13, as is currently the case? I presume that it is now law, and that it continues. It can be up to 14 seats: a new government would be unlikely to scale it back. I am concerned, *prima facie*, about what this precedent means, because the situation for many years has been that there be 13 members of Executive Council—

Mr Koutsantonis: Why did you have 15?

Mr VENNING: I hear the interjection from the member for West Torrens. It was agreed by the parliament that there be 10 senior ministers and five junior ministers. It did not cost the taxpayer any more money; it was within the budget. This is a debate of the past: we can all read what was said in *Hansard*. What the current Treasurer said has already been quoted. One can see how hypocritical he is. His comments of the day are good only for today, because tomorrow it is something different. I am a little concerned about that. But I wonder what will happen at the end of this government's term. I presume this situation will continue.

I reiterate that this government had the choice, as the leader has said, to appoint the member for Mount Gambier under the current situation, but it chose to create a new position. I am concerned because it is costing us extra money, and it is not very smart today to be spending more money here in this parliament. When the Rann-Lewis compact was set up, particularly in relation to the Constitutional Convention, one of the key issues was smaller government. We are only a few weeks into the session, and we are into bigger government. The Speaker has made no comment about that but, no doubt, it certainly swims against what I thought was the general consensus of opinion, not only here but also in the electorate, that we should be looking to smaller government.

I agree totally with my leader, and I welcome the appointment of the member for Mount Gambier, Rory McEwen, as a minister. I am here to represent the people of the rural electorate of Schubert, and I believe that both they and I will be advantaged by having the member for Mount Gambier in

cabinet. He is a country person with local government experience, and many of the concerns that we have in the country today have a lot to do with local government. I hope—and I am fairly confident—that Mr McEwen will be accessible to us as country members. I am sure that he will take a lot of the questions that we would normally address to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. As we know, that minister is not a member of this house, and I am sure that the member will take it upon himself to tackle those questions, because he would have a pretty fair grasp of that area.

McEwens have been tied up with politics in Australia for many years. Some are related to the Hon. Rory McEwen and some are not. We have had Sir Lyell McEwin; we have had Black Jack McEwen, the federal member of parliament. So, I wonder how Rory McEwen will be remembered. I hope it is not as ‘Red Rory’!

Mr RAU (Enfield): I extend my congratulations to the member for Mount Gambier on his appointment and I also note that, as a new member of this parliament, I am aware that he brings to this office considerable experience both in the parliament and in the regional area from which he comes and, indeed, in local government. Although I believe that his career in local government was at times very exciting, I am sure that that will put him in a position where he is very well able to administer the department and understand all the goings on that lie behind the world of local government. I wish him all the best in those endeavours.

I note that the opposition also supports this bill. I am very pleased to see that the whole of the parliament is, in effect, joining together in accepting the idea that this appointment is a good one for the state, that stability in government is important, and that the executive arm of government, which ultimately makes choices for those of us on this side of the parliament, has a right to govern the state in the way in which it sees fit and should be supported in that for as long as it enjoys the confidence of the parliament—and, indeed, it certainly does at the present time. This decision will mean, I believe, that the executive arm of government in South Australia will be able to keep its eye on the main game, which is improving our economy and improving our prospects into the next decade or so, instead of worrying about other matters which tend to take attention away from what is, after all, the main objective of people who are in government, governing for the benefit of the community.

Some of the comments that I have heard since I have been in the chamber, and also whilst I was sitting in my room listening to the debate, have puzzled me a little, in the sense that some of the speakers have tried to have a bob each way. They have said, ‘We are supporting the member for Mount Gambier. We think it is a great thing, he will make a great minister, but we want to be able to criticise the way in which this is done.’

In saying that, as I understand it the argument is that we are wasting money by doing it this way, but the rhetorical question I put to those opposite is: if they are concerned about the waste of money that they say is involved in this process—and I think that is a fair enough argument if they genuinely believe that—surely it is the role of those opposite, if they believe that is a matter of major concern, to nail their colours to the mast and to oppose a measure that they believe to be fiscally irresponsible. What they have done is make a choice. They have said, ‘Look: we’ve got concerns about the fiscal responsibility of this decision but, nevertheless, we’re going

to support it.’ I congratulate members opposite for supporting it: I think that is a very important and very responsible decision for those opposite to make, but they really cannot have a bob each way. They are either supporting the decision or they are not.

I am going to take the charitable view and say, ‘You are supporting it. Well done. The people of South Australia will congratulate you for being visionary, for taking the lead from the father of the house.’ I read with interest in the paper today what he was reported as saying. I think that the people of South Australia will actually commend members opposite for this decision. They will say, ‘These people are in opposition but they are serious about having good government.’ That will ultimately go to their greater credit.

The other matter I would like to raise is that which was raised by the member for Mitchell in his remarks. I think he touched on a very important matter on which I would like members on both sides of the chamber to reflect. We are entering into a process—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

Mr RAU: No, that is a different point. It is not the point he was making. He was making the point that we are entering a process of constitutional convention, leading to proposals for reform. Members in the chamber may or may not know that I have a view about constitutional reform that I suspect is shared by perhaps 0.00001 per cent of the population. My view is that there should in fact be a single chamber of parliament; that the executive arm of government should be directly elected by the people; that they should elect the Premier and the Premier should be entitled to appoint whomsoever the Premier chooses to be in the ministry, except a member of the parliament; and that the parliament should have strong committees, which should set about scrutinising the executive arm of government and should do a very thorough job of it, liberated from the opportunity of promotion, as they would be.

Of course, I know that my views are heretical or strange, and I do not expect that they will be widely acclaimed. But, knowing that those views will not be accepted, I am very concerned that under our present structure the concentration of power in the hands of the executive arm of government should become any worse or any more extensive than it presently is. The member for Mitchell makes a very good point. If we are going to be seeing a greater number of people from this chamber in the ministry, what does that say about the balance between those who are in the executive arm of government and those who are not? In that sense, I am in the same position as those who sit opposite.

I am not a member of the executive government: those who sit opposite are not members of the executive government. But it is important for the running of this state in a responsible way that the executive arm of government be called to account from time to time. It is important that, through the committee structures of the parliament and through the device of the party room or Caucus, as we prefer to call it, the executive arm of government is occasionally asked to explain what they are doing. They are occasionally called upon to explain and account for their actions.

The point I am trying to make is that, if we are going to increase the number of ministers, it makes it even more important that there is a sufficient number of people who are not ministers in order to keep those people in a position where they are acting responsibly in the interests of the community.

Mr Hamilton-Smith: Is that what they told you, John? You're happy on the back benches for ever?

Mr RAU: I can work out these things for myself: I can read and write. The situation is this: I am very keen to see everyone look forward to the constitutional change process and to bear in mind that constitutional change needs to be looked at from the point of view of keeping the executive accountable. The reason I have concerns about that, obviously, is my perception of the failures, particularly in the last few years, of the former government. I do not expect those opposite to agree with me, but I believe that there was a lack of accountability leading to real problems. That is my view. As I said, I do not expect those opposite to share it, but I do not want to see any future government, whether a government formed by the Labor government or by those who sit opposite, being in a position where it can run away and act virtually as an executive government without any scrutiny at all from the parliament. I commend this bill to the parliament, but I also commend to the parliament the thoughtful remarks of the member for Mitchell, who addressed a very important question that I think we all need to bear in mind.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): I will be brief. Clause 2 of the bill, as we know, enables the government to create up to 15 ministers. Like other members, I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier for his imminent elevation to the ministry. I think he will be an outstanding minister and will add a rural balance to the present cabinet. But I think that in some respects it is a sad and important occasion for the parliament that we are here passing this bill. Although I will be supporting it, I think it gives us an indication of where we are going and where we have come from.

I recall, during my first speech in the parliament, bringing to the attention of the house that in 1967 there were around 20 000 public servants: by 1997 that number had grown to almost 90 000. Government has grown enormously in the last 30 years, and that is reflected by the number of ministers we have. The Playford government had 10: we now will have 15. We have created a bureaucracy in a very small state which almost beggars belief and which raises questions about whether or not it needs to be as large as it is; and whether or not by reducing that bureaucracy we could govern better, more efficiently and more economically.

Having 15 ministers instead of, say, 10, we will hand out more prizes, but will it deliver more effective government? Will it create more interdepartmental committees? Will it create more written briefs that need to be passed from one level of government to another and more interactions requiring more government employees, because with each minister, as we know, comes a personal staff of 13 to 15 people and a much larger departmental focus? I wonder if we could do it better with fewer.

In regard to the Treasurer (the member for Hart) and his earnest objection to earlier efforts to increase the number of ministers and his now abundant enthusiasm for the proposition, it is a very sad occasion. The cost will be \$1.8 million or so per minister. Although this bill is there for the point of creating a 14th minister, the removal of section 66 does not prevent a government from lifting that to 15, and I am sure that within a few weeks we will have the announcement of a fifteenth minister from this government. It also raises issues mentioned by some of my colleagues opposite in regard to the Westminster style of parliament under which we operate. I make the point that with 14 ministers in a government of 24 members, which is what we have—24 being a majority—15

in Caucus will dominate its back bench. Those 24 members who can dominate a majority in the house will comprise a front bench of 15 which, using cabinet solidarity, will simply rule as it wishes over its own backbench. That fundamentally undermines the Westminster system.

In regard to the Labor Party's eagerness to accommodate compromises, first in its compact with the Speaker and now in regard to the proposed coalition arrangements with the Independents, the Labor Party that I learnt of as a political science student and came to know was a Labor Party based on principle, based on socialism, with its roots deeply grounded in the trade union movement. It was a proud party, based on principles. It now seems earnestly on course to try to become a Liberal Party. It seems to have lost its way and has become a party of expediency, ready to accommodate any political value necessary in order to achieve and retain government. It has watered down its values to the point where people no longer know what the Labor Party stands for. The benefit of incumbency will afford some protection to this state government. I think Labor federally is suffering in opposition from a lack of direction associated with people not knowing what it stands for any more. It has tried to become a Liberal Party and, as it is not in government, it is floundering. Incumbency will protect this government while it makes no major mistakes, but I say that this decision is another nail in the Labor Party that was based on principle, on the values of socialism and on the roots of working class philosophy.

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): I too wish to comment on this bill, and am in agreement with our leader. As the leader has said and in line with the remarks of other members on this side, my comments are not aimed at the member for Mount Gambier. I have looked at the agreement between the member for Mount Gambier and the government and can see that as a member of this chamber he is out to get the best possible position to promote his electorate, and I commend him for that. No doubt, with his experience and given the opportunity, he will make a valuable contribution; that is not in question. However, as other members have outlined clearly, I believe that the process and the intentions of the government are in question. They will not only be in question in this chamber: they will also be in question outside. I have already heard comments about when the deals will end. In other words, what will this government do to maintain itself in power? This government is not about consensus, as is often stated on that side in relation to a bipartisan approach. It has done things in rhetoric—in theory—but its actions show otherwise. It is not about consensus: it is about a con government. It is not about principles but about supporting politicians and not implementing policies. This government is about accepting the perks of government and not addressing—

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: I rise on a point of order, sir. When I was making my remarks I was reminded by the Acting Speaker to keep my remarks relevant to the debate. I think the member for Hartley is indulging in the same thing as I was in my remarks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Hartley and all members that they should be addressing the matter before the house.

Mr SCALZI: I believe it is relevant to try to work out the reasons for this process in bringing the capable member for Mount Gambier into the government coalition. It is not about principles but about supporting politicians and not implementing policies. It is about accepting the perks of government and not about addressing poverty. What has happened

to the pledges on health, education and the environment? It is not about protecting the environment but about creating an environment that will keep them in power. It is not about stable government; it has that. It had that agreement from the Speaker, from members on this side and from the Leader of the Opposition, who said we would get on with being an alternative, relevant opposition and government. It is not about that, so why has this come about? It is about looking after the factions in the Labor Party and, when that is done, creating positions for others outside so that the factions maintain their positions. That is what this is about. If we think otherwise, then we do not understand politics, the nature of power and decision making. How far will this con go to maintain itself in power? I believe it is not about consensus: it is about conning us senseless. You can do that some of the time—

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I rise on a point of order, sir. I have cut the member for Hartley a degree of slack, but I would suggest that the comments he is now making about ‘conning’ and ‘cons’ are imputing improper motives to the member for Mount Gambier and me as deputy leader. I would be interested to know whether that is the view of the chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not think it is quite at that point, but the member for Hartley is heading in that direction and should be careful in his choice of words. I do not think what he has said thus far impugns anyone.

Mr SCALZI: I tend to use alliteration in my comments to make the speech shorter and get to the point, so that is why I was talking about consensus and conning and conning us senseless. I believe that this is about keeping itself in power. Increasing cabinet to 14 or 15 gives the government the opportunity to bring in more and maintain those conflicting interests within the Labor Party. There is no question that that is the case.

We have heard that the government was about reducing the number of MPs and having smaller government, and what do we find here? It is true: it has reduced the number of MPs and backbenchers—by increasing the ministry! There are fewer members as MPs when we increase the ministry, possibly to 15. At what cost will this increase be? What will happen to the pledges on health and education and, as we clearly found out, what has happened to Julia Farr? This money could have gone into that area and the capable member for Mount Gambier could still be part of cabinet and part of that coalition. You cannot go to the public and say that you have no choice. You cannot go to the public and say that you do not have the support of the opposition to continue to govern in your own right. You have the agreement from the Speaker and the Independents that they will support the government, provided it carries on with its policies and its commitments. As the member for Waite has outlined, what would the true believers of the Labor Party think? I almost joined the Labor Party once, but the prime reason I did not join was because I could not sign the pledge. I could not abrogate my conscience to caucus. Today, I find out that I could not join for other reasons, as well, because I would have to wait in line according to the factions and not be promoted on individual merit.

Mr Koutsantonis: Why haven’t they promoted you?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens is out of order and will not interject.

Mr SCALZI: It is an honour to be the member for Hartley, which is the seat of a former Labor premier. What would the true believers, those who believe that the Labor Party is a social democratic party, think today? Here we have

a government that claims to have its roots in social democracy and the trade union movement. However, in order to maintain itself in power, it must buy the help of conservative members. In a way that is a good thing because, obviously, the conservative members will make a contribution to that government. But the government has had to resort to that. What does it say about its backbench? What does it say about all those who joined the Labor Party expecting to be treated the same as those on the front bench? Well, only time will tell.

I look forward to the contribution from the member for Mount Gambier, and I agree with our leader that we will get on with it. The contribution of the member for Mount Gambier, as a result of his country and local government experience, no doubt will make a valuable input to South Australia. The motives and the process will be questioned not only by members in this house (as they are questioned in the back rooms of the Labor Party) but also in the community. We can only con the community for some of the time: we cannot con them all the time.

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): As a result of the passing of this bill, the member for Mount Gambier will be invited to become a member of cabinet—a member of the executive government of this state. I do not rush to congratulate him on that opportunity, but I do wish him well in that endeavour because I genuinely believe that he will make a valuable addition to any executive government of this state. I place two things on the record in the short time I propose to contribute to this debate, confident that a number of issues will be raised in the other place.

First, the Premier and the current cabinet and/or caucus (if that is to be of some weight in their decision making process) had the opportunity at all material times to determine this issue without coming to the parliament. They had the opportunity to welcome the attributes that the member for Mount Gambier would bring to their cabinet and to rearrange their cabinet to do so. The direct effect of asking us to pass this bill today will place an encumbrance on the taxpayers of South Australia for the purposes of allowing up to 15 ministers to be members of the ministerial council—up to an extra \$3.6 million a year in actual cost.

An honourable member: How much?

Ms CHAPMAN: It will be an extra \$3.6 million as a result of raising it from 13 to 15, if this bill is passed. The Premier had a choice. He has made that choice. He could have been courageous and responsible. He has opted out, and he has come to the parliament to call upon us to support the payment of that amount. Other options were available. Clearly, we have seen a change of the Premier’s priorities from schools, education, health and environment issues—all of which the government professes as priorities; ‘better schools and more teachers’ keeps ringing in my head about the area which I shadow.

The second aspect I place on the record raises the question of how this will work. I was concerned to read in the agreement, first, that the level of representation that the member for Mount Gambier might have had on his side in the preparation of this document—as we may see in the future—may leave a bit to be desired. I am not certain how the people of South Australia will view this new alliance in the sense of the process that is yet to go through. Whether they view it as like a war birth or like an unhappy marriage—I suppose in the first it is mostly illegitimate, but usually much loved; and in the latter it is legitimate but unloved—either way there are

serious deficiencies, and we will see what will happen to the doctrine of cabinet solidarity when it comes into conflict in relation to what is to be delivered, if the terms of that agreement are undertaken. What will happen to the code of conduct, which the member for Davenport has raised, and what will happen to the doctrine in respect of confidentiality within cabinet? These matters will bring into serious conflict the capacity for executive government to operate in a manner as it has in the past, which should be respected and which, in my view, will be seriously under challenge. In conclusion, I wish the member for Mount Gambier well in the challenge before him, and I fear for the effective operation of executive government in this state.

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): As our leader has indicated the opposition intends to allow this bill through. However, I believe that every member of parliament has a right to make a few comments about this bill. It is interesting to see the brave front, the cosmetic approach, taken today by many members of the government on the backbench. I commend them for that. It is also interesting to hear what those members, who are not in the ministry—and many of them may never be in a ministry in the Rann government—are saying in the corridors. This is not the first time that I have seen those members talking in the corridors. It is an interesting sign. It is one which is not being picked up by the media, but it is something, having been here for nine years, I have not seen before. Certainly, in the short time Labor has been in government it is interesting to see and hear what backbenchers are saying in the corridors. I say, ‘Watch this space,’ because, if they are starting to crack now, we should watch what those people say when they do not have to have the cosmetic approach and the real impact comes to fruition, given their past commitment and loyalty.

I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier for going into cabinet, on the basis that I know the member for Mount Gambier has far more capacity to contribute to economic and other matters in the cabinet than, sadly, what is there. That is an indictment on the Labor Party—one which was talked about during the election and one which has been well supported to the contrary by the media so far. However, when members talk to members of their community and listen to the media (over and above this particular subject and the way in which they have painted the picture with this subject) the fact is that the media is starting to wake up to the lack of competence in cabinet and, of course, the lack of inclusion when it comes to caucus. If members do not believe me on that matter, then I put on the public record that the leadership of the government did not have enough faith in caucus to brief caucus on this bill until they had gone to the media. We in the opposition knew more about this matter by midday than the backbench or caucus of the Labor Party. In fact, it was about 1 o’clock when they finally found out this was occurring. No wonder there were long faces!

As I said, I have no problems with the member for Mount Gambier going into the cabinet, because I have been very concerned about the lack of business expertise.

Members interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Well, there isn’t any business expertise in the current cabinet. I am very concerned about that.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: The Deputy Premier says that he has had 13 to 14 years advising previous Labor governments how to spend \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion advising previous

Labor governments how to bankrupt the state. That is the expertise they had, and I appreciate the fact that the Treasurer and Deputy Premier has raised that. I congratulate the member going into cabinet. The point I raise is that we do not have to be here debating this legislation right now because the capacity is already in law to allow for that member to go into the ministry. This is about the fact that, unlike our leader when Premier, when he had to make tough decisions and show leadership in doing a ministerial reshuffle, he did not come into this place wanting to amend legislation. Rather, he showed leadership. Every South Australian you talk to will say that Rob Kerin as Premier was, and as Leader of the Opposition still is, credible and shows leadership and affiliation with the South Australian community.

This Premier and this government could have done this without this legislation and saved quite a lot of money along the way. Some of us in government were non-cabinet ministers while others were. We were in cabinet most of the time. We were not in Executive Council and we know that Executive Council is only a small part of the overall ministry and cabinet responsibility. We were in there for all the budget, strategic and planning decisions and every time cabinet decisions were being made. That could have happened with this. They can paint the facade and have the brave voices in here, but the cracks would have got deeper if the legislation was not passed because there was not an existing cabinet minister who was prepared to take a drop in salary.

If the government is serious about wanting to improve the quality of cabinet, it did not have to have this bill. It could have spent \$1.8 million on aged care in Julia Farr—spent its responsibility. The Treasurer recently in debate confirmed that it will cost \$1.8 million because, when they talked about 15 ministers costing an extra \$3.6 million, the Premier said that that was only if you had 15 ministers.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: No, stop telling lies.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: That is what he said. He said that it is only half of \$3.6 million. My colleague heard it. There is no lie in this: it will cost them \$1.8 million, which aged care will not get—on which aged care misses out. The South Australian community misses out and it did not have to.

We left this state with a very good budget compared to what we had in 1993. The smoke and mirrors, lack of expertise in the ministry, the wrong priorities and broken pledges in the pledge card are affecting South Australians already and will do so more so in future. This ministry and the lack of cohesion in this government already means that we cannot trade back. People do not want to do it for the good of South Australia as when we were in government, when we were prepared to work hard for less money and proud of the fact that we were privileged to be a minister of the crown. We will spend \$1.8 million to keep everybody happy on the front bench. What the government will do for the back bench in future I do not know. I see people like the member for Colton who have capacity. The member for Enfield has capacity, as has the member for Napier, but make no bones about this: it is not about putting South Australia before the Labor Party. Rather, it is about not having the fortitude to show real leadership and say that with this opportunity to bring in the member for Mount Gambier other ministers will have to take less. If that had happened, we would not have had to be debating this legislation.

The media has not reported it that way yet, but they will in time. When they do, the opposition will be out there explaining to the public that the reason they do not have aged care in Julia Farr or more police officers in the local service

area or more SSOs in the schools is that there is no leadership in this government. A lot of people will miss out unnecessarily, because the government could have organised this without legislation. This proves that the government wastes money, and the opposition will reinforce that point throughout the whole of its three-year term.

Mrs MAYWALD (Chaffey): I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier on his appointment to the cabinet. I believe he has certainly earned his stripes in this parliament over the past five years. As a colleague and very good friend, I have worked very closely with Rory McEwen for five years. We came into this parliament in 1997 as two very new politicians. I, in particular, was very green, and the expectation of what this place was all about was certainly different to what I found when I got here. The relationship that I built with the member for Mackillop and the member for Mount Gambier in the first year of our election gave me the strength to deal with the fact that we had a balance of power situation, a minority government and an enormous amount of pressure on the three of us sitting on the cross bench.

I do not think many members of the public understand what it is to be on the cross bench in a parliament where the numbers are very close. The tribal nature of politics, with the party structure, is quite extraordinary. Over the first few years I learned, first and foremost, to watch my back very closely and, secondly, that you must, at all times, focus your effort on the issues before you, and try not to get tied up in the political bun-fights that go on between one side and the other. I think that is, in essence, what the general public do not want to see.

Politics is adversarial by nature; the Westminster system is adversarial by nature; and the two-party system has made it more so. The general public is making it quite clear that it has had enough of that. In 1997, a minority government was elected. That was an aberration according to many of the party experts, who interpreted that result as an accident and not something that the public had intended: it had happened by mistake somehow. When it happened again in 2002, there was still disbelief within the structures of both the Liberal and Labor parties—'How can this be?' If we look at what the people of South Australia actually want, we can see that they want stability. They want their leaders to be decisive and visionary, and to tell us where we are going and not spend their whole time fighting with each other, across the chamber and within their parties. People have had enough of that. They do not want to see politicians constantly attacking each other.

The debate today is about whether the government has 13 or 14 ministers. Let us look at the 'State of the State', a report that was recently released by the Economic Development Board. The Economic Development Board was put together by the new government in a bipartisan attempt to look at where our state is up to, and where we need to go. The people on that board are not of any particular persuasion: they are not all Labor or all Liberal. They are good, decent, hard-working people who have been extremely successful in their own field of industry or politics. In terms of what this state needs, the final paragraph of the introduction to the report says:

A strategy for growth will require the shared commitment of government, the private sector, employees and employers.

The report goes on to give details of the indicators of where we are up to at the moment and demonstrates that we are well

below the national average on almost all of those indicators. The report says:

Of even greater concern has been South Australia's failure to benefit adequately from Australia's sustained high growth rates following [the] recession. As a result the state has had lower employment growth, leading to significant outward migration and further negative impacts on economic growth over the past decade.

We are below the average in terms of private sector investment, jobs growth and full-time jobs. It is quite extraordinary, when you read this report, to see where we are up to.

One of the recommendations of that report is to have a minister for state and federal relations—a new minister who can put South Australia on the map federally, whereas currently we are not. Currently, we are a very small part of the population with a very small contribution to a nation that seems merely to be fighting amongst itself for most of the time. The way forward: the first paragraph of this report states:

When communities truly understand their economic circumstances they can be a powerful force in changing them. They must know both the shortcomings and the potential.

We have to accept where our shortcomings are, and we have to look towards our potential. We have to stop fighting amongst ourselves. The report also states:

Success will need partnerships: between business and employees; business and the various tiers of government; education institutions and both government and business.

The message I am trying to convey today is that this is about partnership. Sitting on the crossbench, I have tried to do my best to represent my electorate in the most effective way I can. My preference is for a conservative government. Given that that has not been delivered in this parliament, my preference is to do the best I can with the ministers of the day, that is, the government of the day, and I will do all I can to ensure that the regional voice and the representation I give is based on merit and not trade-offs.

I do not believe that this appointment of the member for Mount Gambier into the ministry is about trade-offs. There is nothing in that agreement that says: you will do this if you give me something for my hospitals. There is nothing in it that says anything about horse trading for positions. This is a genuine attempt to bring some talent into the government which will also bolster the numbers of government. Grant it. That is going to happen. It is a shame that there are not more people in this place who could have learnt to count earlier.

One of the issues that I always feel is most disconcerting—and it has been reflected in this debate today—is that it is focused on the us and them. It is focused on their shortcomings, not our shortcomings. There is no attempt within this place for members to look within themselves, to look at their own failings and see how they can then move forward from that, and that disturbs me greatly. The public of South Australia despair. They want to see us working cohesively together to lead them to where we need to go. I believe that this is a very good appointment. I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier. I applaud the negotiations that have been undertaken by the government over the past few months to make this happen. But I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition. It is a very courageous decision he has made today to support this, and I know that it would have been a difficult thing to get through his party room. I believe that this is representative of the new age of politics and where we need to go, and I congratulate him also.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): I, too, rise to support this bill, and I do so on exactly the same basis that I supported an earlier government bill. On that occasion, it was to facilitate the appointment of additional parliamentary secretaries. At the time of supporting the passage of that bill, I indicated very firmly that it is my belief that a government ought to have the right to govern as it sees fit. It ought to have the right to structure its government on the basis of government departments, chief executives, ministerial appointments, appointments of parliamentary secretaries and whatever other types of appointments it deems necessary, as it sees fit.

If those appointments are seen to be erroneous in any way, we live in this fabulous system of a democracy whereby after four years the people themselves have the opportunity to judge whether those appointments are right or wrong. It is for that reason that I had no difficulty in believing that it was appropriate that this bill be passed. However, I should add that I do not accept the Premier's reasons for the need for this bill. We have been told that the reason for this bill is to facilitate the appointment of an additional person to cabinet. As many of my colleagues have already put clearly in this chamber during this debate today, there was no need at all to change any legislation to facilitate the appointment of an additional cabinet minister, as the existing legislation already very clearly facilitates the appointment of up to 15 cabinet ministers. So that could have happened.

The only thing this bill does is enable all 14 cabinet ministers to sit around the Executive Council table and, of course, Executive Council usually meets once a week on Thursday mornings for a very brief period with Her Excellency the Governor to work through those matters that need to be finalised. There is, however, something else that is tied to the import of Executive Council with the existing legislation, and that is the Parliamentary Remuneration Act. There is a difference of some \$30 000 plus for an Executive Council member as distinct from a non-Executive Council member. In reality, what this bill is really about is ensuring that there is a possibility of paying all members of cabinet the same amount of money and that no member of cabinet gets \$32 000 less than any other member of cabinet. If the government had not put forward this legislation, it would have been in a situation where, under existing legislation, three of its existing 13 ministers would have had to take a pay cut. This is really about ensuring that they all get the same amount of pay.

I take issue with the present situation in that the legislation before this house today is actually very similar to that articulated to the Labor Party, the Democrats and the Independents just after the 1997 state election. Then Premier John Olsen wanted to increase the ministry, but the Labor Party said, 'We will block it,' and it said that vociferously. In fact, the Treasurer, who sits in here championing the passage of this legislation today, very clearly put his view in this chamber that 13 cabinet ministers was enough. In fact, he went further and said that that number was more than enough. The Labor Party did not have the decency to facilitate that legislation on that occasion. What occurred? An agreement was brokered with the Democrats instead, and the nature of the agreement was fairly simple. The agreement had to be cost neutral, hence the one resulting in the current legislation.

I am pleased that the Attorney-General remembers the detail and that he is now refreshing the Treasurer's memory so that he is brought up to speed. The irony is that, had the Labor Party actually agreed to the proposition that was put

to it in 1997, we would not be debating this legislation today, because it would have had the flexibility to do exactly what it is wanting to do today. That is the absolute irony of it. Perhaps there will be a lesson in that for the Labor Party. If it had taken the view that the Liberal Party takes today—that the party that is governing should be given the right to govern in a manner it sees fit, and let the electorate judge after a four-year term whether that is right or wrong—it would have made for a far better system, a far better way of governing.

Regarding the appointment of the member for Mount Gambier to the cabinet, it is very difficult for anyone on this side of the chamber to criticise such an appointment, for it is no secret that the member for Mount Gambier would have been appointed to the cabinet by a Liberal government had that come about. We were quite happy to have him in the cabinet. There is no doubt that the member has the ability to be there. I venture to suggest that the appointment of the member for Mount Gambier to the cabinet will see an enormous beneficial result for the state in that the IQ level of the cabinet will soar enormously. That can only be of enormous benefit to the state. I wish him well in his new role. It is a pity that the Labor Party was not as statesmanlike in its approach when it had the opportunity in 1997 to facilitate legislation to assist the state to move forward.

The other thing that concerns me about this bill in its presentation is the lack of openness of this government regarding the reasons for it. There is nothing wrong with coming out into the open and saying that this is about cutting a deal. This is about cutting a deal to ensure there is stability in government; this is about cutting a deal to ensure there is stability in the Labor Party. That is what it is about. It cuts a deal for stability in the Labor Party because no-one is demoted.

Of course, another way of bringing the member for Mount Gambier into the cabinet would have been to demote and remove a non-performing minister. That could quite easily have happened. There is plenty of choice there. The Premier would not have had to look too far to find someone to demote: it could have been the Minister for Health; it could have been the Minister for Tourism; it could have been the Minister for Energy; or it could have been the Minister for Social Justice. There is no shortage of potential candidates whom the member for Mount Gambier is head and shoulders above in ability. He could have quite easily have slotted into one of those positions. But, of course, to do so would have created problems in the caucus. So this was the easy way around it; there were no hard decision involved.

It is quite a contrast to the hard decision that the opposition leader, when premier, had to make. The opposition leader as premier had to make the decision to request the then attorney-general and the then minister for government enterprises to vacate their cabinet positions. That is not a decision that comes lightly to any premier, but he made the hard decision and carried it through. The Premier could have equally made a similar decision.

I venture to suggest that the member for Mount Gambier would make a far better health minister than the present health minister whom we are saddled with. I dare say he would make a far better tourism minister and a far better energy minister than the present ones whom we are saddled with. So, the Premier could have solved a number of problems at the same time.

There is nothing wrong with a government coming out openly and saying, 'This is about cutting deals and about keeping people happy,' because that is what the South

Australian public expects to happen in politics. People are not stupid. South Australians are well aware that politics is about cutting deals in the process of government, and they expect that it will happen. It is the integrity, openness and honesty that is not forthcoming in the presentation of this bill.

The same thing goes with some of the contributions that have been made in this chamber. Indeed, I listened with interest to the member for West Torrens, as I always do. I always find contributions made by the honourable member to be very gripping. The member for West Torrens talked about a whiteboard in the Blue Room in the basement area of the parliament. He claimed that there are numbers on this whiteboard and alluded to issues of leadership within the Liberal Party. The only thing, though, is that the member for West Torrens got something badly wrong: that is, that the Liberal Party has changed its constitution. It is no longer just the members of the House of Assembly but also the members of the Legislative Council who have a vote on the issue of leadership.

As all Liberal members know that, I can only assume that, if there is anything on the whiteboard, it must have been put there by a member of the Labor Party who is not aware of the constitutional change, because that is the only way it could have got there. If they are to be honest, open and accountable as a government, it is about time that they levelled honestly in this parliament. They might then start to get a little credibility with the people of South Australia.

This bill marks a turning point for the Labor Party. They have not been honest about the way in which they have presented this legislation; they have not been open; and they have not been fully accountable. The South Australian public will now start to see, with this bill and with others and with other actions in this parliament and outside of it, that the Labor Party is not about honest, open and accountable government. The catchcry they use—it is on the opening page of their web site—is nothing more than hollow rhetoric.

One advantage with the passage of this bill, as I have indicated, is that the cabinet's ability and intellectual capacity will increase enormously and, of course, that is good for the state.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I support the bill, and I have made my position on this matter very clear from the outset. One of the things that I determined before I came into this parliament was that I would do what I believed to be right for my electorate and the people of South Australia. I believe in parliamentary democracy, and I believe that government ministers should make the decisions, not the bureaucracy. I believe that it is an absolute nonsense to try to restrict the number of ministers, because the greater a minister's workload the less able they are, in my judgment, to make informed and effective decisions. Therefore, the appointment of the honourable member for Mount Gambier, in my view, even though I want to see a Liberal government in South Australia, will bring considerable wisdom to the cabinet.

He comes from a regional and rural centre. He has had wide life experience in a number of areas, and therefore he will give those areas of South Australia, which are represented by conservative members of parliament, an input into the cabinet. One of the most important elements of our parliamentary democracy is the ability of members of parliament to make the decisions which affect our daily lives. That is why we have elections. The last two elections have had interesting results. I believe that, in the future, we will revert basically to a two party system, because whenever there is

ongoing stability, people will go back to the status quo. I am quite confident about that. The appointment to increase the size of the ministry, in my view, does not have any downside.

The cost is insignificant when the budget is over \$7 000 million. Democracy is not the cheapest form of government: never has been; never will be; and nor should it be. However, the ability for the general public to have access to the decision makers is important. An increase in the size of the ministry will lesson the burden on those very busy ministers and make them more accessible to the public. The same argument can be applied in relation to the people who advocate a reduction in the number of elected members in this house. What they are saying is that the people should have less access to their members of parliament and that the state should have more bureaucratic control. I think that is a very bad thing.

While I was thinking about this matter, I took a quick trip to the library. In 1963, the then member for Burra joined the Playford government, Mr Quirke—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: Bill Quirke.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: —and between 1963 and—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: A former Labor member of parliament.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: He was elected as member for Burra as a Labor member of parliament—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: Member for Stanley.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: No, he was elected as the member for Burra. Originally it was a multi-member seat, then he became the member for Stanley based in Clare, now in the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: Clyde Cameron expelled him for not supporting the 1946 prices referendum.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: And having known the honourable gentleman, one could say that he probably had a somewhat independent trait to him—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Did you serve with him, Gunnie?

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I knew him, and I well remember his speaking at a number of conventions around South Australia. Therefore, it is not the first time that this has happened and it probably will not be the last time that it happens. At the end of day, in my judgment—and people can criticise me if they like, but I make no apology—I do not believe that there is anything wrong with increasing the size of the ministry, because I believe strongly that ministers should have ample time to consider and make decisions which will affect the people of South Australia, not be purely docket signers. That has always been my view; the same as it is my view about the size of the parliament.

I wish the member for Mount Gambier well in his new undertaking and I hope it is productive and enjoyable for him. I sincerely hope that he has a term of 3½ years, and that when we go to the polls next time, we will come back with sufficient numbers to ensure we have a conservative government elected in South Australia. I support the bill.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: It has been a very interesting debate over the course of the afternoon. I do not intend to speak for long, given that we have some other pressing work. Some of our state's finest public servants have been listening to this debate for the past four hours. I know that they have been—

Mr Brindal: They've been lucky if they heard me!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Yes, right. You think that member for Unley. I say from the outset that this is about stability of government and stability for the economy, and

from there we have the best chance to send the right signals and the right messages to the investment community nationally and internationally that there is stable democracy in South Australia. With the agreement in place, the government will be able to command 24 votes on the floor of the House of Assembly for the vast majority of its legislative program, and I think that is very important.

Notwithstanding that, I think it is very important that I say at this point that the compact with the member for Hammond remains in place and is a very important document. But what should be acknowledged is that both the member for Chaffey and the Deputy Speaker have publicly—and certainly privately—made it very clear that this government enjoys their support, provided that it adheres to certain principles of good governance. That has been an important contribution from both the Deputy Speaker and the member for Chaffey to ensure that the right messages are delivered on a consistent basis to the wider community.

For the government to be certain in the knowledge that it can command 24 votes on the floor of the house for the vast bulk of its agenda is extremely important, and that has been achieved. I thank the member for Mount Gambier for his courage, his commitment and his preparedness to consider the interests of South Australia before his own, and what he may have thought was the safe, or easier, course of action. I think the state is very fortunate to have someone such as the member for Mount Gambier in this parliament.

With respect to the issue raised by the member for Davenport about the code of conduct, I draw to the attention of the member for Davenport and other members clause 2.9 on page 3, which states:

The Minister will be bound by the ministerial code of conduct except as provided for in this agreement.

Clause 3.8 on page 4 states:

The Premier agrees that the minister, having complied with the arrangements in this agreement, is not subject to the usual rules of cabinet solidarity in respect of that particular matter. In particular, the minister, whilst remaining a member of cabinet, may criticise the particular government policy in relation to which the minister absented himself from cabinet after the policy has been publicly announced.

That is an important point. I think it is important that all members read the agreement and understand that it is a carefully drafted document to take account of the unique relationship that we now have. I should say that the former Solicitor-General (and now Federal Court judge), Brad Selway, assisted the government, as was his task, to draft this agreement. Mr Selway is a noted constitutional expert, and I think we can have confidence in the quality of his work.

I could have a lot of fun with members opposite about their contributions. I could remind them that the appointment of 15 ministers after the 1997 election perhaps had more to do with then Premier John Olsen getting the shock of his life, having nearly lost the unlosable election, and wanting to shore up internal numbers. But it would be churlish of me to make that point. It is true that I did make some comments about the government's decision to expand the ministry at that time. All I can say is that I was wrong. I simply did not realise the workload—how much work cabinet ministers have to undertake—and I was wrong.

The only advice I would give to members opposite is that, if they ever want to be back in government one day, they should think very carefully about what they say whilst in opposition. There was a very important reason why we felt that we should have more ministers around the cabinet table.

As a government we want to operate as a team, as a collective group of ministers, and participate, where possible, in the decision making. We did not feel that the senior minister-junior minister model would work. We felt, rightly or wrongly, that it created too much division, not that there was much division in the Leader of the Opposition's government over eight years! But, again, it would be churlish of me to remind the honourable member of the constant change of leaders, the resignation of ministers and whatever in that government.

We are pleased that the opposition is supporting us, notwithstanding its somewhat churlish remarks along the way. The important thing now is that we will conclude an agreement that provides economic and political stability. This is not a moment for me to be point scoring against the opposition. I think that the stature of my role as Deputy Premier ensures that over time I will continue to improve as a statesman, not make cheap political shots at my political opponents, and with those remarks I thank members of the house for supporting this bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before calling the Clerk, I wish the member for Mount Gambier well in his new role.

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE (FIRE PREVENTION) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

TERRORISM (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to refer certain matters relating to terrorist acts to the parliament of the commonwealth for the purposes of section 51(xxxvii) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth. Read a first time.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

After the well-known events of September 11 2002 and its aftermath, the Commonwealth Government convened a meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), sometimes otherwise known as the 'Leaders' Summit' on the subject of terrorism and trans-national crime. This meeting took place on 5 April 2002 but was preceded by a great deal of discussion and negotiation between the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories. The communiqué that came out of the summit contained 20 resolutions.

The resolutions provided for:

- better co-ordination and co-operation between agencies at the Commonwealth and State level in case of a terrorist attack;
- the development of a new counter terrorist plan;
- better sharing of intelligence; and
- the formation of a National Counter Terrorism Committee.

One of the resolutions concerned terrorism offences. Leaders agreed: '... to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that terrorists can be prosecuted under the criminal law, including a reference of power of specific, jointly agreed legislation, including roll back provisions to ensure that the new Commonwealth law does not over-ride State law where that is not intended and to come into effect by 31 October, 2002. The Commonwealth will have power to amend the new Commonwealth legislation in accord-

ance with provisions similar to those which apply under Corporations arrangements. Any amendment based on the referred power will require consultation with and agreement of States and Territories, and this requirement is to be contained in the legislation'.

The Commonwealth introduced a package of terrorism Bills into Parliament in early 2002. The significant elements of this package were the *Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002*, the *Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002*, the *Criminal Code Amendment (Suppression of Terrorist Bombings) Amendment Bill 2002* and the *Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Bill 2002*. The most important of these for present purposes is the *Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002*. This Bill has passed the Commonwealth Parliament and received assent.

The Commonwealth took the view, on high level legal advice, that it might not have full constitutional power to cover the field of terrorism as it wished to define that subject. The Commonwealth does not have a specific constitutional power to deal with the general area of 'terrorism' nor does it have any general power to make criminal laws. It follows that the scope of any Commonwealth power to enact broad terrorism offences is supported by a patchwork of other specific Commonwealth heads of power.

The patchwork is reflected in s 100.2 of the Commonwealth *Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Act 2002*.

The result is complex and the support that it offers to the general terrorism offences is unclear. Any possible gaps and uncertainties may well be exploited in litigation challenging the validity of the Commonwealth legislation. The Commonwealth took the view that it was expedient to fill the gaps and eliminate, so far as is possible, constitutional uncertainties by a State referral of power to the Commonwealth of the necessary powers under s 51(xxxvii) of *The Constitution*. The States agree with that position and have agreed to refer the necessary power to the Commonwealth. This Bill gives effect to that agreement.

Most of this Bill consists of the text to be referred. It reflects the Commonwealth Act word for word. It is proposed that each State will pass identical legislation.

Content

The terrorism offences set out in the Bill and the Commonwealth Act are broad. That means that the State is referring a broad criminal law power, normally the province of the State, to the Commonwealth. For example, the definition of 'terrorist act' in the legislation is as follows:

terrorist act means an action or threat of action where:

- (a) the action falls within subsection (2) and does not fall within subsection (3); and
- (b) the action is done or the threat is made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause; and
- (c) the action is done or the threat is made with the intention of:
 - (i) coercing, or influencing by intimidation, the government of the Commonwealth or a State, Territory or foreign country, or of part of a State, Territory or foreign country; or
 - (ii) intimidating the public or a section of the public.
- (2) Action falls within this subsection if it:
 - (a) causes serious harm that is physical harm to a person; or
 - (b) causes serious damage to property; or
 - (c) causes a person's death; or
 - (d) endangers a person's life, other than the life of the person taking the action; or
 - (e) creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public; or
 - (f) seriously interferes with, seriously disrupts, or destroys, an electronic system including, but not limited to:
 - (i) an information system; or
 - (ii) a telecommunications system; or
 - (iii) a financial system; or
 - (iv) a system used for the delivery of essential government services; or
 - (v) a system used for, or by, an essential public utility; or
 - (vi) a system used for, or by, a transport system.
- (3) Action falls within this subsection if it:
 - (a) is advocacy, protest, dissent or industrial action; and
 - (b) is not intended:
 - (i) to cause serious harm that is physical harm to a person; or
 - (ii) to cause a person's death; or

- (iii) to endanger the life of a person, other than the person taking the action; or
- (iv) to create a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public.

The wider definition of 'terrorist act' originally proposed by the Commonwealth Government was substantially amended in the Commonwealth Parliamentary process. Even with the amendments, questions have been raised about the fault elements of the proposed offences. As a result, advice was received from the Commonwealth about the meaning of the offences.

The advice received from the Commonwealth about the fault elements of the offences contained in the Commonwealth legislation (and, therefore, the extent of the reference of power to the Commonwealth) is as follows:

Points on application of fault elements to the terrorism offences
Where a terrorism offence does not specify a fault element for the circumstance that an act is a terrorist act, recklessness applies to this circumstance by virtue of section 5.6 of the *Criminal Code*.

For example, the offence of preparing for, or planning, a terrorist act in section 101.6 should be read as follows:

- A person commits an offence if the person
- intentionally does any act and;
 - is reckless as to whether that act is in preparation for, or planning, a terrorist act.

In other words, to commit the offence of preparing for, or planning, a terrorist act, a person would have to be *reckless* as to whether his or her act is in preparation for an act that would cause serious harm to a person, serious damage to property etc and that would be done with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause and with the intention of coercing a government or intimidating the public.

Where an offence does specify a fault element for the circumstance that an act is a terrorist act, the fault element will apply. For example, the offence of providing or receiving training connected with a terrorist act in subsection 101.2(1) should be read as follows:

- A person commits an offence if the person
- intentionally provides or receives training and;
 - knows that the training is connected with preparation for, the engagement of a person in, or assistance in a terrorist act.

In other words, to commit the offence a person would have to *know* that the training he or she provided or received was in preparation for etc an action that would cause serious harm to a person or serious damage to property etc and that would be done with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause and with the intention of coercing a government or intimidating the public.

Duration/Termination of Reference

The agreement reflected in the Bill is that the reference should be indefinite but subject to termination by any referring State by proclamation by its Governor. There is some High Court authority (*R v Public Vehicles Licensing Appeal Tribunal (Tas): ex parte Australian National Airways Pty Ltd* (1964) 113 CLR 207) upholding such a clause and a clause in those terms is included in the referral Bill.

Inconsistency ('Roll-Back')

In the Australian Federal system there is a distribution of legislative powers between the Commonwealth and the States. The legislative powers of the Commonwealth Parliament are conferred by and confined by *the Constitution*. There are many topics on which both the Commonwealth and a State may legislate, that is, the Parliaments have concurrent legislative power. Thus, in a given situation, there may be more than one law that governs the position, one State and one Commonwealth. Section 109 of *the Constitution* governs the position when such laws are inconsistent with each other. It provides that, in that event, a valid Commonwealth law prevails and the State law is invalid to the extent of the inconsistency. The inconsistency may be direct, as when the State law conflicts, or indirect. An indirect inconsistency arises when a valid Commonwealth law is intended to cover the subject matter and there is a State law on the same topic. In that event, the State law is invalid, even though they may be the same and it would be possible for a person to obey both. The extent and meaning of s 109 has been the subject of a great deal of litigation and High Court decision-making.

'Roll-back' is legal jargon for a Commonwealth statutory provision ensuring the Commonwealth laws that are referred do not

over-ride State laws—that is, that both have concurrent operation. It is particularly important here, where, given the wide scope of the Commonwealth terrorism laws, there is the possibility for the Commonwealth to take over of a large chunk of traditional State criminal jurisdiction. The Commonwealth has agreed to provide for ‘roll-back’ in the terrorism reference. The provisions proposed by the Commonwealth are ss 100.6-100.7 of its Act. On this issue the Commonwealth is prepared to be as accommodating as it can be to maximise the scope for the joint and concurrent operation of State and Commonwealth criminal laws, and thus to avoid problems of indirect inconsistency.

Amendment

The referral to the Commonwealth is the referral of the ‘text’ of the Commonwealth legislation. The question then arises—what will be the position if the Commonwealth wants to amend its terrorism legislation? The matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, and it was agreed that amendment may only take place with the agreement of a majority of the States and Territories, including at least 4 referring States.

Section 100.8 of the Commonwealth ‘text’ reflects the agreed majority agreement position. However, there is a question as to whether the Commonwealth can fetter its legislative powers in this way. Therefore, there is still debate between the Commonwealth and the States about whether the States should enact a further provision in the referral legislation. If the Commonwealth and other States agree that a provision should be included in the referral Bill, we will amend this Bill at a later stage. The alternative is to record this agreement in an inter-governmental agreement. The inter-governmental would have political value only. It would not be enforceable in the Courts or any tribunal. There would be no legal sanctions for contravention of the agreement.

One other matter should be noted. The Commonwealth wants to be able to make general amendments to Chapter 2 of the *Criminal Code*, that is to the provisions that set out the principles of criminal responsibility, without the agreement of the States. The principles are of general application to offences against the *Criminal Code*. They are not directed specifically or substantially to the terrorist offences. It is appropriate that the Commonwealth be able to amend Chapter 2, but the State would have concerns about the Commonwealth unilaterally amending these provisions in so far as they apply to the referred terrorism offences. This is because such amendments could significantly change fundamental elements of the terrorism offences.

Conclusion

It is highly desirable that the referral legislation be uniform and the Government does not believe we can afford to delay this legislation. It is vital that we have legislation in place that will allow Australia to deal effectively with the threat of terrorism.

I commend the Bill to the House and urge Honourable Members to support it.

Explanation of Clauses

The provisions of the Bill are as follows:

Clause 1: Short title and purpose of Act

This clause provides for the name of the proposed Act (also called the short title), and sets out its purpose.

Clause 2: Commencement

The measure will be brought into operation by proclamation.

Clause 3: Definitions

Clause 3 defines terms used in the proposed Act. In particular:

- (a) terrorism legislation is defined to mean the provisions of Part 5.3 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code enacted in the terms, or substantially in the terms, of the text set out in the Schedule and as in force from time to time;
- (b) criminal responsibility legislation is defined to mean the provisions of Chapter 2 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code (which deals with general principles of criminal responsibility), as in force from time to time.

Clause 4: Reference of matters

Clause 4 refers the following matters to the Parliament of the Commonwealth:

- (a) the matters to which the provisions of the text set out in the Schedule relate, but only to the extent of the making of laws with respect to those matters by including those provisions in the Commonwealth Criminal Code in the terms, or substantially in the terms, of that text; and
- (b) the matter of terrorist acts or of actions relating to terrorist acts, but only to the extent of the making of laws with respect to that matter by making express amendment of the terrorism legislation or the criminal responsibility legislation.

Clause 5: Termination of references

The Governor will be able to terminate the reference by proclamation. At least three months’ notice must be given. The Governor will be able to revoke a proclamation in an appropriate case.

Schedule

The Schedule contains the text of the proposed Commonwealth legislation that is to be enacted in pursuance of the reference of power made by the States.

The main offences in proposed new Part 5.3 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code are as follows:

- (a) engaging in a terrorist act (proposed section 101.1) or doing any act in preparation for or planning a terrorist act (proposed section 101.6);
- (b) providing or receiving training connected with a terrorist act (proposed section 101.2);
- (c) possessing things connected with a terrorist act (proposed section 101.4);
- (d) collecting or making documents likely to facilitate a terrorist act (proposed section 101.5);
- (e) directing the activities of a terrorist organisation (proposed section 102.2);
- (f) membership of a terrorist organisation (proposed section 102.3);
- (g) recruiting for a terrorist organisation (proposed section 102.4);
- (h) training, or receiving training from, a terrorist organisation (proposed section 102.5);
- (i) getting funds to or from a terrorist organisation (proposed section 102.6);
- (j) providing support to a terrorist organisation (proposed section 102.7);
- (k) financing a terrorist act (proposed section 103.1).

The proposed offences carry penalties ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment.

Proposed section 100.1 defines a terrorist act as an action or threat of action done or made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, and coercing or influencing by intimidation a government or intimidating the public. Action falls within the definition if it causes serious physical harm or death, serious damage to property, endangers another person’s life, creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public or seriously interferes with, disrupts or destroys an electronic system. Action constituting advocacy, protest, dissent or industrial action that is not intended to cause serious physical harm or death, endanger another person’s life or create a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public is excluded from the definition.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CEMETERY PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Urban Development and Planning): I move:

That this house establish a select committee to examine and report upon the cemetery provisions (Part 30) of the Local Government Act 1934, including consideration of—

- (a) an appropriate legislative and administrative framework for the regulation and administration of interment within all cemeteries in South Australia, irrespective of ownership, location or operational status;
- (b) an appropriate legislative and administrative framework for the disposal of non-cremated human remains and management of gravesites outside of cemeteries;
- (c) the need for any identification of or disposal authorisation for bodies prior to burial;
- (d) terms, renewal, transfer and nature of interment rights, including implications for the ongoing financial viability of cemetery operations;
- (e) appropriate processes for, management of and rights at end of tenure of individual gravesites and with respect to closed or derelict cemeteries, gravesites or graveyards;

- (f) specific requirements for people from culturally and religiously diverse backgrounds, and their customs and practices with respect to interment of human remains in cemeteries;
- (g) any special requirements for the preservation of pioneer remains, burial sites and monuments;
- (h) any special requirements for the burial sites of Aboriginal people where there is an interface between Aboriginal burial sites and European burial sites;
- (i) any special requirements for the resting place or monuments (headstones & plaques) of ex-service men and women;
- (j) innovative ways of acknowledging the deceased, including via multiuse parks and gardens;
- (k) previous recommendations under points 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1 to 3.9, 4.1, 4.2 and 5.2 of the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on Disposal of Human Remains in South Australia, 18 November 1986; and
- (l) any other related matter.

Motion carried.

The house appointed a select committee consisting of Messrs Brindal and Caica, Ms Ciccarello, Mrs Redmond, Mr Snelling, and the Hons R.B. Such and J.W. Weatherill; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on 10 April 2003.

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I move:

That standing order 339 be and remain so far suspended as to enable the select committee to authorise the disclosure or publication as it sees fit of any evidence presented to the committee prior to such evidence being reported to the house.

The SPEAKER: I have counted the house and, as an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the house is not present, ring the bells.

An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:

Motion carried.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I move:

That the time for moving the adjournment of the house be extended beyond 6 p.m.

Motion carried.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable the report of the Auditor-General and budget results 2001-02 to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House and for the ministers to be examined on matters contained in the papers in accordance with the following timetable, which has been distributed:

Thursday 21 November 2002.

Premier, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Volunteers, 30 minutes;

Minister for Health, 30 minutes;

Minister for Social Justice, Minister for Housing, Minister for Youth, Minister for the Status of Women, 30 minutes;

Thursday 28 November 2002.

Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry, Investment and Trade, 45 minutes;

Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, 30 minutes;

Minister for Education and Children's Services, 30 minutes;

Minister for Tourism, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, 30 minutes;

Wednesday 4 December 2002.

Minister for Government Enterprises, Minister for Energy, Minister for Police, Minister for Emergency Services, 45 minutes;

Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for the River Murray, Minister for Gambling, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, 30 minutes;

Minister for Transport, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, 30 minutes;

Minister for Urban Development and Planning, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Administrative Services, 30 minutes.

Motion carried.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I move:

That the examination in committee of the reports set down for today be taken into consideration forthwith.

Motion carried.

In committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The first examination relates to the Premier, the Minister for Economic Development, the Minister for the Arts and Minister for Volunteers; the time set is 30 minutes.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: My first question relates to the Fahey report into public sector processes that was released earlier this year. I previously indicated that we were pleased that that review was allowed to be progressed. I appreciate that the Premier made a ministerial statement in relation to this report on 22 October, but my question relates to the implementation process. Will the Premier please inform the committee what practical measures the government has implemented to ensure that the recommendations contained in the report will be followed through?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition asked me that question. The task force, which the Leader of the Opposition appointed when he was premier, comprising the Hon. John Fahey AC (former Liberal premier of New South Wales and former federal minister of finance) and also the Hon. Greg Crafter (former Labor minister of education, community welfare and Aboriginal affairs) and Rod Payze (who was, of course, the former head of transport) was established by the former government in December 2001 to review the processes in the public sector.

I must say that, at the time, I was somewhat cynical about the appointment. I would like to say today that I was wrong. I would like to admit that I was wrong. I think that it was a good report and quite helpful. The report of the task force, 'Public Sector Responsiveness in the 21st Century—a Review of South Australian Processes', makes 122 recommendations to improve public sector responsiveness. The Auditor-General's June 2002 report comments on the Public Sector Responsiveness report. The Auditor-General's Report states:

It is in the public interest that the parliament, Executive Government and the management of the Public Service address with positive action the substantive findings and recommendations contained in the report.

In keeping with our commitment to openness and accountability, the government sought comment and feedback in relation to the public sector responsiveness report prior to making its response to the report and, indeed, it consulted with the opposition and others through the PSA. On 22 October 2002, I made a statement to the Parliament on the government's response to the public sector responsiveness report.

In that statement I indicated that the government will give broad support to the public sector responsiveness report and will embrace a number of its proposals. The government sees that there are five key themes in the report: the importance of collaborative working, the enhancement of a professional

Public Service, the creation of a facilitative culture within a professional Public Service, having clear roles and accountabilities and the improvement of government management processes. A number of government departments will be key players in the implementation of the agreed themes, and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will continue to support and facilitate this. The Auditor-General also comments that some members of the former executive government summarily dismissed advice proffered by the Public Service when it did not accord with preconceived ideas. This government encourages the provision of frank and fearless advice from the public sector, but this is not the time for politics: it is the time for statesmanship.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: The schedule of employee remuneration on page 696 states that for the financial year ended June 2002 there were total 37 DPC employees earning in excess of \$100 000. Will the Premier advise the house whether he expects the number of executives within DPC earning in excess of \$100 000 to decrease during the coming financial year and, if so, by how many; and have the positions been identified?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: There may be some confusion. As reported in the 2001-02 financial statements of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the number of employees whose remuneration packages equalled or exceeded \$100 000 increased from 30 to 37, and that might seem strange. However, this was predominantly due to five employees from Arts SA being counted in the total Department of the Premier and Cabinet figures. A detailed break-up of those employees' packages can be provided. I point out that there has been a reorganisation. The arts budget is about \$100 million in total. Because there have been changes in departments, it is a bit like comparing apples with pears, but I am very happy to provide details to the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: This question relates to the Premier's Social Inclusion Unit, which has been established within DPC. Will the Premier advise the committee what the total cost of the unit has been for the period following the establishment of the unit until 30 June 2002?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am very happy to get a report on this. I have appointed a board headed by David Cappo. It is a very small unit; we have established a separate budget for the running of the Social Inclusion Initiative. Madeleine Woolley—who, as I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would know, is technically the head of the Adelaide Institute of TAFE—has been appointed as the CEO of the Social Inclusion Initiative reporting to David Cappo as chair. I am very happy with the progress being made on their key references, which include the retention rates in schools, cutting by half the number of people sleeping rough and also in particular in recent times dealing with the recommendations of the Drugs Summit. So, I am very happy to get those details for the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: My question relates to the History Trust and particularly to page 653. The Auditor-General found that financial controls exercised by the History Trust of South Australia were less than satisfactory, and he particularly mentioned the management of the heritage collection, the management of non-current assets and other financial systems. What action is the government taking to rectify those management concerns?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I advise the member that the History Trust has responded to the Auditor-General in terms of the concerns that were raised and has put measures in

place. I can provide some details of those measures. If the honourable member would like some more information, I can arrange for that to be provided to him in due course.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Thank you, minister, I will expect a response. My next question relates to the Museum board. I note the Auditor-General's findings (particularly on page 677) which indicate that there is a need to review established policies and procedures for all of its major design operations. So, there are some concerns there. Again I ask what action the government intends to take to fix these issues at the museum.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: On 21 August 2002, Tim Flannery, the Director of the Museum, who is well-known to the honourable member—

Mr Hamilton-Smith: An excellent director.

The Hon. M.D. RANN:—I agree with the honourable member that he is an excellent director—wrote to Ms V. Gouros, the Principal Audit Manager of the Auditor-General's Department, as follows:

Dear Ms Gouros

I am writing to acknowledge your interim audit letter in respect of the 2001-02 financial year. I apologise for the delay in my response owing to my absence from the Museum. With regard to the comments raised in your letter I would respond as follows:

Policies and Procedures

Your observation is accepted and the Museum is seeking to achieve remedy by identifying responsible Officers within three organisational areas of Directorate, Public Programs and Science who will be designated to maintain consistent policy and procedure documentation in current hard copy form. In addition, where appropriate, we have commenced utilising the internal Museum intranet system to standardise a range of forms and approval documents. It is anticipated both these measures should accomplish resolution to the concern you have raised.

Heritage Collections

Your findings are accepted and the Museum has instituted an immediate change of procedure by which donated heritage items are immediately advised to the Museum's financial services consultant within Arts SA, allowing all asset additions to be actioned on the Asset Register in a timely manner. I would further confirm that all such information related to donated heritage items for the financial year 2001-02 has been advised and reconfirmed accordingly.

I trust the above comments are appropriate for your requirements and on behalf of the Museum wish to express our appreciation for the ever thorough and professional approach shown by your staff during the audit period.

Yours sincerely, Tim Flannery, Director.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: I refer to the State Library board (page 671). I note a reduction in bequests and donations from \$288 000 in 2001 to \$54 000 in 2002, which is a fairly significant drop. What are the reasons for this reduction? In the light of this and the Dr Mocatta matter earlier this week where a large bequest of artworks of \$750 000 was left to the National Trust but is now to be auctioned—I know the government does not have the ability to direct the National Trust given that it is not a state government instrumentality—there is a need for some sort of code of practice to be developed for all agencies (government and non-government) for bequests so that future philanthropists are not put off by the idea that what they donate may be raffled off, auctioned or sold later? My question is in two parts: first, will the minister explain why this reduction occurred; and, secondly, is there a need for a code of practice to be developed?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I am not aware of why there was a reduction in bequests over the period indicated by the honourable member. There could be a range of reasons. Of course, the library has undergone major redevelopment over that time. It may be that the board had other things on its mind and was not promoting that aspect of its business, I am

not sure. We can certainly ask the director for some advice on that matter. What would be worrying, I guess, is if it became a changed environment for donations to public institutions. As the member knows, many public bodies in the arts and sports, and elsewhere in our society, are eagerly chasing donations and bequests, and so on, and there are fewer head offices in Adelaide to provide those bequests and donations. It is a complex situation. As I understand it, the libraries board has money which it has collected over the years and which it does not spend. I believe it is the case that it puts it into investments and then uses the interest. I think they have a good track record of holding onto what they have been given and using accrued interest to pay for programs.

The member raised a second issue in relation to the National Trust. I know this is a question about the libraries board, and not so much the National Trust, but I must say the National Trust is an autonomous private body. Even though it is established under statute from this parliament, it is an independent body and it is not subject at all to direction by the state government. We give a small amount of resourcing, some \$70 000 a year. As a volunteer organisation it is attempting to look after considerable heritage assets of this state, some of which they are looking after on behalf of the people of South Australia. It is always a matter for them to manage. Their duty is to protect heritage and their income. It becomes unsustainable at some stages, so they have to sell off assets from time to time. I think it is regrettable that the collection of art, which was mentioned by the member and which was referred to in the press, was sold off. I am not an art expert, but they look like interesting paintings done by reasonably important artists. It is regrettable if they leave the state. However, it is their right to make those decisions.

The point that the member made about a code of conduct for government entities is very good. I had a brief conversation with the Premier, and both he and I would be pleased to pursue that matter further. We have to be a bit careful. I think we would be travelling too far if we were to say that no entity can ever give away anything that is donated to it. I know there are examples, sometimes, when civic citizens like to give what they think are priceless possessions to a public institution, and the public institution may have a different view about the value of those holdings. One cannot expect the state to hold onto those things forever, because a cost is involved. Sometimes benefactors may give a personal collection and only some items from the collection are of relevance or value to the institution to which they have been given. So we need to ensure flexibility.

In the case of the National Trust bequest, as I understand it, the person making the bequest had a condition in her bequest that the National Trust could dispose of those assets if they so determined. It is unreasonable to criticise the National Trust for doing what the bequest allowed them to do. It is a power they had and they are exercising it, as regrettable as it may be from a broader point of view and unfortunate from the family's point of view.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: In relation to the Art Gallery board, at page 641 of the audit report I notice the cash assets, including cash at bank and on hand and deposits with BankSA, were \$4.014 million, which is a decrease of \$235 000 on the previous year. Will the minister or Premier explain that run-down in cash reserves, particularly whether the Art Gallery board has found it necessary, if you like, to access those reserves to meet recurrent expenses?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I will get a report for the shadow minister on that. I can say that the Art Gallery's recurrent government funding increased \$274 000 in 2001-02—from \$5.263 million in 2000-01 to \$5.537 million in 2001-02. Other revenue from ordinary activities increased \$760 000—from \$6.066 million in 2000-01 to \$6.826 million in 2001-02. The majority of the increase in revenue from ordinary activities relates to a state government contribution of \$600 000 towards the purchase of the Tiffany windows. The contribution was made to the Art Gallery Foundation, which operates through the accounts of the art gallery board. The foundation is responsible for the acquisition of the Tiffany windows. I will obtain a report on the specific matter that the member raised.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I have two questions to the Premier as Minister for Volunteers. I am bipartisan and supportive of that role. The previous government started an initiative on which the present government is building. We all know the importance of volunteers. I would like confirmation that it is intended that the budget for the Office of Volunteers, as reported in the Auditor-General's Report, will be ongoing.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I welcome the member's question and also his continued support for the Office of Volunteers. I am pleased that it has bipartisan support, because we all know that volunteers make an outstanding contribution to our state—and, in fact, South Australians volunteer at a higher rate than in any other state. As the honourable member would know, we are currently in the process of negotiating a compact with the volunteering sector. It is a complex process. Such an approach has been embraced by the Blair government in Britain in order to formally recognise not only the role of volunteers but also the independence of volunteers so that on no future occasion will there be funding subject to non-criticism of the government clauses in funding agreements. We think that is inappropriate and we want the compact, among other things, to assist the process of raising standards of accountability but, at the same time, to recognise the independence of the volunteering sector. I will obtain a report in terms of the specific questions relating to the budget.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Whilst I look forward to the report on the budget, I concur with the Premier on that issue. As former minister, I have no problem with volunteers having the right to speak out.

With respect to the global budget referred to in the Auditor-General's report in relation to volunteers, at the Adelaide Cup volunteers' morning, the Premier referred to the grants program which started last year and which continues this year. People are asking whether that will be ongoing. As the Premier will be aware, once people start to see the grants programs, they see an opportunity for a small piece of the pie and an opportunity to forward plan in terms of ideas and initiatives. Is it intended to continue that program?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.16 p.m. the house adjourned until Tuesday 26 November at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 18 November 2002

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

INNOVATIVE GREEN BUSINESS

10. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the budget for the development of innovative green business in 2002-03 and what was the previous budget?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Current activities for the green business unit are funded out of existing resources. Budgetary needs will be reviewed on an annual basis as strategies for the unit progress. This is a new initiative, it did not have a previous budget.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

44. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will the powers of the Environment Protection Authority under the proposed restructure be reduced to regulatory functions only and if so, how, and will it continue to run education programs?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Statutes Amendments (Environment Protection) Bill 2002 proposes revised functions for the Environment Protection Authority. The honorable member has been provided with a comparison of the existing functions with the proposed new ones. While the proposed new functions refine the authority's regulatory role they do not eliminate its educative role particularly in the area of cleaner production.

WATER MONITORING

64. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** With respect to water quality monitoring:

- (a) what locations are currently being monitored and what qualities are being measured at each location;
- (b) what locations are proposed and when will this occur;
- (c) what was the budget and actual expenditure of 2001-02;
- (d) what budget has been allocated for 2002-03; and
- (e) will the scope of monitoring be refined and if so, what are the details and how will this affect the current budget?

The Hon. J.D. HILL:

- (a) The Environmental Protection Authority currently monitors water quality on a regular basis at 131 locations, including 76 groundwater locations, 19 surface water locations and 36 marine and estuarine locations. These locations and the corresponding water quality parameters being monitored are listed in the attached tables 1 to 3. In addition to these

locations, the EPA reports on water quality monitoring undertaken by the Murray Darling Basin Commission and SA Water at seven locations on the River Murray.

- (b) A further 118 locations have been identified for inclusion in the 2002-03 water quality monitoring program, including 52 groundwater locations, 53 surface water locations and 13 marine and estuarine locations. These locations and the proposed water quality parameters and timeframes are listed in the attached Tables 4 to 6.
- (c) The budget for the 2001-02 water quality monitoring program was \$280,000. This figure incorporates sampling and analytical fees, but not salaries and wages. Actual expenditure on sampling and analytical fees in 2001-02 was \$331,369.
- (d) The budget for the 2002-03 water quality monitoring program is \$623,220. This figure incorporates sampling and analytical fees, but not salaries and wages.
- (e) It is anticipated that the scope of the monitoring will be refined throughout the establishment of the expanded program, as a result of negotiations with other stakeholders and as a result of an ongoing review of the EPA water quality monitoring program.

The proposed monitoring program will provide water quality information that will be used by a broad range of government and non-government stakeholders including the EPA, Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC), catchment water management boards, National Parks and Wildlife SA (NPWSA) and community groups. Negotiations are currently ongoing with these groups regarding potential water quality monitoring partnerships.

Partnerships with other stakeholders are crucial to ensure integration of state monitoring programs, and to provide cost-effective monitoring. However, the need to work with other Agency timeframes may impact on the monitoring program timeframes.

The sites identified in tables 4 to 6 are indicative locations identified by a review of the EPA water quality monitoring program. Flexibility has been built into the proposed monitoring program expansion to enable refinement of the monitoring program, provided that a similar or better degree of coverage can be achieved.

It is not currently possible to predict specific changes to the program that may arise from these discussions. Several agencies including DWLBC and NPWSA have indicated that they may be willing to collect samples in exchange for water quality information. The selection of sites may be refined to reflect these options.

It is anticipated that the necessary program flexibility can be incorporated into the existing budget.

The expanded program has been developed on the basis of an ongoing review of the existing monitoring program. The final report on this review is due for completion later this year and may include refinements on the proposed program.

In addition to the factors outlined above, it will be necessary to go to tender for the sampling and laboratory analysis for the monitoring program. Significant increases in the sampling and analytical costs also have the capacity to impact on the scope of the monitoring program.

Table 1—Current Groundwater Monitoring Locations

Location	No. of Sites	Analytes
Northern Adelaide Plains		
· Robinson Rd, Virginia (NAP 6628-13981)	8	Temperature, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), conductivity, ions, nutrients, heavy metals, heterotrophic iron bacteria (HIB), pesticides
· Supple Rd, Virginia (NAP 6628-2340)		
· Angle Vale Rd, Virginia (NAP 6628-2054)		
· Pt Gawler Rd, Virginia (NAP 6628-129)		
· St Kilda Rd, Virginia (NAP 6628-13840)		
· Dale Dr, Salisbury (NAP 6628-16544)		
· Magazine Creek, Dry Creek (NAP 6628-13020)		
· Chivell Rd, Angle Vale (NAP 6628-1532)		
Willunga Basin		
· Adams Rd, Blewett Springs (WB 6627-6899)	8	Temperature, pH, TDS, conductivity, ions, nutrients, heavy metals, HIB, pesticides
· Bayliss Rd, Willunga (WB 6627-1606)		
· Kays Rd, Willunga (WB 6627-7656)		
· Strout Rd, Willunga (WB 6627-7096)		
· Kangarilla Rd, McLaren Flat (WB 6627-6856)		
· Blewett Spring Rd, Willunga (WB 6627-3852)		
· Little Rd, Pt Willunga (WB 6627-7670)		
· Elliot Rd, McLaren Flat (WB 6627-7805)		

South East

· Coonawarra (7023-2800; 7023-2829; 7023-2854; 7023-2964; 7023-2974; 7023-3763; 7023-3766)	7	TDS, conductivity, chloride, nutrients, heavy metals, dissolved organic carbon (DOC), halogenated organics (AOX), HIB, herbicides
· Millicent (6922-1328; 6922-1372; 6922-0223; 6922-0223; 6922-0800; 6922-3388; 6922-2521)	7	As above
· Padthaway (7024-2137; 7024-1878; 7024-2439; 7024-1810; 6924-2071; 6924-2041; 6924-1303)	7	As above
· Keith (6925-2744; 6925-2717; 6925-2731; 6925-2736; 6925-2730; 6925-2767; 6925-2768)	32	As above
· Mt Gambier (7022-2924; 7022-0686; 7022-7724; 7022-7725; 7022-7721; 7022-7722; 7022-7723; 7022-2846; 7022-2910; 7022-0060; 7022-2823; 7022-2828; 7022-0088; 7022-0290; 7022-0842; 7022-0293; 7022-0252; 7022-1538; 7022-1686; 7022-0283; 7022-2732; 7022-1532; 7022-1513; 7022-2369; 7022-2708; 7022-2563; 7022-2785; 7022-2460; 7022-0472; 7022-0260; 7022-1998; 7022-2569)		TDS, conductivity, chloride, nutrients, heavy metals, dissolved organic carbon (DOC), halogenated organics (AOX), herbicides

Table 2—Current Estuarine and Marine Locations

Location	No. of Sites	Analytes
Port River and Barker Inlet	9	Temperature, water clarity (turbidity), TDS, conductivity, nutrients, heavy metals, microbiology, chlorophyll
Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island	5	Temperature, turbidity, nutrients, microbiology, chlorophyll
Boston Bay, Eyre Peninsula	6	Temperature, turbidity, nutrients, microbiology, chlorophyll
Barcoo Outlet		
· Patawalonga Lake	4	Temperature, turbidity, conductivity, pH, microbiology
· Beaches	4	
Adelaide Metropolitan Bathing Waters		
· Largs Bay Jetty	8	Temperature, turbidity, TDS, conductivity, nutrients, heavy metals, microbiology, chlorophyll
· Semaphore Jetty		
· Grange Jetty		
· Henley Beach Jetty		
· West Beach		
· Glenelg North Beach		
· Glenelg Jetty		
· Brighton Jetty		
· Port Noarlunga Jetty		
· Port Hughes Jetty (reference site)		

Table 3—Current Surface Waters (Inland) Locations

Location	No. of Sites	Analytes
Rivers and Streams	15	Nutrients, heavy metals, turbidity, TDS, ions, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, macroinvertebrates—several of the macroinvertebrate locations differ slightly from the physical and chemical sampling locations, although are generally nearby in the same watercourse
· Cooper Creek, Callyamurra Gauging Station (GS) 003503		
· Finnis River, East of Yundi GS 426504		
· First Creek, Waterfall Gully GS 504517		
· Hill River, near Andrews GS 507500		
· Hindmarsh River, GS 501500		
· Kanyaka Creek, GS 509503		
· Light River, Mingays W'Hole GS 505532		
· Marne River, upstream of Cambrai GS 426529		
· Mosquito Ck, Struan upstream of GS 239519		
· Myponga River, GS 502502		
· North Para River, Penrice, D/S GS 505517		
· Rocky River, upstream of gorge falls GS 513501		
· Scotts Ck, Scotts Bottom GS 503502		
· Torrens River, Mt Pleasant GS 504512		
Lower Lakes	4	Conductivity, turbidity, nutrients, algae, chlorophyll
· Meningie, Lake Albert		
· Poltalloch Plains, Lake Alexandrina		
· Milang, Lake Alexandrina		
· Goolwa Barrage (upstream), Lake Alexandrina		

Table 4—Proposed Groundwater Locations (Indicative)

Location	Timeframe	No. of Sites	Analytes
South East Aquifers	February 03	20	TDS, conductivity, chloride, nutrients, heavy metals, dissolved organic carbon (DOC), halogenated organics (AOX), HIB, herbicides
Barossa Valley	February 03	8	Temperature, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), conductivity, ions, nutrients, heavy metals, heterotrophic iron bacteria (HIB), pesticides

Table 4—Proposed Groundwater Locations (Indicative)

Location	Timeframe	No. of Sites	Analytes
Adelaide Plains Aquifers	February 03	8	Temperature, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), conductivity, ions, nutrients, heavy metals, heterotrophic iron bacteria (HIB), pesticides
Mount Lofty Ranges	February 03	8	Temperature, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), conductivity, ions, nutrients, heavy metals, heterotrophic iron bacteria (HIB), pesticides
Eyre Peninsula Aquifers	February 03	8 ¹	Temperature, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), conductivity, ions, nutrients, heavy metals, heterotrophic iron bacteria (HIB), pesticides

Notes:

1. Eyre and Yorke Peninsula Aquifers to be monitored on a 2-yearly basis

Table 5—Proposed Estuarine and Marine Locations (Indicative)

Location	Timeframe	No. of Sites	Analytes
Encounter Bay	December 2002	3	Temperature, turbidity, TDS, conductivity, nutrients, heavy metals, microbiology, chlorophyll
Estuaries	February 2003	10	Temperature, turbidity, TDS, conductivity, nutrients, heavy metals, microbiology, chlorophyll
· Patawalonga			
· Kangaroo Island			
· Eyre Peninsula			
· Fleurieu			
· Mid-North			

Table 6—Proposed Surface Water Monitoring Locations (Indicative)

Location	Timeframe	No. of Sites ¹	Analytes
Rivers and Streams	December 2002		
· Bremer River		1	Nutrients, heavy metals, turbidity, TDS, ions, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH
· Coorong		12	
· Dry Creek		2	
· Eight Mile Creek/Ewens Ponds		2	
· Finnis River		2	
· Light River		2	
· Marne River		2	
· River Angas		2	
Macronivertebrate sites			
· Broughton River		2	
· Cygnet River		2	
· Drain M, South East		2	
· Gawler River		2	
· Hindmarsh River		2	
· Onkaparinga River		2	
· Torrens River (incl. Torrens Lake)		3	
· Wakefield River		2	
· Willochra Creek		1	
· Tod River		3	Nutrients, heavy metals, turbidity, TDS, ions, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, macroinvertebrates (at 2 sites)
Flinders Ranges		3	
Cooper Creek		4	Nutrients, heavy metals, turbidity, TDS, ions, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH (at 1 site) and macroinvertebrates (at 4 sites)

Notes: The numbers of sites in each catchment and the selection of specific catchments are likely to be refined. However, the coverage provided by these refinements should be consistent or better than the proposed program.

TREASURY SPECIAL ACT ALLOCATIONS

83. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What are the details of each item under the lines of Treasury Special Act Allocations and Consolidated Revenue, respectively, in 2001-02, will these lines continue in 2002-03 and if so, what are the details?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I refer you to: Portfolio Statements 2002-03 Budget Paper 4 Volume 2 page 8.37

	2001-02		2001-02 Budget \$'000
	Budget	Result	
Receipts			
Outputs Purchased			
(1) Intra-Sector Grants Received	185	181	181

	2001-02		2001-02 Budget \$'000
	2002-03 Budget \$'000	Estimated Result \$'000	
Other Receipts			
(2) Sale of Land and Buildings	4400	4841	3728
Payments			
Employee Entitlements			
(1) Salaries, Wages Annual and Sick leave—Parliamentary Salaries	185	181	181
(2) Land and Buildings transfer to Consolidated Account	4053	4841	3728
Receipts and Payments denoted by:			
(1) Appropriation and expenditure in relation to the minister's			

salary pursuant to Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990. Expenditure in 2002-03 is expected to be \$185,000.

- (2) Sales of surplus crown land and the net proceeds of the freeholding of crown land perpetual leases and shack sites. These monies are collected by the Department for Environment and Heritage and then paid into the consolidated account (the budget). Receipts in 2002-03 are expected to be \$4.4 million.

MINING LEGISLATION

116. **The Hon. W.A. MATHEW:**

1. Has a discussion paper relating to new mining legislation been circulated to stakeholders for comment and if so, what are the details?
2. How much has been allocated in 2002-03 for the implementation of a new MINREG database which allows e-lodgement and when will this be completed?
3. How much funding has been allocated in 2002-03 for each of the following technology projects:
 - (a) online delivery of high volume mineral datasets;
 - (b) web access to SA GEODATA;
 - (c) incorporation of the environmental meta-database module into the South Australian minerals reference database;
 - (d) production of free data CD's for critical basins;
 - (e) release of acreage promotional CD;
 - (f) production of new SA farm for local explorers by January 2003; and
 - (g) completion of CB's of TEISA projects and what were their allocations in 2001-02?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Minister for Mineral Resources Development has provided the following information:

1. A discussion paper will be circulated to all stakeholders and government agencies by mid November 2002, seeking comment on the issues and asking for any other issues that should be considered in the review. A period of 4-5 months will be given for comments to be received (e.g., by 31 March 2003). Consideration of the responses to the discussion paper and organisation of meetings with stakeholders will be completed by 31 July 2003.

A draft bill will be prepared by 31 December 2003 and then circulated to all stakeholders and government agencies by 31 January 2004. Comments on the draft Bill will be required by 30 April 2004. The bill will be finalised by 30 June 2004. Preparation of a cabinet submission seeking the introduction of the bill into parliament will be completed by 31 August 2004. The bill will be introduced into parliament in September/October 2004. The enactment of the amendment bill will be made in early 2005.

2. \$250,000 has been allocated in 2002-03 towards the development and the implementation of a new integrated tenement management system to replace the MINREG database and other legacy systems over the next 2 years. Development is expected to be completed early in the 2003-04 financial year. The current development does not include e-lodgement, but provides the database required to support future development of this capability. Development of e-lodgement facilities will be considered in the following financial year.

3. (a) No funding has been allocated in 2002-03 for providing online delivery of high volume mineral datasets through data access protocol.
- (b) \$50,000 has been allocated to facilitate web enabling a number of mineral resources databases one of which is SA GEODATA.
- (c) \$10,000 has been allocated to complete the integration of the environmental meta-database module into the South Australian minerals reference database.
- (d) To facilitate and promote petroleum exploration in South Australia, a new free data package CD is planned for the Stansbury basins for 2002 at an estimated cost of \$100 (for CD duplication). Currently, free data package CDs are available for the Officer basin and offshore Otway and Bight/Dunroon basins.
- (e) The petroleum group of the Department of Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA) are currently producing an acreage promotional CD for the OT2002 acreage release for an estimated cost of \$1300. The annual update of the petroleum exploration and development in SA CD

will also be produced for release at the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) and American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) conferences in 2003, and the estimated cost is \$4 900 (which includes cost of CD copying, cover and label production). All costs are based on 2002 figures for producing similar products. The petroleum group will also contribute to the preparation of the offshore South Australia Bight basin section in the 2003 Australian offshore acreage release CD by Geoscience Australia and commonwealth Department of Industry Science and Tourism.

- (f) Funding of \$70,000 has been allocated for the refurbishment of an existing facility within the Walkley Heights department road transport/PIRSA complex. Once completed this facility will provide scope for the consolidation of the Office of Minerals and Energy Resources (OMER) core storage assets. This is one phase of an overall initiative to extend the core storage capacity of the Glenside Core Library to cater for the future requirements that will result from the increased industry activity discussed in the Resources Task Force report.
- (g) CD ROM datasets are a key output from most Targeted Exploration Initiative for South Australia (TEISA) projects with multiple datasets being distributed that include:
 - Mount Woods Gravity Survey data
 - Mann and Alberga airborne geophysical datasets
 - Lake Harris airborne electromagnetic survey data
 - 2001 State Total Magnetic Intensity merged dataset.

Each project has a data management and distribution component, where the total of such components for the 2001-02 year being \$25,000.

At least one free CD with TEISA Petroleum research project reports will be prepared for release in 2002-03. One such gratis CD has already been prepared for the Warburton basin TEISA research results.

4. The petroleum group will be attending the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia Western Australian Basins (WABS) conference in Perth in November 2002 and to minimise expenses will be sharing a promotional booth with Victorian Natural Resources and Environment Department. The total cost is estimated at ~\$6,000, which includes the booth, poster artwork and airfares plus accommodation for PIRSA delegates.

The annual APPEA conference will be held in Melbourne in March 2003. This is the premier Australian petroleum industry promotional event. The total cost is estimated at ~\$6,200 for a single SA promotional booth, poster artwork and airfares and accommodation for PIRSA delegates.

The annual AAPG convention will be held in Salt Lake City, USA in May 2003. This is the premier North American petroleum industry event. South Australia is planning to participate in a cut down Australian Pavilion being coordinated by Geoscience Australia. The costs are estimated at ~\$12,000 (share of booth costs, poster artwork and airfares and accommodation for PIRSA delegates).

In addition to attending industry conferences, OMER will organize and host a core workshop in April 2003 at the PIRSA Core Library and former Australian Minerals Foundation (AMF). The event is designed to be of national significance to promote SA petroleum and mineral opportunities and SA-based expertise in local universities and commercial enterprises. It will involve layouts of key petroleum and minerals core related presentations and poster displays. Costs are estimated at \$8,800 for producing a proceedings volume, speakers, AMF venue hire and transport of company-held core.

Two petroleum exploration license application areas in the Otway Basin (OT2002) will be promoted in 2002/03. These 2 blocks will be promoted at WABS 2002, AAPG 2003 and APPEA 2003. Other matters to be promoted are:

- 2003 offshore gazettal blocks in the SA Bight Basin
- SA farm-in opportunities
- SA petroleum service industry and academic institutions
- Company exploration activity in SA

- Native Title agreements established in SA
- PIRSA products (Petroleum Geology of SA series, Warburton Basin Atlas, and TEISA project results, Minerals and Petroleum in SA)
- TEISA 2020.

The total petroleum promotional budget for 2002-03 is \$70,000, which in addition to the above, covers advertising and product development and production costs.

5. OMER has allocated \$2 million for mining inspectorial functions in 2002-03 and 26 staff are currently employed in this area. In 2001-02 the funding allocation was \$1.7 million with 21 staff employed in this area. At this point in time the safety inspection function has not been transferred to the OMER, it remains a function of Work Place Services.