

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 7 February 2005

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

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The **SPEAKER**: This afternoon honourable members may notice that there are three special guests in the Speaker's gallery. They are: Wainiu Senitieli, who is a journals officer; Serei Naicavu, who is a Hansard officer; and Fane Buadromo, who is a librarian, all from the Fijian parliament and doing professional development study of the way in which we do things in our parliament. This is a program in which the South Australian Parliament has, sadly, not participated anywhere near as much as other longstanding state parliaments and the federal parliament have participated, largely as a consequence of our geographic isolation from any major point of entry from either the Pacific Ocean or Indian Ocean countries of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Those staff development programs are being undertaken under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the programs being directed by the Deputy Clerk of the House of Assembly and with the assistance of table officers of both houses, Hansard, and the library staff.

EYRE PENINSULA BUSHFIRES

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

That this house:

- expresses its sadness at the devastating effects of the 11 January 2005 bushfires on the Lower Eyre Peninsula;
- mourns the tragic loss of nine South Australians in the fires;
- extends its deepest sympathies to those who suffered the loss of family members, friends, home, stock and property;
- commends the selfless and heroic efforts of all emergency services personnel and hundreds of other volunteers who are assisting in the relief and recovery efforts; and
- pledges its moral and practical support to the communities of the West Coast in their efforts to rebuild.

The recent Christmas-New Year period was sad and bewildering and shocking. At a normally languid time for South Australians, a time of rest, reflection and simply being with one another, the world was turned upside down. The Boxing Day tsunami brought havoc to millions of people in southern Asia—a display of the terrible coiled power of this earth—and, two weeks later, the elements visited destruction and tragedy on our state.

On 11 January we woke to those ominous hot, northerly winds that every South Australian fears. With awful familiarity, radio began broadcasting reports of blazes in the South-East, the Adelaide Hills, on the Yorke Peninsula and elsewhere, fires that ultimately were contained by the well-drilled efforts of our emergency services. On the Lower Eyre Peninsula, however, a fiery orange thunderhead was forming. Within hours its terrible power was unleashed and fire cut a swathe through farmlands, towns and hamlets. It was utterly ferocious: a fire that travelled at twice the speed of the fastest blaze recorded in the state's history, according to some eyewitnesses.

Again it demonstrated nature's wrath and fickleness. As is often the case, the fire seemed cruelly to pick and choose: this house burnt to the ground; the one next door largely untouched. The school at Poonindie scorched as if by a giant

blowtorch; the tiny historic local church spared; and the football oval at Yallunda Flat, an uncanny oasis of green within many hectares of burned farmlands. The destruction of homes, property and stock was devastating. Of course, there were the smaller scale but painful more personal losses: the irrecoverable artefacts of memory; the wedding pictures; the kids' footy and netball trophies; lost medals of a late husband from World War II; and the cards and presents of another Christmas Day.

Amid all this, South Australians lost nine of their own: nine souls whom we today remember, honour and mourn. They are: little Jack and Star Borlase of Wanilla and their grandmother, Judith Griffith of Adelaide; a much loved teacher from Port Lincoln High School, Helen Castle; Jodie Russell-Kay of Poonindie and her children, Graham and Zoe; and the original 'Cockaleechee Kid', Neil Richardson, and his mate, Trent Murnane.

I do not wish to recount each of the harrowing stories attached to these names, but we note today that they died while fleeing the flames and comforting one another, and in the case of the CFS volunteers while trying to save the lives of property of those in their community. I am sure all members join with me in expressing sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who died in the fires and to everyone on the Lower Eyre Peninsula who suffered a loss of some kind on 11 January, including, of course, those who are injured. I visited the Burns Unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and I commend that outstanding unit for the work that it continues to do. They were there after Bali, and they were there again after the fires on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

These people remain in our thoughts and prayers. It is no consolation to the victims when we say that after the fires the relief and recovery efforts as well as the rescue brought out the best in South Australians. Still, it is true, and it deserves acknowledgment today. Perhaps the most heroic and selfless actions were carried out by emergency services personnel, both staff and volunteers. These included firefighters, police and ambulance officers, and State Emergency Services staff. To place one's life at grave risk in order to save the lives of others, to risk your life for the house of a neighbour or for the dwelling place of a person you may never meet are acts of not merely courage and dedication but humanity and love. I believe these people demonstrated the highest form of citizenship to which we can aspire.

When we think of the fires we understandably recall the sorrow of individual losses, and the stories of narrow escapes, the lifesaving efforts, but for me what was most striking was the spontaneous, concerted and cooperative actions of South Australians as a people: churches and children, battlers and businesspeople, governments of all ilk and level. It seems everyone rallied round; everyone pitched in; everyone did what they could.

People were stunned by the scale of the damage, both human and material, but most importantly they were stunned into action. The speedy practical support provided by all manner of individuals and organisations was extremely heartening. Primary producers, unprompted, sending fodder and meat to West Coast communities; doctors and nurses saving the lives of victims, healing their wounds and easing their pain.

Teachers repairing their schools and readying students for the scheduled start of another school year. Our Governor, Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, comforting victims. A couple in Sydney, with no apparent connection with the fire, who sent a cheque for \$5 000. The South Australian public

servants and ministerial staff, and I particularly want to mention Leon Bignell. I particularly also want to mention the staff of PIRSA, people from SA Water and ETSA and many other agencies, who worked tirelessly to keep the machinery of the relief effort going. And those who volunteered at the Cummins and Port Lincoln recovery centres: hard-working members of the West Coast Recovery Committee led by Vince Monterola. The practical assistance and gestures of support were many and heartfelt.

It is impossible to mention all the people, but the thing that struck me on my five visits to the West Coast after the fires was the massive effort by everyone who was putting in and giving back to the community, helping out those people. Together they showed that in a time of acute need we are in fact good, caring neighbours. It is important to note, too, that honourable members on both sides of this house carried out highly commendable work. In particular, I thank cabinet colleagues, especially the Minister for Emergency Services, for their sterling efforts. I also want to mention the Minister for Agriculture, the Minister for Regional Development, the Ministers for Health and Education, who were over there assisting with the relief recovery, and others.

But the placement of at least one minister on Eyre Peninsula at all times and with cabinet-delegated powers was, I believe, essential to getting things moving quickly and efficiently. Of course, there were a number of government initiatives: the West Coast hotline number; the \$6 million South Australian government emergency assistance fund; a range of financial assistance grants; and the waiving of water charges, stamp duty and other fees. I would also like to recognise members opposite and in another place. One of the first calls I had was from the Prime Minister, and I also want to mention my conversations with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who was offering assistance with fodder through another honourable member.

In particular, I commend the member for Flinders, who was on the ground immediately and who was one of the first persons I met during my initial visit to the bushfire region. I understand that the member for Flinders was of incredible assistance to a number of the victims of the fire and also played an active role in the recovery process, and I salute her today. I thank the Leader of the Opposition and his senior colleagues for their constructive contribution.

South Australia's worst natural disaster since the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983 was a shocking and tragic event. Unstoppable, capricious fires took the lives of nine South Australians: five adults who gave ceaselessly to family, friends and fellow citizens; and four lovely children whose smiles and great promise have been taken away from us. By speaking to and passing this motion today, this house extends its sincere condolences to the people of the Lower Eyre Peninsula, and with compassion and caring we all pledge our continuing support. This terrible disaster has unmistakably brought our state closer together and I have no doubt that, amid the sorrow, the characteristically resilient communities of Eyre Peninsula will rebuild and rebound.

The date of Tuesday 11 January 2005 will linger and glow in our collective memory for a very long time. We saw people who were shocked and people who were grieving, and now we want to join them in the recovery process.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): It is with sadness that I rise to give the Liberal Party's total support to this motion moved by the Premier. There is no doubt that the Eyre Peninsula fires were a tragedy of huge

proportion in South Australia, and our sincere sympathy goes to all those affected by the fires. To those who lost loved ones, we extend our heartfelt condolences. To those whose properties were blackened and destroyed, we offer our support and sympathy. To the entire community of Eyre Peninsula we, along with the South Australian community, sympathise with the tragedy and loss within their community and offer our understanding that it will be a long haul to full recovery.

The initial reaction on flying into Lincoln was one of disbelief. You look out of the plane and what you saw in front of you was not what you expect with a fire: a great big black area. One could simply see black patches and bare soil. The heat of the fire was such that it tended to vaporise the stubble, which would normally leave ash. It was a scene of absolute devastation. We had heard the initial reports, but it was unbelievable: seeing is believing. It was total devastation, and the disbelief of the people on the ground is understandable. Many of us have seen many fire scenes where you see posts half burnt and some wires hanging, but it was a scene of total destruction. Where you would normally have part of a fence post you would have a burnt hole in the ground. The degree of the destruction is beyond what you would normally see. For the locals that must have been absolutely devastating.

The destruction in all of the fire's path—homes, buildings, vehicles and infrastructure such as pipes, powerlines, signs, machinery, stock and the many irreplaceable personal effects that people lose when they lose their houses in a hurry like this—was tragic. The tragic loss of life has left gaps in those communities that not even time can heal. It is a close-knit community, and those losses are broadly felt by the entire Lower Eyre Peninsula community and far beyond. Others carry physical scars and injury from the tragedy, and our prayers and best wishes are with those people.

Out of the tragedy has come many incredible stories of heroism, bravery, resourcefulness and totally unselfish sacrifice. There are many super human and amazing efforts that are easier to understand for those who know the people of the Eyre Peninsula. Their sense of toughness, spirit and courage are unquestionable. After the past few weeks I have spoken to many affected. Their sense of loss and shock at what happened is acute. Their amazement at the ferocity of the fire is something they battle to get over, and they are having to come to terms with the shocking loss, and what is left to repair is extremely hard for these people to come to terms with. It is amazing that they are so determined to tackle what lies ahead: the essential grieving, the huge task of rebuilding the homes and infrastructure and their determination to get the community back to some normality as quickly as they possibly can. I am not surprised at such a courageous response. Many people in this area have long respected and admired what has always been a toughness, a resoluteness and a sense of community that is widely regarded by most of us as the West Coast way of doing things. They will require much help in recovering from this fire and rebuilding the necessary infrastructure. To accept charity is not the natural way for these people, as they are givers and not takers.

The absolute devastation in this case means that it is not within the means of most of this community to be able to rebuild without significant help. We should not see this assistance as charity, and nor should the people of the Eyre Peninsula. We should consider what is going into this area as an investment: an investment in good and decent South Australians who have contributed far more to this state than they have ever received. It is an investment not just in the

future of the people affected but also in their future contributions economically, socially, culturally and even, famously for that area, on the sporting field. The people of this area pulled above their weight in each of these endeavours, and we must invest to secure their recovery as soon as practicable. Our thoughts and prayers are with those good people as the recovery gets into full swing.

Many people should be congratulated for the way in which they responded in what was an extremely difficult situation. To the firefighters, the local heroes and those who came to help, it did not matter how experienced they were in fighting fires, this fire was beyond the experience of any involved. The other emergency services—the SES, the police, the ambulance, PIRSA, and others—were all managing a horribly difficult job and having to do tasks which were way beyond what you would normally expect from them, and totally beyond the experiences that they had previously had.

I met with many whom I know well, and obviously the experience had a huge affect on these people, and no doubt the Premier and the ministers and others who visited the area would have seen the same thing—that the enormity of this and the task that they had to perform really had an affect on a lot of the people who were doing tasks way beyond what they are expected to on a normal day. Everyone went courageously about their tasks and, yet again, the medical crews did some incredible work and did so with a huge compassion which we have come to expect. Volunteers—just a huge effort helping to feed, to house, to clothe those affected, and also helping out with those who were fighting the fires and were there to help. There was an enormous volunteer effort that came from the areas around the affected area, and to all those people we say thank you. There was a huge response and, again, unbelievable unless you really know the people of that particular area.

Also there are those now helping with the recovery. It is a huge task and that will go on for a long while—the fencing, the rebuilding. There is a huge response on the ground and there are a lot of farmers and others from across the state and beyond who are there doing their bit to help these people get back to a sense of some normality, and to be able to get on with their lives as they have before. There is the Salvation Army and all those other organisations, and there were many who helped coordinate immediate and longer-term relief. That was a wonderful effort, a huge task, and having come straight off the tsunami disaster it was terrific to see the way that, despite being stretched by the tsunami, they found more and were able to extend the help that they did to the Eyre Peninsula.

To the state and federal government and their agencies, appropriate immediate responses were vital and I was very impressed with the efforts of those on the ground, very difficult tasks done with a minimum of fuss and with compassion. To the Premier, his ministers and their staff thank you for your efforts in the wake of what was, for the people of Eyre Peninsula, a devastating tragedy.

On behalf of us all I also offer our sympathy and support to the member for Flinders on her extraordinary efforts in the wake of the fire. The member is very much a part of the community which was so badly affected by the tragedy and she tirelessly went about a huge number of tasks despite a personal sense of loss, and every time I rang looking for the member the staff would tell you where she was, and she really was on the ground. She was involved in housing, feeding, clothing her people and she inspired us all with her stamina and her efforts. We all know of her love of her patch

and her people and thank her very much for the extraordinary effort that she put in.

The fire came when South Australia had just responded to one of nature's greatest disasters in the Boxing Day tsunami. South Australians, like their colleagues in other states, had given until it hurt in an enormous outflow of generosity and emotion. We can all be particularly proud of how South Australia then responded to this disaster in our own state. The generosity has been amazing and will help the recovery effort. It is absolutely vital that we continue to support these people through to full recovery. There will be continuing needs for quite a while and it is important that we continue to invest in the future of these people and, therefore, in the state.

To all of those who lost loved ones, our deepest sympathies. To the whole community we express our support and we hope that the investment made by the rest of South Australia will help to aid the recovery effort. To the volunteers, others involved directly in the area during the tragedy and in the aftermath, and to all of those who have donated, thank you for all your efforts and generosity. On behalf of the Liberal Party I fully support the motion.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Emergency Services): No-one at all who has dealt with the people of the Eyre Peninsula since the 11 January bushfire has failed to be moved by the magnitude of their loss, and inspired by the courage and dignity of their response. I do not think that it is any secret that I have been a frequent visitor to the Eyre Peninsula. I am very fond of the place and very fond of fishing. Like the Leader of the Opposition, I will never forget the sight of the peninsula when I arrived at the airport, the fire having burnt so incredibly fiercely and having lapped at the very runway itself. You could see burning logs. In fact, from the car park of the airport, it was an extraordinary sight. Driving through places I had visited so many times before, I saw them now so violently transformed and, in many cases, almost obliterated by this awesome force of nature. I did expect to see people who were shocked and shattered by this event. Instead, like so many, I was amazed by the many instances of calm courage amidst the devastation and grief.

The Premier and I ran into a couple on Wednesday night whose home, contents and everything they owned but the clothes on their back had been lost to them. We inquired as to whether they had contacted our recovery centre or the hotline we had established. They replied that they had not; they said—you would not believe this, sir—there were plenty of people worse off than them. I am not very good at this sort of thing; you have probably noticed. That, sir, was very moving. Excuse me, sir, I will get back on track in a moment.

That has been the response of so many on the peninsula, and it was a moving thing for me, and I apologise to the house for that. I will take a glass of water in a moment. It would be a much better speech if I was not such an Irish sook, wouldn't it? In that regard, I offer my heart-felt condolences to the families and friends of Trent Murnane and Neil Richardson, two CFS volunteers who lost their lives in the fire. They lost their lives protecting the community, and their community will never forget them. I wish to set out the great thanks of the government for the incredible efforts of all those who did so much: the CFS volunteers, the MFS, the SES, the SAAS, the police, the Salvos, the Red Cross, the Tumbay Bay RSL and, of course, the other volunteers who worked so hard for their community.

I must also make the point that, in the recovery, the efforts of the people there have been amazing. I want to think the public servants of the state who did a fantastic job when called upon. I think the government has a lot of critics, but when public servants are called upon to do an important job they can often respond very well, and they certainly did on this occasion. I must make special mention of the South Australian Farmers' Federation which has often had differences with Labor governments, but so much was set aside to get work done quickly for the people of the Eyre Peninsula. The Eyre Peninsula now has many challenges in front of it to overcome the grief and to reinstate the loss. The farming community in particular has many difficulties ahead. From what I have seen, however, I have every confidence that these great people will do that; they will overcome every obstacle.

I wish to thank Vince Monterolla who has once again put his own plans on hold to do a job for the government to manage the local recovery. Between us and the previous government we have now suspended Vince Monterolla's retirement for, I think it is coming up to eight years; I think he tried to go in 1997. He has continued to do jobs for us, and we thank him. I wish to thank my chief of staff, Leon Bignell, who spent the past month there, away from his six-year-old son. I wish to place on record and assure the people of the Eyre Peninsula that we were not there temporarily; we will be there as long as they need us, and I will personally be back as soon as parliamentary duties allow us. My condolences to all the families.

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Like many others, I have been watching with horror as the pictures of the devastation of the Asian tsunami were beamed into our living rooms. Natural and man-made disasters seem to be everywhere, and I thought how fortunate we were to live where we do, on lovely Eyre Peninsula in peaceful South Australia. I still think that we are very fortunate, but I grieve terribly for the lives that have been lost in what, as a local member of parliament, I have always called my patch. These were my people from my families, and I have not been able to protect them. Those who I did not know personally members of my staff did or, at least, members of their families and friends. The contact with my office was immediate, continuous and very emotional starting with devastated people in tears who had driven through the flames to escape the inferno around them, expecting to have lost everything. I do not expect that the people and their tears and their stories will stop quickly. Everyone has been affected in some way, and it will only be the tremendous support from within and outside the region that will help to pull us through what has been an awful time for everyone, but particularly for those who lost family members.

As the sky darkened with thick, black smoke, as the strong, hot northerly wind blew, and as the smell pervaded our building, my staff went up to Winter's Hill to see how bad it was. I could not go. I stayed behind, fearful that this time we would not be as fortunate as we had been with the Tulka fires. I did not want to see and I did not know that already lives had been lost. But for the firefighters and some fortunate wind changes, bravery, some quick thinking, and a considerable amount of luck, it could easily have been hundreds more. By the end of the day the toll was nine—nine too many.

My heartfelt sympathy and that of my family and my staff, and I am sure of all the members of this house, goes to all of you who have lost those you loved. To the family, wife Judy,

children Mark, Kate and Lisa, and friends of Neil Richardson, 'Pee-Wee', farmer from 'Rocklea', Cockaleechie, who was fighting the fire from the back of his farm ute—as he would have done many times before—our thoughts are with you. The description of Neil as a top bloke fitted well. He was a gifted footballer who had played league for Sturt and for the Ramblers team in the winter; he was also a cricketer, spin bowler and batsman in the summer. Like most farmers, he had a great love of the land he farmed, his family and his community. I am glad that he was able to see his daughter wed only days before. A country wedding is a great time for family and friends to get together and celebrate the continuity of the generations.

To the family, wife Paula and daughter Chloe, and friends of Trent 'Wig' Murnane, a young man who already had a successful agricultural spraying and clay spreading business that was employing others, a CFS volunteer of more than 10 years, a footballer and coach from the small community of Cummins, our thoughts are with you also. Trent was a young man with a young family who should have had their lives ahead of them. I know that family and friends will support those he left behind as only people who live in such a wonderful close community can.

To the family, mum and dad Natalie and Darren, and friends of Star and Jack Borlase and their devoted grandmother Judith Griffith, whose husband Wayne was seriously injured, our thoughts are also with you. The Borlase family has had more than its share of grief with highly respected farmer, Vietnam veteran and much loved grandfather John Borlase having died only recently. Once more, the community has closed in around the Borlase family as they start their lives again. Natalie summed it up saying, 'You are just numb: you don't even know where to start. You have to rebuild but you have to do it without your kids and your mum.' They also wait as Natalie's dad recovers from his ordeal.

To the family, dad Damian and friends of Zoe and Graham and their loving mum Jody Russell-Kay, we grieve with you. I know that Damian is being supported by his mum and some close friends who love him dearly and who will gradually help him heal the heart that, as he put it, 'was ripped out and stomped on.' Words cannot describe the feeling when young people cannot complete their life's journey. Every mother, father, grandfather, grandmother, anyone who loves anyone, has the feeling that it could have been us and feels some of the pain that Damian, his family and friends are feeling.

To the family, husband Trevor and children Karl and Linda, and friends of an exceptional and talented scientist, naturalist and artist Helen Castle, along with the many others, we are grieving with you also. I had seen Helen down at the corner shop and said hello only a few days before the fire. Several times I had called in to see Trevor and Helen's Karlinda Shell Museum at their home in North Shields but it was always closed. If I had thought about it probably the pleasant days that I chose to visit would have been the best days for diving and it was no wonder that they were not there. Now I will not get the chance to know this intelligent, caring woman better or see the unique collection of more than 10 000 shells. Her loss is a great loss for her family, her friends and the community but it is also a huge loss for all the young people whom she will not be able to teach now that her life has been cut short. People with her gifts and talents and her enthusiasm are out of the ordinary in any profession and are particularly valuable when they are teachers. It is with pleasure that I take up family friend Mr John Ison's excellent idea for an academic prize fund named in her honour, and

have started the ball rolling with \$1 000 to the Helen Castle Memorial Prize Fund.

Late on Tuesday night after the worst of the fire was over and my husband Geoff and I had done what we could for those who had been affected, settled in our billets and checked that family members at Tumby Bay were all safe, I made one last phone call. At that point there was a fear that 10 people had been killed, but I had been told that the toll could go to 12 and I could not go to bed not knowing. It was a great relief to be told that the toll was confirmed at nine and there were not expected to be any more. It is my great hope that that toll will remain at nine, as I am well aware of the pressure and emotional turmoil that is still out there and will remain for years to come.

For those who read this and feel that pressure or know someone who may be in a position where the pressure is getting too great, please reach out. Go and speak to someone, pick up the phone, talk. Those who love you cannot help if they do not know, and if you do not want them to know then please ring a hospital where professional counsellors are available or ring your rural councillor, your church or friends or even my office. I urge you to do something. Grief is natural and, as with all things, the worst of it will pass given time. We share your grief and we will remember.

I quote the special tribute that renowned South Australian Max Fatchen penned entitled 'Strong and Proud' that he has given me permission to read. It is as follows:

The paddocks charred, the homes destroyed and heartbreaks
human toll
And yet among the tragedy this countryside has soul
While those of us now safe and sound must rally to its need
There are no finer folk around than Eyre Peninsula's breed
It's very hard to paint in words the terror of the blaze
By coastline with a shining sea, the joy of holidays
And when the mad inferno came, it's not for one to preach
On smoke-filled air, the valiant fight, the terror on the beach. . .
It's just to say we try to share, the feeling and the loss
To say we want to help you bear the anguish of your cross
And when the time for action comes and when the words are
done
To let you know our feelings that we stand with you as one
I know my Eyre Peninsula friends who helped me understand
The coast they fish, the farms they till and love of this hard land
I've come away with yarns of drought and when the crops were
thin
The creed of Eyre Peninsula is never giving in
To those who fought so gallantly, for fire's a raging brute
Amid our tears, to volunteers, I have this brave salute
And draw together as we must with hopeful word and deed
And let them know we value them, this Eyre Peninsula breed.

The speed and ferocity of this fire is scarcely understood even by those who were adjacent to the region but were unaffected. There has probably not been a fire of this intensity in South Australian modern history. The fire was approximately double the intensity of Ash Wednesday's fire in the Adelaide Hills. A farmer at Edillilie had an engine that melted in the heat with the molten steel running along the ground. I have been told that the temperature must exceed 1000 degrees Celsius for that to happen. Aluminium boats and appliances melted—a temperature of 800 degrees Celsius is needed for that. The fire was reckoned to be travelling about 80 or so kilometres an hour. One of the many problems faced by the firefighters was that the fire did not move in a straight line: the wind veered from north to west to south intermittently. One man was reported to have two fire fronts approaching his house from opposite directions simultaneously.

The geography of the area covered by the fire consists of steep hills and deep gullies—not unlike the Adelaide Hills.

Roads through this area are dirt surfaces with many bends and turns and it is a test of careful driving at the best of times. Residents fleeing the fire were hampered first of all by the roads themselves and by the smoke that cut visibility to less than a metre for some considerable time and then by the fire overtaking them. Listening to the personal stories makes one wonder that the death toll was only nine. The CFS firefighters were unstinting in their efforts to save property—many of them would have known that their own homes, sheds, machinery, stock and fences were being destroyed yet the teams stayed together doing what they could where they could. There are miraculous stories of buildings and properties that were saved; indeed, the White Flat District Hall is just one of the buildings that was saved from the inferno. The firefighters did not know where the members of their family were nor did their families know where the volunteer firefighters were. No-one knew who was safe or who may have been injured since the Port Lincoln hospital reportedly treated more than 100 people that day.

When news of deaths began to filter through, there were many hours of agony until family and friends could speak together. In my own office our trainee waited in agony knowing that her father was one of those out fighting the fire. Despite this, the volunteers did not leave their units but continued to battle the fire where they were needed. These crews know this region well and all were aware that a wrong decision, putting them in the wrong place at the wrong time, could mean their lives.

Firefighters are trained to cope when trapped in fire, but all that knowledge could not save the two men who died. The whole state owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the volunteer men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our communities. Volunteer crews from around Eyre Peninsula and other regions of the state willingly came to assist to relieve the men (some of whom had been on duty for more than 24 hours); to share the burden and responsibility; and, together, to contain the fire and extinguish hot spots on succeeding days. Volunteers come from all walks of life. Indeed, many of the firefighters were locals who answered the call to arms with their utilities and firefighting units. Their assistance also is immeasurable.

I have mentioned the CFS. I must also mention the Metropolitan Fire Service crews from Port Lincoln and Whyalla. The MFS does not usually go outside urban boundaries, but on this occasion they added their expertise to the fight. State Emergency Service volunteers, St John Ambulance volunteers and the SA Ambulance were active throughout the emergency. Again, personnel came from far afield to give much-needed support in the days after Black Tuesday. Only a skeleton operation and management staff remained at police headquarters in Port Lincoln while police officers manned road blocks, provided communication backup and dealt with the distraught people who were unable to access their properties—and certainly they saved some lives.

Telephone lines were damaged, so telephones were out. The fires occurred in an area where black spots make mobile phones unworkable, and in many cases the smoke and flames affected transmitter towers. Other radio connections were similarly erratic. There is no reticulated water throughout most of the area devastated by the fires and, with the major pipelines bursting in the heat, even those people expecting to be able to use reticulated water could not do so. One couple saved their home by filling buckets of water from their rainwater tanks and throwing the water over the side of the

house nearest the fire front. The garage and office, both only a few feet from the house, burnt down.

Many of the personal stories coming out of the fire have been reported in the media. One of the recurring themes is the fickleness of the fire that allows for no explanation as to why homes were burnt but sheds nearby were not, while it was the reverse situation on other properties. In other instances, everything was razed. A fence burnt but the gate posts and gates were left untouched and standing.

Wildlife was baked. Snakes, lizards and birds could be picked up as if they were carved from wood. Then there is the story of two horses watched by their owners from the protection of a shed while the terrified animals were lost in flames more than 30 metres high. These two horses survived and are okay.

Some of the most poignant stories come from people sifting and searching through the ash and debris for something—anything—that survived: some memories, some link with the past, some tangible evidence of their family history. A father had given his late wife's ring to his son to be kept for his grand-daughter when she is older. Nothing remained of the home. Already traumatised, the son and his wife scraped through the ash heap, very aware of the father's sorrow and feeling of deep loss. Amongst the mess, they came across the mother's ring—intact and untouched in its small damaged box. It is the only thing they have.

The Australian sense of humour will get some people through. A farmer was sitting on the ground in the middle of his burnt-out farm—no stubble or grass, no trees, no fences, no stock, no sheds, no house. A friend phoned and asked what he was doing. 'Smoking a cigarette,' was his reply. 'Just don't set fire to anything,' was the only comment his friend could make, but it brought a hearty laugh.

The public's response to the disaster has been enormous. Much has been willingly and promptly given—a home, caravans, vehicles, hay for stock. Small and large donations all testify to the compassion in our community, the generosity and the Australian ethos to help a mate when he is down. Much of this has been reported in the media. I personally thank the many people in Port Lincoln—some from churches and some not—who have worked tirelessly with the Salvation Army in sorting and distributing goods and food. Red Cross members have contributed greatly. Friends and community members have rolled up their sleeves and assisted in all manner of ways. Each person who has given something or done something has helped towards those affected by the fire getting back to living and coping with the tragedy. The speed of the response from the state and federal governments was appreciated. Now we concentrate on the future while looking for the lessons to be learned—the things that can be done better.

I think perhaps I have said enough, but there is just one more thing. I urge our young people to consider joining one of our voluntary emergency services. Our ambulance services across the region are desperate for more people, as are the CFS and the SES. We cannot do without them in the regions. I support the motion.

The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries): It is an honour to rise after the member for Flinders, who has just spoken with compassion, empathy and understanding, and an appreciation of the fact that the pain is ongoing and there is much loss yet to be dealt with. It was an honour over four days to work with the member for Flinders, who in a practical and matter of fact way identified

issues and was happy to explore potential solutions. We all took an approach of: get the job done. A number of times I described it as 'quick and dirty', a way of dealing with immediate issues, and later we put in place some changes to policy.

The first thing we had to do was work with the community as it dusted itself off and quickly got back on its feet. The telephone call number 180 20 20 was the answer to many questions, and the people at the end of that number were fantastic. I rang that number a couple of times because I did not have an answer, and on a couple of other occasions I rang that number to test it because we were telling people all over the peninsula to ring 180 20 20. I wanted to make sure that on the other end of that number was the service that we were telling people they would get. Extraordinarily, that service was there. It was amazing how that call number worked in terms of giving people immediate advice to a whole range of questions.

I also met briefly with the Premier as we discussed this event with the CSIRO. The member for MacKillop will be quite surprised at what they told us, because he was one of those who lived through the horrific events of Ash Wednesday 1983. On that day, we talked in the South-East about a fire danger indicator of 180: an extreme set of fire circumstances. The member for MacKillop will be surprised to hear that on 11 January 2005 on Lower Eyre Peninsula the fire danger indicator was 360—an event that the CSIRO had not recorded before. That is why the Premier talked about how horrific the circumstances were in the heat of that fire.

Obviously, the immediate response of us all was to the loss of life and property, but I want to focus for a minute on the department of primary industries and the part that it played in providing immediate help and ongoing support. The department was fantastic. Our first concern as we dealt with other agencies was to deal with injured stock. We had to deal immediately with distressed livestock and their owners. I have to acknowledge the fantastic work of the Lower Eyre Peninsula and Tumby Bay councils in terms of saying, 'We are part of a team; let's find a solution; let's rub out our boundaries for a while; let's work collectively with our local community in terms of finding immediate responses to the disposal of asbestos and stock, etc.' The two councils were fantastic.

Of course, the farmers wanted to get busy again. That is part of the way they cope with these sorts of circumstances. They wanted to get on with boundary fencing, in particular. Again, the two councils were great in terms of helping to clear fence lines while volunteers elsewhere provided labour and materials. So, farming families were able to start recovering their lives as quickly as possible as part of the grieving process.

I am going to make a fundamental error at this point, because I will mention a couple of names. Of course, over 100 staff from primary industries were involved, and on another occasion I will get them together to say thank you, and of course other members will be most welcome on that occasion. Jim Cawthorne came down from Port Augusta to head up one of the teams. Of course, the rest of Eyre Peninsula still had its needs, so primary industries had two jobs to do: one, to deal with business as normal for the whole peninsula; and the other, to deal with the immediate consequences of that horrific event on that Tuesday—and Jim Cawthorne came down to do that.

Equally, we had to be part of a bigger team. So, Helen Lamont went over to the West Coast recovery team, which

has been mentioned earlier. The work that Vince Monterola and that team did was absolutely fantastic in terms of pulling together all the agencies to make sure that we had a composite service in two centres: Cummins and Port Lincoln. Helen Lamont has gone on to head up the re-establishment program. Obviously, very much part of what we now need to do in agriculture is to address the long-term consequences of this horrific event. As part of that long-term management, land management will be an issue. An estimated 20 000 hectares of sandy soil between Wanilla and Wangary is at high risk of wind erosion and 40 000 hectares from Koppio to Greenpatch will be under threat from water erosion.

We know that we have some enormous issues between now and the break of the season. However, we also know that quite possibly all the cropping practices will change. We do not know yet how much those soils have changed, how much this fire has had an impact on those soils, therefore on the farming practices. Certainly, the CSIRO's indication was that the impact of that heat on the very soil structure, the nutrient and, obviously, the biota will be an issue. So, there are some ongoing challenges for all of us. Again, I know that the member for Flinders will work with us in that.

As much as we pause at this stage to reflect on that horrible day, unless you have actually been through a fire I do not think anyone can ever imagine the heat, the noise, the loss of visibility, the fear that is captured, and how people respond. We move on from that, as the member for Flinders said, remembering always that this will be in the lives of some people in an indelible way and to others of us to a lesser degree. Obviously, this event will impact for ever in one way or another, and we must be mindful of that as we work through the recovery process.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): I, too, rise to support this motion and, in doing so, add my condolences to the families and friends of the five adults and four children who lost their lives on that tragic day. I also extend my sympathy to the entire community of Eyre Peninsula, almost no individual of which is untouched in some way, shape or form, either directly through loss of loved ones, through friends or through loss of property. The effect on that community is a tragic one and one that they will feel for many years to come. As is the way of that part of the world, they have got back on their feet and got on with the job.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the emergency service workers on the way in which they undertook their activity. Whether they be volunteers or paid staff, they worked tirelessly, many of them for extended periods of 24 to 48 hours with almost no sleep, backed up by groups such as the Salvation Army, which ensured that they had food and water to help sustain them so they could keep going with their firefighting efforts to try to hold this massive force at bay. Afterwards there were those who put in enormous effort into finding accommodation for people who had lost their houses and in finding clothing and other effects where people had lost everything that they owned bar the clothing on their backs. The extent of that effort cannot be underestimated.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to my colleague the member for Flinders for the way in which she tackled the task before her. I spoke to the honourable member on a number of occasions over the phone during the first and second days of the fire and know that she worked almost to the point of exhaustion, managing only a couple of hours' sleep in the first 48 hours. Of course, as the first day of fire damage occurred, people requiring help contacted the

member for Flinders because they knew not where else to go. At that stage the member for Flinders and her staff, who also put in enormous work efforts, were the only point of call.

Then the government stepped in, and I pay tribute to the government and public servants who hit the ground running and within a period of less than 48 hours were establishing hotlines and had staff in the region to offer assistance. I know that that was gratefully received by the people from Eyre Peninsula. Together with Liberal leader Rob Kerin and others of my colleagues, I arrived on the West Coast on the third day and had the opportunity to meet with emergency service personnel, with affected West Coast residents, and to inspect some of the damage first hand. Like other speakers, I was just staggered by the extent of devastation.

In my role as an emergency services minister in the previous government, I had had the opportunity to visit an area after a fire had gone through it, but the usual remnant stubble just was not there on the West Coast, and it almost looked as though someone had ploughed a field, knocked down all the fences and then gone over it with a steamroller. There was just nothing left in many areas, such as the heat and intensity of the flames. Emergency service personnel with whom I was speaking had never seen a fire of that severity before. The enormous effort that now has to be put in place to re-establish farming infrastructure is immense. I have spoken since to a number of farmers who tell me that it costs about \$3 000 a kilometre of fencing just to get their fences back in place and in many areas the fences on their properties have disintegrated and some are looking at costs in excess of \$100 000-plus to put fencing back in place, yet very few seem to have insurance to cover all but a small portion, if any, of that damage. It will take a considerable period of hard work for the affected families to be able to re-establish themselves financially and get their farms back to the way they were before.

One thing I was particularly impressed by was the amount of help that came from outside the region. Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to talk with CFS volunteers from Adelaide Hills brigades who were very quick to grab whatever transport they could and to take equipment into the region and help. Many arrived within 48 hours of the fires starting so they could help relieve the Eyre Peninsula crews who were exhausted and coping without sleep.

I had the opportunity to talk to one farmer on the Yorke Peninsula a few days after the fire and he was wanting to know what telephone number he should contact to help with putting up fencing. He said he was trying to get together a group of about 20 Yorke Peninsula farmers who would donate a couple of weeks of their time to help put up fences on the Eyre Peninsula. I said that that was an incredibly generous gesture. His response was, 'No, not really, if the fire had been here it would have been them over here helping us.' Such is the nature of the way South Australians responded that it makes you proud to be a South Australian and to see how all of our people will get together and help when that help is needed. Out of that tragedy a lot of good came out of the fabric of our society, and so shortly after the dreadful tsunami disaster when South Australians gave so generously. Just a couple of weeks later they were giving generously of money and their time. I think the hearts of all South Australians have gone out to our country cousins on the West Coast and we wish them well for the future and trust that, as they have been able to in the past, they will work through this time of trouble and the community will again enjoy the happy nature for which it is so well known throughout our state.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I also offer my condolences to the people of Eyre Peninsula who were affected by the recent bushfires. When I was there after the bushfires I was able to see first hand the extent of the destruction. Like others have said, I reiterate how strange was the landscape. The smell of burning was there, but essentially the landscape had gone, had been obliterated. It was quite strange: something I had never seen before. No-one could have come away without being deeply affected by the loss and the many tragedies experienced by people in the region in terms of the loss of their property, their animals and particularly the loss of loved ones. It does not even bear thinking what they must be going through in terms of that loss.

When the member for Flinders was speaking it certainly brought back to me the many stories told to me and I am sure to everyone else present about people's experiences, what happened to them and how they coped, the near misses, the little quirks that happen in a situation such as that. I must say that I was filled with admiration for the way in which the community has pulled together to help each other and to help each other pick up the pieces of their lives and to move forward. Other people have spoken in relation to all of the people who have been involved in the recovery effort but I would like to concentrate in terms of health services, and to a small degree in terms of the services provided by the Department of Families and Communities, because at that time I was the acting minister and, therefore, had an interest in supporting the efforts of those workers in the recovery centre led by Sue Vardon. It was a fantastic effort.

In terms of the hospitals—the Port Lincoln Hospital, the Cummins Hospital, the Tumby Bay Hospital—we had an amazing effort by hospitals and health service staff. At Port Lincoln, where the majority of people went while the fire was occurring, they told me it was just by chance that the significant drain on resources occurred at the change of a shift and so people stayed on and worked. We had doctors in the community dropping what they were doing and coming straight in and managing people coming through the emergency department of that hospital. The same sort of response occurred at Cummins and also at Tumby Bay. Paramedics worked as other people have already explained. For instance, at Port Lincoln the kitchen staff and other volunteers came into the hospital to provide hundreds of meals for firefighters and others over the first few days following the fire.

We have already seen that the Eyre Peninsula community is resilient, and we can see now that the people in the communities of the Eyre Peninsula are strong and that they will rise to the challenge of rebuilding their communities. I think it is really important that they know, and the member for Flinders perhaps can take it back to them, that our help and our support will be there in the months ahead. I particularly want to mention in relation to health services that not only are health services in terms of the acute services on deck but we are providing, and will provide, the extra support that is going to be needed over the coming months in terms of emotional support, mental health services. I want to congratulate all the workers involved there and, in particular, Dr Jonathan Phillips, who has just concluded, I think, the plan for the next months in relation to providing that support, and to acknowledge the work of Professor Sandy McFarlane, who went over to the West Coast very soon after the fires to work with GPs and other health workers in relation to trauma services. I want to assure the member for Flinders and

everyone on the Eyre Peninsula that those services and that support will be there for the long haul.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): Tuesday 11 January was one of those days that in farming communities across the state, and particularly those who have experienced the sort of the devastation that occurred on lower Eyre Peninsula this year, we call a nasty day. When you get up in the morning and you go out and you know that the paddocks are full of cured grass, that the countryside is full of tinder dry fuel and that the wind is in the north and blowing at a fair rate of knots it creates a certain anxiety in the pit of the gut. That occurred to me that morning. I went off to my electorate office in Naracoorte, and as I drove out of Naracoorte that afternoon, and a few reports had come through to me at that point, and I looked to the west and I could see a faint haze of smoke in the sky, and I suspect that it was probably from the Adelaide Hills Mount Osmond fire and not from the Lower Eyre Peninsula, it increased that feeling of anxiety. It made me think about those poor souls who were involved much closer to the event. I do not want to dwell on the details, but I had the unfortunate experience, not dissimilar to what a lot of people on the lower Eyre Peninsula suffered a few weeks ago, some 20-odd years ago. I was amazed, as I watched the events on the TV and read the newspaper, how much what happened to me, my family, my neighbours and my friends has come back to me.

I would like to express my most heartfelt condolences to those who have lost family and loved ones. It is something that will live with them forever. I would also like to express my most sincere sympathies to those who have lost property, particularly homes. To lose your home and all your belongings, to know that the only possessions your family, your little children and you own are actually on your backs is, to say the least, not a very comfortable situation. So, I have great sympathy for those people, and for those who have lost their farms and their livestock. A lot of members would not understand that, farmers in Australia, as probably anywhere in the world, have an incredible connection with their farm and with everything on it—with almost every blade of grass, stump, tree, fencepost, shed and animal. They spend most of their waking hours thinking about those things, inspecting them, checking them, looking after them and nurturing them. To walk out onto your farm and to see all that destroyed and gone, and all your hopes and aspirations disappear literally in a puff of smoke, is incredibly devastating.

The people of the lower Eyre Peninsula are going to have a tough time. They have already suffered greatly, but they are going to continue to have a tough time over the months and years. I certainly concur with and endorse the comments that the member for Flinders made urging those people to continue to seek help. The farming community has very proud and independent people and, as the Leader said, it does not come naturally for them to accept charity, but charity is something that they need to accept, and they need to accept it in the spirit that it is given. They need to work off that and understand that it represents the rest of the community supporting them for a very good reason—they want them to get back on their feet and to continue to be part of the community. I would also urge the people of the lower Eyre Peninsula to continue not only to accept the charity that is offered but to ask for what they need, because they will have needs over the coming months and years. I sincerely hope that they are not forgotten.

I am very proud that the people of the South-East sprang into action almost immediately. Peter De Garis, a livestock agent in Penola who also lived through the Ash Wednesday bushfires in the lower South East 20 odd years ago, immediately set into motion—by talking to some of his colleagues on the lower Eyre Peninsula—a means by which farmers could agist stock. Stock was being trucked from one side of the state to the other; and fodder was being sent from the South-East to the lower Eyre Peninsula. One of my neighbours—he is semi-retired now and lives not next door but just down the road—rang me a few days after the fire and said, ‘Mitch, it is a long way over there, and we’re wondering what we can do. We have talked to some people over there and made some contacts, and we’ve organised to send a truckload of hay. Can you help us?’ I said, ‘Certainly, just tell me what you want.’ He said he had rung nine of our immediate neighbours and asked the same question, and he got the same answer from all of them. The response from right across South Australia has been fantastic; I hope it continues like that, and I am sure it will.

I was frustrated by some of the news items and some of the things that I heard had happened and did not happen. Today is not the time to go into that, but I am sure it is one of the things with which the people of that area will concern themselves over a long period of time, and they need help to work through those issues as well.

My experience in the farming community is that the menfolk absolutely immerse themselves in their work—God help them, there is plenty for them to do. It was not for some years after my own experience that I came to realise the incredible pressure that the wives and children were under. They did not necessarily have the same ability to go out and spend 12, 14 or 18 hours a day in hard toil rebuilding fences or sheds and doing those other manual tasks around the farm for which, because of economic pressures, they could not afford to employ hired labour. The women and children were not able to do that to the same extent and probably also became the brunt of tired, overworked and frustrated menfolk, so I think we must be very conscious of the fact that that sector of the community needs special help and consideration.

The one message I want to give is that this is not something which will be healed in a short time, and I must thank my colleague sitting next to me, who deliberately sought to distract my attention from the debate that has been going on over the last little while because I think she suspected that I was becoming quite affected (we will use that word), as was the case. I know what is going to happen to these people who have been through that experience. For many years our whole life became ‘what happened before the fire’ and ‘what happened after the fire’, and it took many years for us to stop talking like that on a daily basis. Then all of a sudden an incident like this, 20-odd years after the event, brings back incredible memories.

So, as well as extending my sympathies and condolences, I certainly wish the best for the people on the Lower Eyre Peninsula and sincerely hope that they are able to cope with the future. I am sure they will get help, and I sincerely hope that those who tend to get bogged down and think that it is getting too tough are able to seek the help they require, because we would like to see them all rebuild their lives and go on to have a healthy and happy future. I support the motion.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism): Fire, of course, can destroy homes and property and

destroy vegetation, it can take lives, but one thing of fire can never do is dampen or remove the great human spirit that we saw so often on the Eyre Peninsula. That human spirit was as strong, when I visited the Eyre Peninsula nearly two weeks after the devastation, as it had been throughout this whole period and as it will be, I feel, for many years to come.

Like other ministers, I went to be an acting minister on a roster but, more than that, I particularly wanted to inspect the devastation, to understand our recovery efforts, and above all to be reassured that we as a government were doing things properly and adequately. I have to say that on that score I was reassured, as I had not expected to be, that we were more than ever being timely, responsive and appropriate in our actions and, above all, were cutting through red tape to deliver what had to be done, when it had to be done, without complications.

As you know, of course, natural destruction also comes with loss of life and, whilst every lost life is a tragedy in itself, in an event of this magnitude the exponential levels of grief can become overwhelming when many people die. I will only mention one of those people whose life was lost, and that is Helen Castle, a highly respected teacher at Port Lincoln High School. With 33 years’ teaching experience she was without doubt a stellar teacher. She changed lives; she inspired young people; and many young people and young adults will remember her as the sort of teacher who changed their lives for ever. She was, as many students said, the sort of person who made science come to life. She worked diligently for her community and her children and during the Christmas break was in her home preparing her new psychology course for the year—which she had insisted should be introduced and which she would manage—with a complete set of PowerPoints, handouts and documents. She will not be forgotten.

Whilst I personally did not know Helen, I attended her funeral and was stunned by the stories that were told about her and the love that was felt towards her and the sense that she was one of those people who, when something needed to be done, said that she would do it and always did. In fact, that sort of spirit was one that we saw increasingly often on the Eyre Peninsula and, as the Minister for Infrastructure said, it was always someone else. It was typified always when we asked about what had happened. Everyone always said that it was someone else who had suffered more or done more work. I never actually got to meet this someone, but it was never anyone that we were involved with!

There were many stories of heroic actions and loss, and I will mention just a few of the people I met and the experiences I heard of. The schools that were affected were few; only one school was physically affected itself, but every school was affected through its community, its children and its teachers. Clearly, not a single individual on the Eyre Peninsula was free of this impact. At Cummins Area School the principal, Chris Deslandes, lost his family home at Wanilla. He spoke of teachers arriving at dawn in his temporary lodgings armed with shovels and rakes saying, ‘We have come to do the yard for you. It looks a mess.’ The District Director, Bill Parker, told of teachers and school staff who, during their holidays, volunteered long hours to work in the recovery centre at Port Lincoln High School, serving the community as volunteers, just as everyone else was. Others told of local businesses providing replacement goods—essential tools and equipment—at cost or less to those who needed equipment because, as every farmer knows,

you certainly do not want second-rate tools: you want the right job to be done by the right tool.

They spoke of people arriving with carloads of goods: food, drinks, clothing and equipment—the sort of human spirit that sustained people by working voluntarily to provide sustenance, the meals and goods that were delivered, people coming and turning up just to help. At Cummins, as well as the ladies working with many people from the community who were organising the donated goods so that they could hand out food, clothing and electrical appliances, it is also worth noting—and the member for MacKillop would appreciate this—the generous gifts of the rural women from the Yorke Peninsula who donated pamper packs that were little boxes of things that women would want but would never buy for themselves because there were more important things on which to spend their money. Across the road at the Uniting Church Hall, I saw fridges and freezers packed with casseroles and cakes that were being delivered daily, continually, to provide food for those families who otherwise would have had to worry about cooking at the end of a hard slog of a day.

With the Minister for Infrastructure, I attended a volunteers' barbecue at Tumby Bay, and I noted again that the CFS and SES volunteers, who had all worked in heroic ways, all said, 'Of course it wasn't me who did much.' It was that other person—that someone else that we kept hearing about. The human spirit might help people who have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones, but it is a communal effort for many. Again, when I visited McKechnie Springs owned by the Enneking family, which is a farmstay bed and breakfast establishment, they were making plans to rebuild and had been enormously supported by a group of volunteers from the Barossa who had arrived to help them clean up, to do some fencing and to roll up wire. Again, amazingly, they were saying that other people were worse off, that they would rebuild, although they barely escaped with their lives and their lives of their dogs who, as you can imagine, were desperately sought just as they were evacuating. They salvaged very few of their valuable possessions that they had brought from their homeland, Germany, but were talking about rebuilding. Everyone I met was talking about rebuilding and building their businesses again.

Brian and Deidre Turvey from Glen Forest, Greenpatch, had worked to extinguish spot fires and, although they had managed to save their house, they were mortified by the loss of their stock, and much of the vineyards and much of their fencing and property. At Port Lincoln Caravan Park, with its stunning views across the bay, the fire had come to the beach. Although the area is clean and open for business, I have to say that they were disappointed by the level of media coverage which implied that they were put out of business, which is quite untrue. They are open for business. It is clean and painted and ready for action.

Much of what we saw also about that clean, ready and restored appearance can be said about Poonindie Primary School. It was the only school that was physically affected, although every school was socially and emotionally damaged by what went on. It was the only school that was physically damaged, and the work that has been done has made it as pretty as a picture, and it is open and looking good, but of course ready to restore the emotions and personal hurt of both the students and teachers.

Much of what has been achieved in the last few weeks has been astounding. In a very short time much progress has been made. I offer my sympathy and condolences to all those whose lives have been irrevocably changed by the events of

11 January. We will not forget their losses and, just as every citizen must have been touched by this tragedy, we collectively as a government have been deeply moved and will remain available, responsive and there for the long haul.

Mr BROKESHIRE (Mawson): I join with the Premier and the parliament in supporting this very important condolence motion. Clearly, our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones, because everything else in life is replaceable to an extent. However, a loved one is not replaceable, as we all know. It is a very torrid and difficult time for those families who have lost loved ones. I know that right across the state South Australians' hearts go out to those families.

Also, I acknowledge the work of the government, the Premier and the opposition but, in particular, I want to put on the public record the very good work done by the local member, Liz Penfold. It did not surprise me that, when I was minister, Liz was out there and totally committed to her electorate in a situation nowhere near as intense as this but, nevertheless, a serious situation at Tulka. She was visiting that fire ground and those people just a day or two after a similar situation, and it is tragic that only a few years afterwards that community has had to endure what it has endured.

The police and emergency services do an absolutely magnificent job, as the Minister for Emergency Services said, and I support his words. All of us must show enormous gratitude to the CFS, the SES, all the volunteers and the police. As shadow police minister, I at this stage acknowledge the work of the police in particular. Policing work is very difficult in these circumstances, where they have overall management authority for the incident and where they also have to deal with people's emotions as they try to hold them back from getting back to their own homes. They often do not have the protective clothing that the CFS and SES have and, no matter what the circumstances (and it was shown again on Eyre Peninsula), the police are there managing that incident and putting in 110 per cent. I particularly acknowledge the work that I heard of and saw in the media reports of Chief Inspector Malcolm Schluter, who had to manage the overall incident and support all the people in that situation. I think he did an enormous job and a very good job. That is not surprising to me because I know his commitment to Eyre Peninsula and the local service area in that region.

One senior volunteer firefighter rang me a few days after the fire and talked to me—and I know a lot of the volunteers there, having had the privilege of being minister for several years. As I said to him, volunteers and all members of the community should not in any way blame themselves, thinking that they could have done more on that Tuesday and being frustrated and angry that they did not do more. Those are the sorts of things going through his mind, I know. Having been in Ash Wednesday myself as a volunteer, I know that you question yourself and get frustrated and angry when you think you have a fire under control on the front that you are fighting but, although there may not be a lot of vegetation, because of the intensity of the wind just a twig or a leaf is lifted and a kilometre away a spot fire develops into a fire ball.

This is the only time that I would like to see a bushfire referred to as a wildfire. Clearly, this was a wildfire. You could only try to protect yourselves and your community and then save what property you could. I say to the volunteers who did such an enormous job: 'Don't go around feeling an emptiness in your stomach because you didn't do the very

best that you could under the circumstances,' because it is clear that each and every one of those men and women did.

My heart goes out to the farmers and the property owners. Many of them were third generation and lost a home that their grandparents or great-grandparents built, and that is irreplaceable. They have to get that farm back into some sort of order. When you have put a lifetime into trying to get a farm up to good productive standards and you are struck with something the intensity of this horrific event, it is clear that those farms will not be restored to higher productivity in the short or even the medium term.

I will conclude my remarks by joining with many of my colleagues in this parliament today to say that we must remember that the Eyre Peninsula has been a very strong and vibrant part of our economy for a great period of time. When we were in government and also under this current government a lot of the strength of the economy of this state has existed because these farmers have had good years and diversified into other agricultural and fishing practices.

The South Australian community needs to remember that these people have been, and will continue to be in the future, an integral part of a strong economy. If there is a strong economy on Eyre Peninsula, the suggestion has always been that the economy is strong everywhere. Therefore, we need to remember them—and not just at the moment. When someone dies, people visit and they say, 'I'm very sorry for you; my thoughts are with you; give us a call if I can be of any assistance.' Of course, you rarely get that call because of people's pride and determination.

The Eyre Peninsula has some of the most resilient, proud and determined people in this state. We should not wait for a call from them in the future. And I am talking about the long-term future because, as the member for MacKillop said, some of us have seen the heartache and the ongoing pain in the eyes of family members. We as a community and successive governments and parliaments need to ensure that a call from them is not required and that we continue the good work that is being done now to assist them in the restoration of their communities. Their greatest assets are their families and communities. They will do all they can, but we all need to be committed to assist them. Again, I support the motion, and I offer my sincerest condolences to each and every person on Eyre Peninsula.

Ms BREUER (Giles): I will not speak for very long because some very heartfelt comments have been made today and the various people involved in the fire have been thanked and congratulated. I felt particularly involved in this fire and its aftermath because my electorate adjoins the member for Flinders' electorate. The people of Eyre Peninsula are very much entwined—people from Whyalla come from the peninsula and vice versa—so we are almost a big family, and we certainly feel what happens in neighbouring electorates. I was there on the day of the fire. The day before, I was at Farm Beach, and I saw the fire start. We queried at the time whether it was dust or fire. We decided that it was a fire, and then we wondered whether someone was burning off or whether it was an actual bushfire. The fire got bigger, and we thought it must be a bushfire. By the time we left the beach that night at about 7 o'clock and went back to Coffin Bay where we were staying, we thought it looked as though they had managed to control the fire. It had certainly died right down. There was some smoke, but it was much better.

The next morning my brother said that the fire was still burning. We could see the smoke from Coffin Bay. Although

it was still burning, we thought it was not too bad. At about 11 o'clock, my brother told me to come outside and have a look. It was the most incredible sight I had ever seen. It was like pictures of a volcano that you see on television—the smoke was billowing. The weather was appalling that day, and it was quite frightening. We decided to go up to the lookout at Coffin Bay and have a better look. When we got there we realised that the peninsula was in serious trouble. This fire was the most amazing thing I had ever seen.

Later that day I decided to travel back to Whyalla, for other reasons. We left Coffin Bay about 12 o'clock to go to Port Lincoln, got out on the road and were told that we could not go through because of the fire. Looking at the fire, we decided that we would not go that way anyway, so we went back into Coffin Bay and then decided we would go around the fire, so we spent the rest of the morning travelling home. I want to pay tribute to someone who has not been mentioned in previous speeches this afternoon. I thought that the role the ABC played on the day of the fire was incredible. It broadcast the warnings from mid-morning onwards, it was continuously commenting, continuously giving updates on the fire, and certainly got the information through as much as it possibly could.

In particular, I want to pay tribute to Tim Jeanes, the ABC reporter in Port Lincoln who, despite the fact that he had no idea whether his house in North Shields had been burned down, managed to regularly contribute and let us know what was happening in that area. I thought Tim did an incredible job, as he had no idea what was happening in his own community. He could not get out there, he was based in Port Lincoln, but he managed to keep going through all that. That was the human side of what was happening, and the ABC played a big part that morning. One of the issues that came through and I am sure will be dealt with at a later date was the issue of communication in something like this, and how difficult it is to communicate to let people know what is happening.

Of course, in some of those areas the power was cut off, so people were not able to use their radios. Luckily, there were car radios in most places. I went back on the Thursday after the fire with the manager of our local Housing Trust. We went back to see what we could do for the community, particularly in relation to housing because, as members know, Whyalla does have excess housing, which other communities do not have. I have to say that it was just devastating going back there and seeing what had happened. I had seen that fire billow across on that day, and it covered the whole horizon. We had to dodge Tumby Bay; we dodged Edilillie; we got into Cummins, and then realised that we could not go from there but had to head north, and the fire was right across the horizon, billowing like a volcano the whole time.

When we went back on the Thursday and saw the devastation that was left, I could not believe what I had seen. I was not able to visit some of the areas on the Thursday because they were still burning, so I went to the emergency centre there. It has been sad hearing about the people who lost their lives, but the other thing that hit me is that it is not just the lives that were lost but the memories. The people in those houses knew that they were going to burn and that they had to get out quickly. We talked about what you would want to take. Would you take grandma's wedding ring? Would you take your baby's photos? Would you just get in your car and go? If you had a bit of time, what would you decide to take?

People's memories were lost. Generations of history disappeared in the flames. I spoke to many of the survivors

at the emergency centre there. It was amazing how quickly it had got up and running. One story that really got to me was the father who spoke of his 18 year old daughter who was trapped in the house and speaking to her father on the telephone. He was talking to her from somewhere, trying to get out from where he was. He was urging her to get on the ground and cover herself with wet towels. This girl was 18 years old and she was screaming into the phone. Eventually, she said, 'The house is on fire.' He screamed at her to get out. She shot out and, luckily, I think she shot out the back where the fire had gone through, and she just stood there and waited for some help.

Emergency services passed her a couple of times because she was so black that she could not be seen in the fire. That really got to me, because this girl—who I still call a child, even though she is 18 years old—is only a few months younger than my daughter. How will that girl ever recover from that: being trapped in that house for about an hour while her father talked to her? How will the father ever get over talking to his daughter on the telephone, not knowing whether or not she was going to come through? The resilience of these people was amazing. They were so matter-of-fact about it when they told us those stories. I think they were still in shock, and I am sure that it has hit them now. There was another chap there who was telling me, 'I was sitting there in my jocks watching the tennis, and I looked out the window and I suddenly thought, "That fire's on the hill," so I said, "We'd better out of here Margaret".' They hopped in their car and took off, after grabbing something to put on. They went up to the bitumen road, went along a little way and sat in a gateway where there were no trees and watched the fire pass over them. Luckily they escaped. When they went back to their property there was absolutely nothing left.

I heard about the two young girls who escaped and drove through the fire. They were certainly underage drivers, but they drove through the fire. Their stepfather was telling me how they drove through the paddocks and over the roads to get out of the fire and they got to Tumby Bay. All the way they stopped and shut the gates. He said that these kids in the country are trained so well to shut the gate: if it is open, leave it open and, if it is shut, shut it. So as they went, driving for their lives, they shut the gates after them. That was amazing. These girls very matter of factly told me this story. Also, it was interesting—the father there was so pleased because he had got a new pair of boots out of this. People had said that they were sick of seeing him walking around with boots with holes in them, so he got a new pair of safety boots a couple of days after the fire and he was thrilled with that. That is all he had left: a pair of boots.

Those personal stories made me think that it is not just about loss of life but about loss of memory, loss of history and about survivors who had to fight their way through the fire and get out of it. They will live with those memories forever. The stories of the member for MacKillop made me realise that it is an ongoing issue that these people will live with for the rests of their lives.

I congratulate the Premier for his efforts. I went down there two days later and the emergency centre was in action. The emergency services, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army were there. I congratulate the Minister for Emergency Services on the job that he did. The emergency services minister and I have been friends for a long time and I have always had great respect for him, and through this his effort was sterling. He was there for so much of the time. He pulled people together and worked extremely hard. We saw the

emotion in him today and you could not help but be touched by what happened. My estimation of the emergency services minister has gone up about 500 per cent for his role in that fire, and also his Chief-of-Staff, Leon Bignell, who was there also working through this.

I know from the couple of hours I spent in the emergency services centre talking to people there how much it got to me and affected me. I shed many a tear that day and since about what happened. They were there for long periods listening to these stories. The Housing Trust was there for some days listening to people, Centre Care was there, as was Centrelink, the Salvation Army and Red Cross. They were listening to stories over and again and the wear and tear and loss on them must have been incredible. We heard tributes to people like the police, ambulance and fire crews. My Whyalla MFS fire crew was there and I was pleased talked to them and to Wayne Hayes and Terry who was there. It was wonderful to know that they were there helping out and helping our neighbours in this time of need.

There are a lot of lessons to be learnt from the fire. I do not believe anybody could have done any more than they did on that day. It was the most incredible thing that I have seen. I was in Hobart some years ago when there were bushfires over there. We had to go home because the ash and soot in the air were drifting down and making us cough. We had to get out and go back to our motels because it was such a bad day, but it was nothing like what I saw on that Tuesday. It was the most amazing thing I have ever seen. Nobody could have stopped that fire. It was just the most appalling thing that could have happened in this state. I hope we learn lessons from it. I join in supporting this motion. My heart went out to the people of Lower Eyre Peninsula and I know the rest of the country did as well. On the way down on Thursday I passed a number of trucks taking hay. They were on their way a day and a half after the fire. South Australia has done an extremely good job. We know that will continue and we will support our neighbours.

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): If Cook is part of anywhere it is part of the West Coast, and my association therefore with the West Coast goes back almost continuously until 1976. Indeed, after I left Cook, the greater part of my life then remaining with the Education Department was working on the Eyre Peninsula. I would like to contribute therefore briefly to this debate not insofar as I know the Eyre Peninsula but insofar as this debate has affected every person in this chamber and every person in South Australia. January was, I think, a catastrophic month by any world standard. We had a tsunami in our neighbours to the north that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and many, many Australians. We had catastrophic storms in much of the Northern Hemisphere and, to cap it all off, we had a fire not terribly far from Adelaide. And, almost as if to point up that fact, on the day that the Eyre Peninsula was burning those of you who were in Adelaide could go outside and watch Mount Osmond literally burning up as well. We were lucky. That fire did not get out of control, did not come into cities, and there was no loss of life, but if you drive up to the freeway after work tonight you will see that the fire leapt the road and could have got much more out of control than it did.

My colleague the member for Flinders said that they had a feeling on the Eyre Peninsula that it could have been us. I think in listening to this debate today the poignancy of the debate from so many speakers, speaker after speaker after speaker, is the immediacy of this tragedy for us. We do not

think that Adelaide is going to be devastated by a tsunami. Earthquakes and volcanoes are something that really belong to New Zealand and other places. Sleet and storms of that nature belong to the northern hemisphere, but bushfire is a peculiar terror for the Australian landscape. We are, as Dorothea McKellar said, a land of flood, of fire and of famine, and no matter what we do and no matter how we do it, bushfire can and will occur and re-occur to us and our children, and to our children's children.

I think germane to this debate is a quote of John Donne:

No man is an island complete unto himself.
Every man is a piece of a continent, a part of a main.
If but one shore or promontory be washed away, England be the less for it.

Therefore ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.

As the member for Flinders said, those nine South Australian lives that were lost were not just lost to those family and to those people, they were lost to the entire community. They were a part of us that is no longer there. They were, in a sense, part of an innocence which, if we ever had it, was again robbed from us.

I am, and I am not saying this in a put down way, but I am a little bit surprised at the congratulations. I, too, was proud of the response of everybody concerned but I would have to say to you, if you know the people of Eyre Peninsula, as the member for Mawson said, at least in part, they are resilient people, they are self-reliant people and they are selfless people, and bushfire or not they are the characteristics of those people. The Eyre Peninsula was the last piece of South Australia to be settled and to be farmed, and in many ways the people of Eyre Peninsula still retain fiercely that pioneering spirit, that sense of community, that sense of interdependence, and that sense of putting your head down and getting on with the job no matter what the devastation is around you. It is a pity if it has taken a bushfire for members of this chamber to realise the calibre of the people that the member for Flinders represents, because the member for Flinders and those who have gone to Eyre Peninsula have long been aware of it. The heroic efforts of so many people on that day, I think, are in the grand tradition of this nation and of the Eyre Peninsula, and one would hope that had there been different people there on the day those people would have behaved as decently, and as credibly. It is as much as Australians and inhabitants of the Eyre Peninsula as the people whose job it was to do the job. I do not put them down. I congratulate them. I think that they are part of a fine tradition, an Australian tradition, and they represent the best that we all have in us. Bill Parker is a friend of mine—he is a contemporary educationalist—and so is Chris Deslandes and a number of other people who were involved.

When we, as we will in a few moments, pass this motion, it will be easy for us to think, 'Oh, we've done that; we've done the set piece. We have said it in a decent way and with feeling.' Now let us get on with doing some of the job. The motion is complete unto itself, but what it should be more about is not the motion we pass in this house but what we do to honour those nine people who woke up one morning and never lived to see the sun set that evening. What can we do for them? What can we do for their memory to make this a better place? I say to you, sir, that that is the question implicit in this motion: what is the legacy we can give to those people?

The member for Flinders has talked about some concrete things which she is helping to institute, but I put to this house that, if we were to truly honour those people, if we would

truly do that which is decent, every day from henceforth we might realise that we could easily have been one of those nine—if not in a bushfire, in a car accident. Our life is transient; our life is impermanent; and we are here in a position of trust. If we are going to learn any lesson from this, the lesson that we should learn is that every day and every minute in this chamber we should do our best to make this a better South Australia for those whom we will leave behind because, surely, we will pass from this place as those people have passed from Eyre Peninsula, and our legacy will be the good that we have done, not the mediocrity that we have perpetrated in order to get a pension at the end of our time here.

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD (Minister for the River Murray): I join with members in offering my condolences and deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those who lost loved ones in the Eyre Peninsula fires on 11 January. As I arrived in Eyre Peninsula 10 days after the fire, I too was struck by the devastation. The landscape appeared though it had been snapped in sepia with all colour drained. It was an incredibly emotional experience for me to share the stories of the extraordinary bravery and the stories of survival in a fire which struck so indiscriminately, destroying and sparing seemingly without reason. On many properties the homes were burnt right up to the walls of the house, and all the gardens were destroyed right around the houses, yet the houses were saved.

I visited a property near Koppio where the offices, the shed and all the gardens around the house were absolutely destroyed. The house was saved and so were the remarkable rose gardens at the farm, which were an ancillary business. The rose gardens just blossomed out of the landscape as a mass of colour amongst the other black and brown objects. It was just incredible to see that that entire rose garden survived the inferno with the fire burning up to all boundaries right around it. I visited the Glen-forest Tourist Park and it was incredible to see that, just 10 days after the fire, they were back in business. A team of 40 friends, the local football team, the local cricket team and the rotary club had gone out there with more than 40 volunteers in the very next days after the fire; they had chainsaws and they cleaned up and built fences, ensuring that the business could get back on track as soon as possible.

I visited an indigenous community farm, and it was amazing to see that the fire had burnt right up to the edge of the houses, yet the sheds and equipment had gone, and the native tree business that they were developing had been completely destroyed. Incredibly enough, the manager of the property related the story of how he had fought valiantly to have his pig saved from his relatives and the Christmas table only to have them all lost in the fire. One of the things that we must recognise in relation to this fire is an old saying: if there is drought on the land, there is drought in the town. One of the things that will occur over the next little while is that there will be a significant ripple-out effect to small business as a result of this fire. It is bigger than just the fire field.

What stands out, however, is the amazing resilience of the Eyre community, and the way in which the broader community has rallied to support the recovery and the rebuilding. The road to recovery will be long and hard, but I hope that those affected can take heart from the enormous outpouring of sympathy and support from South Australians generally. I would also like to join with other members in saying that I hope that the people who were affected by this fire will

continue to seek support and help, particularly if they are having difficulty coping. In the long term there will be things come up that will create a range of issues and difficulties for people to deal with: rebuilding the farms, rebuilding lives, just getting back on top of things so that they can be financially independent again. It is going to be a tough time so I hope that they will seek support. I also hope that those who are around them will recognise when they need help and be there to give that help.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the emergency services volunteers and all the other volunteers on the peninsula and from around South Australia. It has been an incredible outpouring of effort and support, and I again offer my condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I rise to support the motion and pass on my condolences to the Eyre Peninsula community. I visited the Eyre Peninsula a week after the fire, and when I stepped off the plane and walked through the terminal I saw that the fire had burnt right up to the Avgas tanks and had burnt the front lawn of the airport. It was quite a shock to see that and then to drive down to Port Lincoln through what was left of the communities and see the devastation. I have seen some pretty hot fires in my years with the CFS but this was absolutely phenomenal; the intensity had to be seen to be believed. I spoke to a CFS volunteer and said, 'You guys have been to hell and back,' and his comment was, 'We haven't come back yet.' But they will. If nothing else, that community over there impressed on me that it is absolutely resilient; it is 100 per cent focused on rebuilding and making their community even stronger than it was already.

The member for Flinders has had a few accolades this afternoon, and I can only repeat those, and say what a sterling job she and her staff, in particular, have done. We spoke to members of local government over at Tumby Bay and the Lower Eyre Peninsula; we spoke to the CEOs there and to members of staff and some of the workers involved. They were tireless in their efforts. It is amazing to see how devastation and disaster brings out the very best in people.

This was a human tragedy with nine lives lost, but I would also like to put on record my thanks to the staff of PIRSA and to the PIRSA vets. It is no pleasant job to have to go out and shoot 45 000 sheep. It is hard enough for farmers to have to go out and shoot their own livestock, but at least the PIRSA staff and PIRSA vets were able to assist in that small way. I am proud of the public servants in South Australia and, particularly, this branch of the Public Service in this area. I spoke to one farmer who had to shoot 1 500 of his own sheep but, probably more tragically for him (and it is hard to try to rationalise what goes on), he had a team of show jumpers and he had to shoot 30 of his own horses. As a vet, and having been a horse rider, that is something that is really heart-wrenching.

The volunteers: you just cannot say enough about the volunteers. The CFS and the St John Ambulance volunteers did a fantastic job. Tireless efforts were put in by each and every volunteer, each and every brigade, each and every community: the Salvos, the Red Cross, the SES, the service clubs. I had the pleasure of going to the Port Lincoln Rotary Club on the first night over there and was able to present a cheque for \$6 200 to the Port Lincoln Rotary Club from my rotary club of Somerton Park. The Rotary Club of Holdfast Bay also donated \$10 000. This is just an indicator of what

was happening all over South Australia. In fact, all over Australia people were donating not only money but also goods and effort in kind, and I know the Rotary Club of Port Lincoln is coordinating volunteers over there—and there are hundreds coming from all over Australia. They are helping with rebuilding those communities, helping with fencing, helping with cleaning up, and they are doing a job you could not pay to have done. The volunteers are a sterling example of the South Australia I am very proud to be a part of. The community members in the Cummins Bowling Club and the Tumby Bay RSL worked tirelessly preparing meals. They asked for no favours and expected no accolades but I would like to put on record the fantastic effort they made.

And I refer to other paid members of our community: the police, the MFS, the South Australian Ambulance Service, the public servants, the members of Centrelink and of the South Australian Housing Trust who were at the recovery centres at Cummins and Port Lincoln. A lot of them were locals and many of them knew the people who were affected. I spoke to some of these members of the Public Service and, honestly, I think they will be as affected as other members of the community. They will need some counselling and help. I emphasised to them that they are not alone. They are doing a fantastic job in helping to rebuild the communities, but they should not feel that they need to bear the burden of the things that they have had to listen to; they should not have to bear the burden of that without being able to speak to somebody. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was telling me that he spoke to the CEO of the Port Lincoln Hospital, where staff had worked overtime and had come back to work double shifts. The list goes on, right down to one lady I spoke to at Louth Bay who was looking after a child for one of the CFS members at North Shields. This chap was a single parent out on the fire truck and, had it not been for individual members of the community as well as the groups, clubs and societies and the organisations, this disaster would have been far worse.

It is not going to be fixed overnight: it is going to take a long time to recover. The process will be painful. The memories will linger. I congratulate everybody, from the government, the Public Service and the volunteer groups for doing what they have done. Certainly, it has had an effect on me personally to see that devastation over there. We will be going back over in a few weeks not only to talk to people but also, more importantly, to listen to people to make sure that they are coping with the situation and that they are progressing. As I said when I started, nothing more can be said about this community but that it is super resilient. They are bouncing back and, with the help of the rest of South Australia, they will recover and the Eyre Peninsula will become what it was and probably even a better place.

Ms RANKINE (Wright): I add my support to the motion put to this house by the Premier. There is no doubt that this has probably been the most bewildering Christmas and New Year period we have ever experienced. That day—11 January 2005, like Ash Wednesday—is one of those days that will be etched on the memories of all South Australians forever. We will remember what we were doing and where we were as the news began to come through as we heard the initial reports of unbelievable tragedy and waited for confirmation, hoping, as we know now beyond reason that the initial reports had got it wrong. That day was a devastating day for friends and families who lost loved ones. It was a devastating day for the Eyre Peninsula communities, and it was a devastating day for

our state. It was a day on which we once again saw nature inflict its cruelty, wrath and power. However, amongst all of this, we saw courage, endeavour, resourcefulness and a real commitment to one another. Amongst the devastation we saw South Australians from all walks of life ready to support one another in real and practical ways. Our magnificent volunteer firefighters were out there in conditions we cannot even imagine, putting their lives at risk and supporting one another as they did their best to support and protect the community. Volunteer firefighters, not just from the Eyre Peninsula but from around our state including my own Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully brigades, went over to assist. Other emergency services personnel so vital in situations such as this were our police, our State Emergency Service, the MFS, and our ambulance and medical staff. They saved the lives of friends, neighbours and complete strangers while their own homes burnt down.

I pay particular tribute today to a friend of some 30 years, Senior Sergeant Hank Swalue. Port Lincoln is very lucky to have a police officer of his calibre. I think that he, like so many who do not push themselves forward, really ensure that situations like these are managed to the best of their ability. This is a man who has shown many years commitment to his officers, shows consistent leadership, and shows consistent commitment to his community. The logistics in managing a disaster of these proportions is enormous and involve things we probably never even think about: the logistics of arranging accommodation for volunteers, feeding them, and the list goes on. We have heard many stories about that today. Many community organisations and the band of volunteers swung into action and continue to provide support and assistance. Our wider community did not just express sympathy and compassion but very actively and strongly gave goods, services and monetary donations. Through this tragedy we have seen many heroes in many forms come to the fore.

I also acknowledge the work undertaken by our Premier, the Minister for Emergency Services, the members of our cabinet and the Minister for Emergency Services' Chief of Staff Leon Bignell in very actively and practically supporting the people of the West Coast. I do not remember a Premier being so actively hands-on involved in a disaster, and I am sure the member for Flinders and the people affected greatly appreciated his efforts and the efforts of his ministers.

11 January will go down as a very sad and tragic day in our history. We lost nine very special people. We lost children, mothers, wives, fathers and husbands who were very special to their communities and their families. I express my very sincere condolences to all those grieving; my sincere sympathies to those who lost their homes and livelihoods; and my admiration and appreciation to all those who helped throughout this devastating fire and continue to help this community get back on its feet.

The SPEAKER: As others have said, so I also say. My sympathies and condolences go to those people who have lost members of their families and those for whom they have love and affection. I, too, had an experience earlier in life which may in some part resemble the kind of experience to which those people on southern Eyre Peninsula on 11 January have been subject. There was what was called Black Sunday on 2 January in 1955. At that time, I had been back on my feet for only a few months after a major road trauma in my life in which I was severely injured, and I did not attempt (as did my younger brother and five older brothers) to do anything about the events of that day. Three lives were lost then. The

intensity of the fire varied according to the fuel load and the time of the day at which the combustion occurred. There are stories from that time similar to those that are being told now about what happened on Eyre Peninsula; and there are reports of parliamentary committees and, more recently, a select committee (of which both the member for, at that time, Eyre, now Stuart, and I were members, chaired by a former minister in the Labor government, Terry Hemmings). We documented the things about which communities needed to take care, yet it seems that, notwithstanding all that work, little progress has been made. Some progress has been made; there is no question about that. Our understanding of the surroundings in which we live is better than it was before.

Unquestionably, though, the maelstrom (and I am not referring to the particular whirlpool in the seas off Norway but to the general context in which that word is used now to describe what happens when a major catastrophe overtakes us as individuals and as communities—the swirling and whirling that we not only see in, for instance, the fire itself or any other natural disaster but also in the sociological consequences) is worthy of remark. We, indeed, as South Australians are good at dealing with that. We deal with grief in a methodical way, and in no small measure that leads me to the next part of the remarks I wish to make, namely, that it is in no small measure a consequence of the large numbers of young men in our communities who fought in two world wars and in other places such as Malaya and Vietnam since that time that we have learned to deal with it. Also, we had friends settled on the land and in communities across the length and breadth of the state about whom we cared, and that gives us the cohesion to which we all referred and which arises in direct consequence of the sociological phenomena coming from sharing the bitterness of defeat, the frustration of stalemate and the joy of victory. Whatever you may otherwise refer to it as, there is certainly relief, if not joy, in victory whenever there is a battle.

The other reason for my making these remarks and not attempting to mention anybody in particular is that my father was born on Eyre Peninsula and my mother spent her early life there and met him there (she was not born there). I have relatives in consequence of marriage and as the generations pass numbering over 3 000 in those communities—strictly speaking, in the geographic area of Eyre Peninsula. Let me make it plain: North Shields has particular relevance to my family. My Uncle Cliff (my mother's older brother) and his wife Ada established the general store and post office, which continued until very recently to be in that family since the day it was first established, and the service that it provided to that community. I do not wish to go further down that path because of its personal implications for my own grief.

Let me say about the phenomenon, though, that the heat generated by the combustion of the volatile gases grows exponentially as the production of those gases in the destructive distillation of the organic material grows, and it grows not by the square but by the cube of the increase in temperature once you have reached the threshold of destructive distillation of those simpler organic compounds. It is no wonder that in an environment such as was the case on Lower Eyre Peninsula at that time, the temperatures referred to were reached. It was predictable. The CSIRO's reports referred to by that select committee to which I referred earlier and of which the member for Stuart and myself were a part well comprehend it. It would be better for us all if we took the trouble to familiarise ourselves with it a little more than we have—and I trust we will.

Without going too much into the consequences of those phenomena, let me say that this country and the communities across its length and breadth ignored the consequences of what they saw for those members of the community who went with our armed forces to Vietnam. If they were not at some point or other exactly engulfed by what happened there, they were affected by the use of napalm, because you cannot help but be affected by those kinds of things. I applaud the member for Flinders for what she has done and the remarks she has made in drawing attention to the competence of Max Fatchen to put into rhyme what it all meant, and I refer again to the phenomenon of the RSL and its settlements across the length and breadth of this state as the means by which we feel and arrive at the cohesion to respond in this way within our communities and across the entire state.

I want to move on quickly to make another remark relevant to the CSIRO's position in getting us through this and back into productive enterprise again. I refer to the remarks of the Minister for Agriculture about how this heat will have affected the soils. Quite simply, I hope that someone somewhere has read the work that shows that the best thing we can now do is not to rebuild the fences where they were but to reconsider the plans of the farms and the way in which fencing of properties may best suit farming in the 21st century. We need to look at the reasons for having fences where you do, or not having them in other places, and the manner in which we might re-establish native vegetation on farms to make more efficient the way in which farming operations can be carried out effectively by the occupiers as well as providing harbour for native species, not just plants but other insects, arachnids, animals and birds and so on that live there.

More particularly, as far as soils are concerned, the simplest and best thing that can be done with them is to deep rip them as quickly as possible to ensure that the biota (the micro-organisms) are lifted from the layers well below the surface and incorporated in the surface. Through the process of deep ripping, the sands on the surface that are parched and have had all the organic matter (the cement in the structure of the soils) simply burnt out will be helped by the clay that comes up, and the ravages of wind and water will be lessened by preventing run-off and/or wind erosion through the provision of a much deeper zero velocity layer which will prevent the soil from being picked up in the wind or the water.

The public servants have done their part—no question about that—as members have testified in the anecdotes that they have raised. Again, I point out that they do not see themselves as separate from the rest of us in the community who may not be public servants. It is apparent to all (public servants included) that what we need to do is get on with it. I am proud of those farmers from all the communities across the Mallee who simply did not need to be invited to do something. They spoke to each other, collected what they knew would be required from their own experience of bushfires, and put it on trucks. When they got there they made inquiries about where it might be useful and did not waste time checking out anything more or less than that but went to a place where they could be useful and went to work, not only unloading what they took but also helping in the reconstruction, having gone there telling their wives and families before they left that they would stay there for a week or more in some instances.

One thing I now wish to draw attention to in the course of my remarks, underlining what has been said in the house, is

the outstanding work of an international authority who is based in South Australia, a psychiatrist who is well-respected by his peers everywhere, Dr Sandy McFarlane. His excellent work on post-traumatic shock ought to be recognised here at home more than it is. Resources provided to him and the work that he can do in collecting the data and providing guidance in the best way to deliver counselling would be constructive indeed in reducing the number of suicides and the other adverse consequences of post-traumatic shock that will otherwise be the fallout of this terrible event.

It will assist us in knowing that, because we have collected this data and can follow it through in not just the weeks and months ahead but in the years ahead in the lives of those who have been counselled in the most effective way possible (case to case), so that, in turn, when the next one occurs—as it will—we will be better equipped to help people to recover their equanimity through the grieving process and contribute to a productive future for themselves and those around them rather than, through despair, simply allowing their lives to remain trashed if not taken by their own hand.

My plea to the Minister for Health and the Premier is to take counsel as to what can be done in that regard from Dr Sandy McFarlane, who is so modest that he probably would not even ask. Yet, he is so well known by his peers internationally that they were the people who probably generated the publicity about the work which he has done and which has appeared in the press in recent days. I thank the house for its attention to my remarks, and I invite the members for Mawson, Morialta and Bright to pay attention.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

LAND TAX

A petition signed by six members of the South Australian community, requesting the house to urge the government to provide immediate land tax relief through the reform of the current land tax system, was presented by the Hon. Dean Brown.

Petition received.

QUESTIONS

The SPEAKER: I direct that the written answers to the following questions on the Notice Paper, as detailed in the schedule that I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 5, 25, 36, 39, 41-43, 58, 62-64, 66, 105, 119, 123, 125, 134, 135, 137, 140, 141, 144, 145, 147, 149-163, 182, 201, 203, 214, 218, 222 & 237; and I direct that the following answers to questions without notice be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

PLACES FOR PEOPLE PROGRAM

5. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** How much was spent on phase one of the Places for People grants and how much has been set aside for phase two?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: \$3.5 million was allocated to the first phase (2002-05) of the Places for People program. Of this \$2.1 million has been spent or committed, and \$1.4 million will be distributed in two remaining phase one funding rounds.

My department's forward budget has allocated \$3.5 million to the next four-year phase of the program.

ARNO BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

25. **The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Will the government support the Arno Bay Progress Association's application to re-zone a 221 Hectare site to create rural living allotments?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: My department has advised that it is not aware of a request by the Arno Bay Progress Association to rezone a 221 hectare site to create rural living allotments at Arno Bay.

A rezoning of this nature would need to be initiated and supported by the relevant council through a Plan Amendment process, and would be required to demonstrate consistency with the Planning Strategy for Regional South Australia.

STURT HIGHWAY EXTENSION

36. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:**

1. What will be the extent of community consultation in the planning of the Sturt Highway extension and what changes are envisioned?

2. What are the funding details of this project?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The proposed 22 km Sturt Highway Extension will form part of the National Highway network and will extend from the existing Gawler Bypass to Port Wakefield Road, near the Waterloo Corner Road intersection, forming a direct link to the Port of Adelaide via Port Wakefield Road and the Port River Expressway.

There will be extensive community consultation and a formal Environmental Impact Assessment prepared for the project.

Total capital cost is currently estimated at \$190 million, with a further estimated \$110 million to upgrade around 7km of the Port Wakefield Road. This is a joint project and cost sharing agreements between the State and Commonwealth Governments are being negotiated.

RURAL OVERTAKING LANES PROGRAM

39. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Where will the 12 overtaking lanes under the Rural Overtaking Lanes program be located?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Rural overtaking lanes are planned for 2004-05 in the Mid North, Fleurieu Peninsula and the South East.

GAWLER OVERWAY BRIDGE

41. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:**

1. Will the capital works planned for the Gawler Overway bridge include work on the southern side and footpath across the bridge and if so, what are the details?

2. What are the details of any Commonwealth funding of this project?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Discussions are continuing between Gawler Council and the Department of Transport and Urban Planning on future upgrades to the southern side of the bridge including the installation of guard fencing and possible improvement to pedestrian facilities. The funding requirements and other details are yet to be finalised.

Previous work on this project was funded under the Commonwealth's National Black Spot Program—\$69,000 in 2001-02 and \$91,000 in 2002-03. There was no Commonwealth funding available for 2004-05.

ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES

42. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** What safety improvements on regional arterial roads are going to be undertaken in 2004-05 and how much funding has been allocated to accommodate this?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: In 2004-05 a number of road safety initiatives and projects are to be undertaken on the regional arterial roads including road widening, shoulder sealing, overtaking lanes, rest areas and the State Black Spot Program. Funds in excess of \$20 million have been applied to these programs and projects.

Road maintenance is another important area of activity contributing to the safety of the transport system. In 2004-05 approximately \$55.5 million will be spent on providing routine and periodic road maintenance activities in rural and regional areas.

The State Strategic Plan set a target of reducing road fatalities by 40 per cent by 2010 and improving the safety of road infrastructure will assist in the achievement of this goal.

WALK WITH CARE PROGRAM

43. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** How many people are currently undertaking the Walk with Care program?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: In 2003-04 there were 24 pedestrian safety workshops and they varied from 10 participants to up to 30

participants. Approximately 350 people attended the workshops. It is expected that there will be similar numbers for 2004-05.

BLUE LIGHT FUNCTIONS

58. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Why do the South Australia Police envisage an increase in attendance at Blue Light Functions by approximately 10,000 patrons in 2004-05?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Commissioner of Police has advised that the approximate increase of 10,000 patrons for Blue Light functions for 2004-05 is the difference between the 2003-04 estimated figure of 35,433 and the 2004-05 target figure of 45,000.

The 2003-04 estimated patron result for Blue Light functions was 35,433. This figure was based on statistics gathered early on in that financial year. As a result of data collection processes, estimated figures cannot always be relied upon as accurate.

The 2003-04 target patron result for Blue Light functions was 45,000. This was the same target set as for the 2002-03 year. It was more appropriate to demonstrate consistency in 'target-setting' rather than base the target on the 2003-04 estimated figure.

PRINCES HIGHWAY, SHOULDER SEALING

62. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Will the section of Princes Highway between Meningie and Salt Creek undergo maintenance work on the actual highway while the shoulder sealing maintenance is also being undertaken?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: My department completed shoulder sealing along this section of the Princes Highway in June 2004.

OLDER DRIVERS

63. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** What aspects of the Road Safety Package will be specifically directed to older drivers?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Many of the road safety initiatives that this Government has introduced have been aimed at improving road safety across all road user groups, including older drivers.

The fatality rate of drivers per 10 000 licenses increases after the age of 60 which could be attributed to older drivers greater vulnerability after a road crash. Because of frailty older drivers have a greater chance of dying as a result of serious injuries sustained from a car crash compared to younger drivers. The responsibility for crashes increases from about the age of 65+ where approximately 62 per cent of 65-69 year olds are responsible for any fatal or serious crash they are involved in. For those above 70 the responsibility is higher than for young drivers (under 25).

The Road Safety Advisory Council (RSAC) has recently established a Fitness to Drive Task Force to investigate the issues associated with determining fitness to drive and the current South Australian practices in regard to older drivers.

The government will consider recommendations put forward by the RSAC.

DRIVER REST STOPS

64. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** What is the current status of the review into driver rest stops and how many have been reviewed and upgraded in South Australia?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The Department of Transport and Urban Planning (Transport SA) is well underway with undertaking works identified as a result of the review into driver rest stops.

The long distance highways that experience the traffic mix most likely to benefit from improved rest opportunities were the primary ten targets, and include Sturt, Dukes, Pt Wakefield—Pt Augusta, Eyre, Riddoch, Lincoln, Crystal Brook—Renmark, Flinders, Princes and Mallee Highways. Works had previously been undertaken on the Stuart and Barrier Highways.

Works undertaken include approximately 120 rest areas to date. In addition, a brochure 'Your Guide to Roadside Rest Areas in South Australia' showing the locations of rest areas for cars and trucks on South Australia's principal highways was recently produced by Transport SA, and is electronically available on the Transport SA website at <http://www.transport.sa.gov.au>.

OAKLANDS RAILWAY CROSSING

66. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Will the Oaklands Railway Crossing be upgraded as part of the new State Swim Centre Development and if so, what are the details?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Safety improvements at the Oaklands Rail Crossing will be completed independently of the State Swim Centre Development.

SOUTHERN CROSS BROADCASTING

105. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** With respect to the May 2004 agreement between Southern Cross Broadcasting and the state government which in part, provides for the on-air scheduling of commercials on Channel Nine—

- (a) what products have or will be advertised;
- (b) which stations will broadcast these advertisements;
- (c) what budget has been allocated for the production and creative production of commercials;
- (d) which advertising agency will produce or consult on the production; and
- (e) has any production work gone to tender?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I have been advised of the following: (a) No products have yet been advertised. The proposed product to be advertised is the state of South Australia—in particular the benefits of living and doing business in South Australia.

(b) As yet no decision has been made as to which stations will broadcast the advertisements. Southern Cross Broadcasting currently operates the following stations:

- Television stations
 - Channel 9 Adelaide
 - Southern Cross Ten Southern NSW covering the ACT and Southern NSW
 - Southern Cross Ten Northern NSW
 - Southern Cross Ten VIC throughout regional Victoria
 - Southern Cross Ten QLD
 - Southern Cross Tasmania
 - Southern Cross Darwin & Southern Cross Central
 - Central GTS/BKN covering Spencer Gulf region of SA, Port Lincoln and Broken Hill

- Radio stations
 - 2UE Sydney
 - 3AW Melbourne
 - 4BC Brisbane
 - 4BH Brisbane
 - 6PR Perth
 - Magic 693 Melbourne
 - 96FM Perth

(c) A budget of \$125,000 has been allocated for the development of creative concepts and production of television commercials, recorded radio advertisements and live read radio scripts.

(d) Adelaide advertising agencies, Killey Withy Punshon and Jam Communications have been consulted on television concepts. The Jam Communications concepts were accepted and Jam Communications and Whitham Media Australia have been asked to quote on production of the television commercials on a competitive tender basis. As yet no production work has commenced.

PREMIER'S SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

119. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. How will the \$3 million allocated to the Premier's Science and Research Council be spent and on what basis?

2. What are the details of the application and approval process?

3. What probity measures are in place to guard against misuse of the fund?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The \$3 million allocated to the Premier's Science and Research Council (PSRC) is for the Premier's Science and Research Fund (the Fund). The guidelines for the Fund aim to make transformational investments that:

- Relate specifically to capabilities and opportunities available in South Australia
- Build world competitive science and research infrastructure in South Australia
- Attract highly skilled and recognised scientists and innovators to South Australia
- Significantly build South Australia's science, mathematics and innovation skills base
- Facilitate the creation and application of world-competitive science and research in South Australia
- Have the potential to contribute to sustainable economic, social and environmental outcomes for the State.

Priority is given to projects that embrace State priorities and targets as outlined in the STI¹⁰ and the State Strategic Plan.

2. Funds are allocated through a competitive application based process that is advertised publicly through *The Advertiser* and disseminated via email distribution lists to key interest groups in the State. Applications are invited from research organisations and industry for projects in the above areas that maximise co-investment from industry, other private sector participants, research organisations and other levels of Government.

The PSRC endorse the guidelines and the applications and approvals process before the Minister for Science and Information Economy approves the guidelines and application process on behalf of the Premier.

The applications process is in two stages; Stage 1 applications are assessed by the Executive Director, Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate and Director, Science and Innovation Unit of DFEEST, with extensive input from Bio Innovation SA. Applications that meet the Stage 1 criteria are invited to submit more detailed Stage 2 applications.

An expert panel(s) of assessors, chaired by a member of the PSRC, will make a detailed evaluation of each Stage 2 application and provide a report and recommendations for the PSRC. The PSRC then provides recommendations to the Minister for Science and Information Economy to approve investments to be made from the Fund on behalf of the Premier.

3. A Probity Plan has been in place since Round 1 of the Premier's Science and Research Fund in 2003/04. An updated Probity Plan will apply to Round 2 of the Fund. The Probity Plan includes requirements for declarations of conflicts of interest by all assessors on the expert panel(s).

The PSRC will make recommendations to the Minister for Science and Information Economy regarding investment projects.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into deeds of agreement with the Minister for Science and Information Economy and the agreements will be monitored by the Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate of DFEEST.

INFORMATION ECONOMY

123. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What is the status of each of the '21 Key Initiatives for the 21st Century' outlined in the Information Economy 2002 policy, what funding has been provided to each initiative in 2004-05, which Initiatives have been cancelled and what key performance indicators are being used?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The previous government announced its IE 2002 statement in August 2000, more than four years ago. The Statement included a collection of twenty one initiatives, many of which were no more than ideas and most were either existing or re-budgeted initiatives.

The most memorable of these initiatives was the ill-considered 'Virtual Electorate', which proposed to hand a vote to people living overseas who had some unspecified connection to this State—which of course did not include paying taxes in South Australia. Having announced it, the then government promptly, and probably wisely, decided not to proceed. However, during its brief period of notoriety, the Virtual Electorate brought about considerable amusement at this State's expense, and I am surprised that the honourable member chooses to rake it up again.

By the time this Government came into office in March 2002, only seven new initiatives had actually been started from the original twenty-one. As these were the only initiatives we inherited as a going concern, I will limit my comments to these.

The status of the seven is as follows:

- Service SA is now a major service delivery program, which received \$3.21 million in the 2004/05 budget. This includes \$1.24 million to implement an increase to services through a broader regional and statewide presence;
- An IT Careers Information Exchange web site was launched in mid 2002, and operated for 12 months, after which no further funds were allocated due to a lack of demand for the site. There are a number of existing websites containing IT careers information such as the IT Skills Hub, myfuture and the National Training Information Service;
- An E-business campaign has been piloted in the south-east of South Australia;
- The Industry Action Plans program resulted in several industry groups preparing plans, however, only the IT Council completed an Industry Action Plan in late 2001. This initiative was considered to be complete;
- The International Advisory Panel was discontinued at the request of the Panel's Chair, Dr Bob Bishop;

- The SA Connect project operated until the end of its original service contract in mid 2003. The service was not continued due to consistently low demand. A number of the features and functionality of SA Connect are being incorporated into the SA Central website;
- Finally, the Information Economy scorecard was planned to provide key performance indicators for the IE2002 program. This program has been superseded as measurement of the State's progress in the Information Economy now forms part of the far more rigorous South Australian Strategic Plan.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE

125. Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:

1. How many staff are employed in the Science Technology Directorate and how is the Directorate structured, including the roles and functions of each component?

2. How much funding has been allocated to the Directorate and what is the detailed breakdown of this funding?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE:

1. As at 24 September 2004, there were 33 staff employed in the Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate (the directorate) of DFEST. The Directorate consists of four streams of activity, each with independent yet interconnected roles and functions as follows:

(a) Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Administration—coordinates all administrative function for the Directorate as a whole. It is also responsible for quality management of systems and processes which underpin the activities of the whole directorate and ensure business processes have integrity, probity and efficiency.

(b) Science and Innovation—has whole-of-government responsibility for implementing strategies to coordinate and target the building of world class higher education and research infrastructure in South Australia that is consistent with the objectives of the State Strategic Plan and 10 Year Vision for STI. This incorporates:

- strengthening the State's skill base and improving entrepreneurial skills and enhancing the rate of commercialisation and technology transfer (T4.10 in the State Strategic Plan);
- communicating and promoting the importance of innovation, science and technology to South Australia's economic, environmental and social future is another key function of this unit; and (T4.11 in the State Strategic Plan),
- serving as the primary liaison with the Commonwealth and other State Governments on innovation, science and technology matters.

This stream also provides secretarial services to the Premier's Science and Research Council.

(c) Information Economy—provides a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to the development and implementation of strategic policy advice in the information economy arena to support the Government's economic development and social inclusion goals.

This stream fosters information economy developments within government, business and community sectors and supports the Information Economy Advisory Board that provides strategic advice on information economy matters to the Minister for Science and Information Economy.

(d) ICT Skills Capability and Community Development—provides coordinated, whole-of-government approach to the provision of strategic policy advice to develop a highly skilled ICT workforce and connected community. This stream promotes and supports the Government's goals of economic development and social inclusion and has significant responsibility for promoting community awareness and access to ICT. The functions of streams (c) and (d) help to underpin some of the targets in the Fostering Creativity objective of the State Strategic Plan, in particular the Creativity, Internet usage and Creative education targets

2. The 2004-05 budget for the directorate is \$21 million, which includes \$16 million for grants and projects, \$3.8 million for employee expenses and \$1 million for goods and services.

PLAN PROCUREMENT PROJECT

134. Mr BROKENSHIRE: How will a \$6 million saving be achieved from buying back a range of road maintenance equipment under the Plan Procurement Project?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The State Government has used leading edge strategic procurement techniques to purchase extremely cost effective road maintenance equipment. The cost of owning, maintaining and managing the new plant fleet is approximately \$6 million per annum less than the hire payments for the same

equipment. I made a ministerial statement on 6 May 2004 informing the house of this Government's initiative to buy back equipment, which was sold under the previous Liberal Government.

ROADS

135. Mr BROKENSHIRE: Which ten roads in South Australia incur the most casualties?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The ten roads in South Australia that incur the most casualties are in the metropolitan area and are as follows:

Rank	Road Name
1	Main North
2	South
3	Marion
4	Greenhill
5	Salisbury
6	Goodwood
7	Henley Beach
8	Brighton
9	Cross
10	Sir Donald Bradman

As a general rule, the longer the road, the higher the traffic volume and the more intersecting roads, then the higher the resultant casualty count.

ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

137. Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:

1. What were the attendances of each Adelaide International Film Festival screening in 2003, how many were paying customers and what contributions were made by sponsors of the Festival?

2. What WorkCover arrangements were in place for venue staff not directly employed by the Festival organisers and were WorkCover payments made by the substantive employers considered to be part of any sponsorship?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: A response to the same question asked by the member on 17 September, 2003 was tabled in *Hansard* on 1 December 2003, page 1153.

PREMIER'S SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

140. Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: What is the structure, role, membership and funding available to the Premier's Science and Research Council, how many times have they met and what outcomes have been achieved?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: For the answer in relation to the structure, role, membership and funding available to the Premier's Science and Research Fund, please refer to answer previously given to QON 66, asked on 27 November 2003 by Mr Hamilton Smith.

The council has met ten times since its inception, with the welcome forum being held in June 2002, and the first official meeting being held in August 2002.

A number of key outcomes have been achieved by the council to date. The council has identified a number of strategic initiatives required for a more competitive science and research community in South Australia. These initiatives include:

- a Premier's Science and Research Fund, worth \$3m in 2004-05, to support new science and research infrastructure projects and ensure a more strategic approach to science infrastructure funding
- improved high performance computing capabilities in South Australia, through an investment of \$1m, which will give industry access to one of the fastest 40 supercomputers in the world
- investment of \$1.4m towards a high performance communications link to the national broadband research network providing vital infrastructure needed for continued industry development
- support for innovation and science awareness activities, such as the Tall Poppies Program and regional events held during National Science Week
- initiatives to improve the delivery of science and mathematics education in South Australian schools, including:
 - the Premier's Industry Awards for Teachers of Science & Mathematics for teachers to undertake industry placements
 - Australian Science and Mathematics School Scholarships to provide students from disadvantaged backgrounds and from regional areas to attend the Australian Science and Maths School.

The council is implementing the *STI* Vision for Science, Technology and Innovation launched by the Premier in April 2004

to set a long-term strategic framework for South Australia. This implementation is being facilitated by three active sub-committees tasked with providing advice on specific areas of STI¹⁰ and the relevant State Strategic Plan targets.

INFORMATION ECONOMY POLICY OFFICE

141. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the details of any operational review of the Information Economy Policy Office since March 2002?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I refer the member to the response printed in *Hansard* on 4 December 2003.

VENTURE CAPITAL MARKET

144. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How will Bio-Innovation SA and Playford Capital fit strategically in the venture capital market relative to the Venture Capital Board, Paragon and other funds or providers?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I refer the member to the response printed in *Hansard* on 11 October 2004.

VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDING

145. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How does the Government coordinate its strategic approach to venture capital funding and is there a Ministerial Council coordinating venture capital in this portfolio?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The Venture Capital Board is charged with facilitating private equity investment across all sectors and stages of investment. It is not a private equity fund and will have no direct input into any private equity investment decisions. The Minister Assisting the Premier in Economic Development has ministerial responsibility for the Venture Capital Board and the Office of the Venture Capital Board.

Bio Innovation SA and Playford Capital form a key plank in the State Government's strategy to promote venture capital and the growth of innovative technology-based companies in South Australia. Both organisations work to address market failure in the availability of funds to early stage ventures in the biotechnology and information and communications technology sectors respectively. Both these organisations report to the Minister for Science and Information Economy.

Bio Innovation SA and Playford Capital work with the Office of the Venture Capital Board where appropriate to achieve the Government's aims to develop a strong venture capital industry in South Australia. Given that the Government's strategy to develop the venture capital industry is limited to two Ministers, there is no separate Ministerial Council for these activities.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, TRAINED GRADUATES

147. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How does South Australia currently compare with other States in the number of information technology trained graduates and how is the quality of South Australia training in this area being benchmarked?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE:

Higher Education completions in Information Technology, 2002

New South Wales	4,835
Victoria	6,397
Queensland	4,390
Western Australia	1,342
South Australia	578
Tasmania	258
Northern Territory	72
Australian Capital Territory	478

(source: Department of Education, Science and Training, Canberra)
VET Student enrolments in Information Technology, 2003 (data on completions by field of study is not included in the annual publication)

New South Wales	27,800
Victoria	19,900
Queensland	9,000
Western Australia	7,600
South Australia	3,300
Tasmania	2,400
Northern Territory	1,200

Australian Capital Territory 2,000
 (source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research;)

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) provides nationally consistent recognition of outcomes achieved in post compulsory education.

Within the Higher Education sector, an independent body, the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AQUA) audits universities over a five year rolling cycle to ensure that quality assurance mechanisms are in place. The University of Adelaide was audited in 2002 and the University of South Australia in 2003.

The Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) ensures the quality of vocational education and training services provided by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). RTOs are required to have documented systems, conduct an internal audit at least annually; use trainers and assessors with specified competencies; follow explicit requirements for quality assurance in assessment and follow specific requirements for developing, validating and implementing learning.

The Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) audits RTOs over a five year cycle. These audits are conducted by the Quality branch of the Employment and Skills Formation Directorate.

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

149. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. What are the details of any bids for 'Centres of Excellence' to be located in South Australia since March 2002 and has any specific funding been allocated to achieve this and if not, how are they funded?

2. Are any bids currently being considered and if so, what are the details?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I refer the member to the response printed in *Hansard* on 11 October 2004.

BIO INNOVATION SA

150. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the government's funding commitments to Bio Innovation SA over the next four years, and how will this funding be spent?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: An allocation of \$22.318 million to Bio Innovation SA has been included in the budget forward estimates over the next four years. The funding will be spent on salaries, accommodation, supplies and services, workshops and networking functions, grant and capital programs. As is usual practice, the specific allocation for the coming year is reviewed during the bilateral process of each budget cycle.

BIOTECH COMPANIES

151. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What input did the government and Bio-Innovation SA, respectively, have in the facilitation of the sixteen biotech companies established in South Australia in 2003-04 and to what extent was Bio-Innovation's funding and support essential for the creation of each of these companies?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The state government organisation, Bio Innovation SA, is a unique organisation in Australia, with its activities spanning the following:

- Direct start-up business support
 - a team of industry experts available to advise entrepreneurs;
 - seed financing of companies;
 - leveraging of commonwealth grants; and
 - attracting private equity.
- Bioscience industry and research support
 - Educational programs, including business workshops;
 - AIB Labs infrastructure funding
 - Networking functions.

Bio Innovation SA works to address areas of market failure around the commercialisation of research and development and early stage company formation. Bio Innovation SA acts as a feeder of investment ready companies. Without Bio Innovation SA, commercialisation activities are likely to be retarded, less Federal funding will be leveraged and resources would not be aligned to state priorities.

The state government through Bio Innovation SA has ensured that start-up entrepreneurs have been able to form companies which have got off to a good start with strong foundations.

PLAYFORD CAPITAL

152. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much has Playford Capital invested in each year since its inception and what has been the associated salaries, administration and services costs, respectively, in each year?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Playford Capital has invested, and attracted co-investment, of the following amounts since its inception:

\$ million	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Funds Invested:			
- Playford Capital	2.249	1.272	1.229
- Private co-investment	7.450	7.316	6.710

- Public co-investment	1.436	1.239	2.370
Total	11.135	9.827	10.309
Salaries & On-costs	.853	.992	.979
Administration & Service Costs	.745	.730	.645

IT COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

153. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much state government funding support has the IT Council of South Australia received in each year since its inception?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The funding provided is summarised in the table below:

Year	Funding Purpose	Amount (\$)
2000-01	Core operations of IT Council	200,000
	Development of a web-based directory of SA ICT businesses	30,000
2001-02	Core operations of IT Council	200,000
	Promotion of the SA ICT Industries prior to and during World Congress on IT 2002 (WCIT2002)	10,000
	Development of a web-based portal for the SA ICT industries	30,000
	Development of a promotional brand for the SA ICT industry	70,000
2002-03	Core operations of IT Council	200,000
2003-04	Core operations of IT Council	200,000
2004-05	Core operations and projects of IT Council	250,000

*Funding for the IT Council in 2004-05 is comprised of \$125,000 for core operations and up to a further \$125,000 for specific projects, subject to acceptance by the government of a business case for each project.

NGAPARTJI TRAINING

154. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What has been the impact of the loss of those services and training courses previously conducted by Ngapartji across the IT sector and other related industries?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Due to the Accredited Courses and Internet café services being widely available throughout the state, there has been no impact to the IT and related industries from the loss of services conducted by Ngapartji.

Since Ngapartji's closure in 2003, TAFE has been able to offer the same VET Accredited Courses or equivalent, to the public. TAFE has also been able to provide extra courses that were not available at Ngapartji. The Vendor Accredited Courses are available through private providers.

Ngapartji also offered a Internet café to the general public, which at the time of its opening was one of only a few available in the state. Since this time however, numerous Internet cafés have opened within the CBD and the Adelaide metropolitan area, making this service very accessible.

BIO-INNOVATION SA AND PLAYFORD CAPITAL

155. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How do the Bio-Innovation SA and Playford Capital models for investment and industry development rate by industry standards and is a Bio-Innovation SA model a requirement in the IT Industry?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Playford Capital's business model is to act as a seed capital investor. Playford Capital's investment activity has a positive impact on economic growth, exports, commercialisation of research and entrepreneurial activity by facilitating the formation and development of innovative early-stage technology ventures.

Playford Capital has performed strongly. In a recent review of information and communications technology (ICT) incubators for the commonwealth government, Allen Consulting named Playford Capital as one of the top three ICT incubators in Australia.

The Bio Innovation SA model is unique in Australia, and the organisation has exceeded all performance measures since its inception.

Bio Innovation SA provides direct start-up business support such as expert business advice to entrepreneurs and seed financing, as well as bioscience industry and research support such as intellectual property workshops and funding for initiatives such as AIB Labs.

There are significant differences between the IT and bioscience industries in their:

- stage of industry development;
- existing skill base;
- the nature of research and development skills required; and
- commercialisation models adopted.

Lessons learnt from the Bio Innovation model can be applied to a number of science-based industries including the IT industry.

BIO-INNOVATION SA, GRANTS

156. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What will be the total amount of Bio-Innovation SA grants in 2004-05, what grant scheme will be operating and how many do they expect to approve?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Bio Innovation SA has budgeted close to \$4.5 million for grant monies in the 2004-05 financial year, of which:

- \$3.0 million will go to the Centre for Plant Functional Genomics.
- Approximately \$1.0 million will support emerging bioscience companies and lever commonwealth grants into the state at a leverage factor of at least 1 in 4 to SA's favour. This is a competitive grant scheme and applications will be called throughout the year;
- Approximately \$400,000 will support research infrastructure under the AIB Labs grant scheme. This is also a competitive grant scheme and applications will be called throughout the year;
- Approximately \$100,000 will be provided in small grants to proof-of-concept projects in the bioscience area, again on a competitive basis.

The total number of grants awarded will rely on the quality of the applications received.

All grants are designed to address market failure and to assist in forming a competitive bioscience industry.

PLAYFORD CAPITAL

157. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the commercial terms normally required by Playford Capital of potential capital providers, are these terms on par with 'much later' venture capital providers and is Playford Capital an early stage 'seed' provider?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Playford Capital invests seed capital in early stage technology companies. It subscribes capital in return for a minority equity interest in an early stage information and communications technology (ICT) company. In line with standard industry practice, the terms of such investment are generally set out in a subscription and shareholders agreement. The terms of each agreement will vary depending on a number of factors including the amount of money subscribed, the risk factors in the business and the involvement of other investors. In addition, Playford Capital reviews

its standard terms in light of experience gained and changing industry standards.

Playford Capital's rigorous approach to investment is a key reason for its success in raising co-investment and for its strong performance. In a recent review of ICT incubators for the commonwealth government, Allen Consulting named Playford Capital as one of the top three ICT incubators in Australia.

Playford Capital's investment terms typically include some but not all of the terms required by venture capital providers. For example, Playford Capital does not seek board representation whereas this is a standard venture capital requirement. Playford Capital subscribes equity whereas venture capital firms frequently invest using convertible not instruments which provide for rights to an accrued coupon payment, security over the intellectual property and favourable rights to convert the instrument to ordinary shares. Playford Capital pays for its own due diligence costs whereas venture capitals charge these costs to the company concerned. Other terms also sought by venture capitalists, which are not required by Playford, include rights to demand changes in key executives where milestones are not met and rights to demand that a company transfer to another legal jurisdiction.

158. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What is the government's vision for Playford Capital and how will it differ from the Bio-Innovation SA model?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Playford Capital forms a key plank in the state government's strategy to promote venture capital and the growth of innovative information and communications companies in South Australia. The SA government supports Playford Capital on an on-going basis by way of operational funds.

Playford's investment capital and scope of investments is bounded by the contract Playford has with the commonwealth government under the Building IT Strengths (BITS) programme.

Bio Innovation SA works with the South Australian bioscience community using a cooperative approach to industry development. The team offers high-level business development advice, assistance with funding applications, infrastructure and marketing, and implements many unique initiatives that are rapidly expanding the South Australian bioscience sector.

Bio Innovation SA also provides seed financing to start-up companies in the form of grants, not equity as is the case with Playford Capital.

SA CONNECT PROGRAM

159. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Has the 'SA Connect' program been cancelled and if so, why and what has been the impact of canceling this program, including complaints or enquiries?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: SA Connect was an initiative of the previous government's IE2002 policy. SA Connect proposed to make available to every South Australian resident, at no charge, a web-based online presence, including an email address. As a result, the Connect SA website, incorporating an email service, was launched in November 2001.

The email facility competed with free commercial email services such as Hotmail and Yahoo which may explain the very low take-up of the service. Given the high cost of running the email facility relative to its usage, the service was discontinued in November 2002.

As was frequently commented during the life of the Connect SA website, its features could have been incorporated into the SA Central website (www.sacentral.sa.gov.au) rather than a new stand-alone site having been created at extra expense. Despite respectable usage figures immediately after its launch, visitor numbers declined to the point where the site was effectively unknown.

The budget for Connect SA expired at the end of the 2003-04 financial year and the website was retired on 30 June 2004. Some of the features and functionality of Connect SA will be incorporated into SA Central.

Approximately 15 complaints and enquiries were received about the closure of Connect SA.

PLAYFORD CAPITAL

160. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** When did Playford Capital invest in Agrilink Holdings Pty Ltd, how much has and will be invested, and over what period will this occur?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Since December 2003, Playford Capital has invested a total of \$600,000 in Agrilink Holdings Pty Ltd alongside interstate and overseas investors who have invested more

than \$5 million. A further tranche of investment is intended in which Playford Capital will commit \$200,000 and other co-investors will commit \$1.5million.

161. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Does the deed between the state and Federal governments regarding Playford Capital require the state government to notify the Federal government of any reported conflicts of interest and if so, on how many occasions has this occurred?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: There is no deed between the state and federal government regarding Playford Capital.

The federal government deed with Playford Capital requires Playford Capital to notify the commonwealth in writing of any conflicts of interest Playford fails to resolve in accordance with its procedures.

Further, the deed required Playford to disclose to the commonwealth any activity or interest that is likely to conflict with or restrict Playford from performing its obligations under the deed fairly and independently.

Playford has determined that one transaction involving a director-related entity warranted disclosure and advised the federal government on that occasion.

INVESTIGATOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

162. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much government funding will be provided to the Investigator Science and Technology Centre over the next four years, will the Centre be relocated to a permanent facility and if so, to where and at what cost?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: The Investigator Science and Technology Centre receives an annual operating grant of \$560,000 until June 2006.

On 15 August 2003 the then Minister for Science and Information Economy announced that the Investigator Science and Technology Centre would move to a new site at the Regency Institute of TAFE at Regency Park. This move occurred in October 2003.

The move to Regency TAFE has been undertaken as an interim measure whilst work continues on the identification of an appropriate long term model that is relevant to and supports the delivery of science-related educational programs in the state. Various options are currently under consideration and until these studies are completed accurate costs cannot be estimated.

NEAS SCHEME

163. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. What arrangements are in place to ensure that the NEAS scheme does not unfairly discriminate against private education providers and will an accessible and open appeals process be available prior to the compliant status being removed?

2. What impact does the NEAS process have on the Accreditation and Registration Council and what protections exist to ensure that natural justice is followed under Departmental direction?

3. What safeguards are in place to prevent the duplication of accreditation and regulatory regimes onto private education providers?

4. How many disputes have arisen between private education providers and the Department over declarations of non-compliance for registration by those organisations delivering education to overseas students under sect 20 (2) of the Training and Skills Development Act following the withdrawal of NEAS endorsements and in each case, has due process been followed and appeal mechanisms made available?

5. What competitive neutrality processes apply to private and public education providers so as to ensure that National Competition Policy is adhered to?

The Hon. S.W. KEY:

1. The question the honourable member has asked relates to the standards of education and training delivery in the post compulsory secondary sector and in particular the standards of educational services to overseas students (ESOS). The state government is concerned to maintain and enhance the enviable reputation of South Australia as a preferred destination for international students.

The National English Language Teachers (ELT) Accreditation Scheme (NEAS) was devised on the initiative of the commonwealth in conjunction with the association of providers of English Language Intensive Courses to Overseas Students (ELICOS) to assure the quality of English language courses to international students.

Members of the associations are both public (including some universities) and private providers.

NEAS is governed by a board comprising representatives of the association. The Chair of the NEAS board must be a retired judge. The board takes responsibility for assessments of providers made by NEAS assessors.

NEAS assessors are specialists in English language teaching who report to NEAS' Accreditation committee. The committee comprises the national executive officer of NEAS, a person with knowledge of English language teaching unaffiliated with NEAS or any English language industry association, and the assessors.

NEAS assessors must be acknowledged specialists in the English language teaching field and briefed and trained by NEAS in the assessment process.

Assessors are engaged by NEAS on a 'needs be' basis under a separate contract of confidentiality in respect of each institution evaluated.

Assessors are obliged to refuse involvement if a conflict of interest exists or is likely to arise. Likewise providers have the right to refuse an assessor or request a substitute if they perceive a likely conflict of interest.

NEAS has an appeals process relating to initial applications. NEAS has advised it is giving consideration to extending the process in relation to a decision to withdraw endorsement.

2. To ensure a nationally consistent approach to the quality assurance of ELICOS, the Training and Skills commission relies on NEAS expertise in English language intensive courses. The commission in assessing applications for registration, however, utilises criteria additional to those assessed by NEAS.

The commission has discretion to ensure natural justice is accorded. The Department on behalf of the commission has legal advice confirming that NEAS processes relating to the withdrawal of endorsement accord procedural fairness.

Section 33 of the Training and Skills Development Act, 2003 provides opportunities to appeal the commission's decisions.

3. Under the Training and Skills Development Act, 2003 responsibility for the direction of post-compulsory secondary education regulatory regimes lies with the Training and Skills commission. The commission's standards and guidelines are designed to ensure maximum convergence of the higher education, vocational education and training (VET) and ELICOS regulatory frameworks within the limits of national agreements. South Australia and other states and Territories have arrived at arrangements with the commonwealth in relation to the commonwealth's Educational Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS), 2003 to ensure consistency between the states and Territories and commonwealth regulatory frameworks and to eliminate duplication of regulatory burden.

Further, in current discussion with the commonwealth relating to its Higher Education Fee Help Scheme for private education providers, the government is seeking an arrangement analogous to that for the regulatory framework for overseas students, to ensure minimal duplication of regulatory imposition.

4. NEAS recently has withdrawn its endorsement from an ELICOS provider for failure to comply with standards. The Training and Skills Commission requested legal advice, the advice has been followed and after satisfying itself through an assessment process that NEAS advice has been appropriate, the commission has revoked the registration of the organisation. An appeal mechanism is available under Section 33 of the Training and Skills Development Act, 2003.

There is no record of NEAS withdrawing its endorsement from any other South Australian provider under Section 20 (2) of the Act. In that regard, NEAS advises that South Australia has a small but high quality ELICOS industry.

5. South Australia, along with other states and Territories is party to three National Competition Policy (NCP) Agreements endorsed by the Council of Australian governments (CoAG) in April 1995. These agreements include a range of competition policy reform obligations which are undertaken by the state government in exchange for competition payments. One such undertaking is the requirement to review and reform all legislation which restricts competition unless it can be demonstrated that:

- either the benefits to the community of the restriction outweigh the costs or
- the objectives of the legislation can only be achieved by restricting competition.

All legislation within the vocational education and training area has been reviewed and has been judged by the National Competition

Council as being compliant with the state government's NCP obligations. The relevant Acts include:

- The Construction Industry Training Fund Act, 1993
- The Vocational Education, Employment and Training Act, 1994 (repealed by The Training and Skills Development Act, 2003)
- The Flinders University of SA Act, 1966
- University of Adelaide Act, 1971
- University of South Australia Act, 1990.

The Technical and Further Education Act, 1975 was judged as not requiring to be reviewed.

Under the NCP agreements, state and Territory governments also agreed to ensure there is competitive neutrality (CN) where significant government businesses compete with the private sector. The intent of CN is that publicly owned enterprises do not gain an unfair advantage in the market place simply as a result of their public ownership.

CN policy applies only to the business activities (or so called Significant Business Activities: SBAs) of publicly owned entities. CN does not apply to the non-business non-profit activities of those entities. For example, in the education and training area, the application of CN does not apply to mainstream publicly funded vocational education and training.

As at 31 December 2003, the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) has one Category 1 Significant Business Activity, namely, "Fee for Service activities not required by government in vocational education and training". This operates within TAFE institutes.

DFEEST has advised that ongoing compliance with cost reflective pricing as the adopted competitive neutrality measure appropriate for this activity is occurring.

In addition, DFEEST has also advised that there are business rules within TAFE institutes that are constantly under review and which ensure this Significant Business Activity operates in accordance with the state government's National Competition Policy obligations.

EDS, LOCKLEYS

182. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How many casual, temporary and contract EDS jobs have been lost at the Lockleys operations in recent months, why did this occur and what action has the government undertaken to assist displaced workers with re-employment?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Minister for Industry and Trade has provided the following information:

It should be noted that EDS was not able to provide details on casual, temporary and contract positions at the Credit Services Centre so the following response is based on total FTEs at the centre.

EDS is presently exceeding the target FTE levels associated with packages of financial assistance received under the previous Government's industry attraction program.

I am advised, however, that the EDS Credit Services Centre at Lockleys currently employs approximately 1500 FTEs with a reduction occurring in the previous 12 months.

EDS Credit Services employs a combination of permanent, temporary and contract staff which allows the organisation to expand and contract staff numbers according to business requirements and fluctuating work volumes.

EDS advises that the decline in FTEs since January 2004 is a combination of the following:

- declining volumes nationally in retail lending
- the near completion of EDS Credit Services transformation program which utilised a large number of external consultants, and
- the transformation program itself, which implemented new technologies and business processes and up skilled the workforce, delivering significant processing efficiencies at the centre.

EDS also advises that the reduction in staff at the centre has not resulted from the relocation of work or functions from the centre at Lockleys and that a number of previous temporary staff have been converted to contract staff, providing improved job security.

EDS Credit Services committed to implementing a significant business process transformation program at Lockleys to secure a 10 year outsourcing arrangement of the 'The Mortgage Company' from Westpac.

Since EDS commenced management of the centre, it has secured outsourcing contracts with the Bank of Queensland and Homeloans Ltd which has resulted in the relocation of functions to the EDS Credit Services Centre.

Recently, EDS Credit Services signed a five year deal with a global financial institution to provide mortgage processing services to their Australian operation. This contract will be serviced from EDS Credit Services existing mortgage processing operations in Australia, including the EDS Credit Services Centre at Lockleys.

The government has developed and implemented a more inclusive industry wide approach to economic development and industry support, focused on enhancing skills and infrastructure.

LOCAL TOURISM

201. **Dr McFETRIDGE:**

1. Why have the state government's total grants to local tourism projects diminished by \$470,000 since 2000-01?

2. What is granting criteria for obtaining state government funding for local government tourism projects?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:

1. The South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) provides funding for tourism infrastructure projects through its annual \$1 million Tourism Development Fund (TDF). In 2003-04, the funding became an ongoing part of the SATC annual budget.

Funding for tourism infrastructure projects has not diminished since 2000-01—in fact, tourism infrastructure funding will double to \$2 million from 2005-06.

Part of the current \$1 million TDF funding is allocated to minor projects through an application based process, while the remainder is used for strategic (major) infrastructure projects which will increase tourism product or enhance visitor facilities.

In 2004-05, a total of \$556,000 was allocated for minor projects (as per my media release of 31 August) while the remaining \$444,000 was provided for strategic projects. These projects included accommodation and facility upgrades at Iga Warta in the Northern Flinders Ranges and additional facilities at the Head of Bight Whale Watching facility on Eyre Peninsula.

2. The SATC's Tourism Development Group administer the TDF and provide criteria and application forms to interested parties. Members of the public can obtain a copy of the Guidelines for Tourism Development Assistance from the SATC.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

203. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. How much state government financial assistance is currently being provided to expand and improve the service delivery and efficiency of government services through programs such as ServiceSA, SA Central and ConnectSA, and how much government funding is currently being provided to each of these programs?

2. How much government funding did ConnectSA receive in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and is the ConnectSA website currently being funded and if not, why not?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE:

1. The Minister for Administrative Services has provided the following information to Part I of the question:

Consistent with the South Australian Strategic Plan, Service SA is developing an expansion strategy to increase access to services through a broader regional and CBD presence.

I am advised that the Service SA 2004/05 net cost to government is \$3.2 million, which includes a \$1.24 million provision to implement any approved expansion strategy.

SA Central provides links to over 9000 Government, business and community sites in South Australia and is the most highly accessed State portal of all jurisdictions. SA Central is currently being redeveloped to provide increased functionality, accessibility and integration with other government sites, in particular Service SA.

The Connect SA site was an initiative of the former Information Economy Policy Office, DAIS, (now Science, Technology and Innovation, a directorate of DFEEST). Connect SA was decommissioned in June 2004.

I am informed that the new SA Central site will include functionality formerly provided by the Connect SA site, allow for agency news to be displayed in the relevant content categories and provide search functionality across other sites, including the State Library and the Commonwealth portal.

I understand that the capital investment for the redevelopment of SA Central amounts to \$261,000, which includes the implementation of a Content Management System. Ongoing support funding for SA Central is \$141,500 per annum. This covers hosting costs as well as personnel costs to provide content management and technical support.

2. State government funding spent on the Connect SA website was as follows:

- 2000-01 financial year - \$92,000
- 2001-02 financial year - \$678,000
- 2002-03 financial year - \$118,000
- 2003-04 financial year - \$86,000.

The Connect SA website, incorporating an email service, was launched in November 2001.

The email facility competed with free commercial email services such as Hotmail and Yahoo, which may explain the very low take-up of the service. Given the high cost of running the email facility relative to its usage, this component was discontinued in November 2002.

As was frequently commented during the life of the Connect SA website, its features could have been incorporated into the SA Central website (www.sacentral.sa.gov.au) rather than a new stand-alone site having been created at extra expense.

Despite respectable usage figures for Connect SA immediately after its launch, visitor numbers declined to the point where the site was effectively unknown.

The budget for Connect SA expired at the end of the 2003-04 financial year and the website was retired on 30 June 2004.

PROGRAM NOVA

214. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the objectives of Program Nova, how much funding has been allocated to the program in each year since its commencement and how many participants have taken part in the program?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Minister for Industry and Trade has provided the following information:

Program Nova was delivered by the former Centre for Innovation, Business and Manufacturing. The program was aimed at assisting the growth of small to medium enterprises with a new product or service and comprised three elements, namely:

- Opportunity Evaluation and Development - deliver (either directly or via selected consultants) advice to proponents of new business ideas.
- Investor Ready - Run seminars providing relevant, practical information and case studies for individuals and companies seeking private debt or equity investment. Effectively the seminars assisted companies to formalise their business plans and funding requirements.
- Case Management – Assist SME's and start-ups with growth potential to grow at a faster rate than would otherwise be the case. This involved expert mentoring, design of products for specific markets and referral.

Funding allocation for Program Nova in 2002-03 (the initial year of the program) was \$700,000.

Funding allocation for Program Nova for 2003-04 was \$500,000 with an additional \$200,000 to be available following a part year review of the Case Management aspect of the program.

In the last full year of its delivery (2002-03) over 400 OED clients were handled, 7 Investor Ready seminars were conducted with an average attendance of 27 people and 35 companies were assisted with Case Management.

Following the re-structuring of the former Department for Business Manufacturing and Trade into the Department of Trade and Economic Development and the abolition of the Centre for Business, Innovation and Manufacturing, the contracts for the majority of the Program Nova Case Managers were not renewed and Program Nova was effectively terminated.

The Investor Ready component of the Program, however, was transferred to the Office of the Venture Capital Board on 1 May 2004 and, following a review, the name has been changed to the Equity Ready Program.

SPEED LIMITS

218. **The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** Will District Councils be consulted in reintroducing 110 kph speed limits on those roads previously rated at that speed within their boundaries and if not, why not?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: Councils are always consulted in relation to any speed limit changes within their boundaries.

YUNTA-ARKAROOA ROAD, UPGRADING

222. **The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** How much departmental funding is currently allocated to the upgrading of the Yunta to Arkaroola Road?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: This government has commenced upgrading of 111km of the Yunta—Arkaroola Road. An amount of \$2.3 million has been allocated in 2004-05.

RECREATION AND SPORTING CLUBS, CODES OF CONDUCT

237. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** How many codes of conduct for recreation and sporting clubs have been registered with the Office for Business and Consumer Affairs?

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD: I have received this advice:

Since the *Recreational Services (Limitation of Liability) Act 2002* came into operation on 1 July 2003, there have been four applications lodged for registration of safety codes. One of these was subsequently withdrawn and the other three are in various stages of assessment.

Staff from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs perform initial assessments of any proposed safety code to ensure that it sets out all measures that are necessary to ensure a reasonable level of protection for consumers. This involves careful consideration and research, along with public consultation. Reports from experts may also be required. One of the applications currently under consideration has undergone the public consultation stage and the other two are still under preliminary consideration and being discussed with the applicants.

Once OCBA staff have completed their assessments, they will then make recommendations to me, as Minister for Consumer Affairs, as to whether the proposed code should be registered. If I decide that a code should be registered, the code will be laid before both houses of parliament.

METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

In reply to **Hon W.A. MATTHEW** (25 October 2004).

The Hon. P. CONLON: Audit did not report any ‘anomalies’ with respect to the use of local orders. Rather, the practice of using local orders is inconsistent with the ESAU/SAFECON Finance Manual which requires that any purchase greater than \$1 500 be purchased using a system generated purchase order and that for items less than \$1 500 the acquisition occur using either credit card, petty cash or reimbursement of expenditure claim forms.

The audit identified that some officers within the SAMFS are using local orders inconsistent with the stipulations of the Finance Manual.

In view of this, Audit had recommended that if the SAMFS should choose to continue with the use of local orders that amendments be made to the Finance Manual to reflect this. There was no specific issue with the purposes for which such orders were issued as such.

The SAMFS noted Audit’s recommendation and agreed that this be done. It also noted that the use of Local Orders may ultimately be discontinued if this proved practicable. These amendments are to be effected if the current review of local orders proves that it is necessary to continue with such orders

No consequences were identified, however, Audit did raise the [theoretical] risk exposure of the prospect for unauthorised expenditure.

No consequences noted by Audit and none known as a consequence of the use of local orders.

HAMPSTEAD REHABILITATION CENTRE, GYMNASIUM

In reply to **Hon. D.C. KOTZ** (20 September 2004).

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre is funded to provide the gymnasium facility and pool for patients who are on a rehabilitation goal program. Once a patient’s goal has been achieved and the program successfully completed, the patient’s funding for the use of the gymnasium facility ceases.

Should a patient wish to continue attending a gymnasium in order to undertake a maintenance program, they may choose to attend a commercial gymnasium or continue to use the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre facility at their own expense.

The \$4.00 fee for the use of the centre’s pool is nominal and no profit is made. It goes towards the operating costs of the pool such as the provision of cleaning, lighting, chemicals, an operator and heating. Importantly, the pool needs to be heated to a constant temperature which is higher than commercial pools, to ensure a therapeutic benefit to people with spinal conditions.

It is acknowledged that the gymnasium equipment was generously donated by the Wheelchair Sports Association. However, it is Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre’s ongoing responsibility to ensure the proper storage and maintenance of the equipment. The \$3.50 fee charged for each gymnasium session goes towards these expenses.

The needs of pensioners and concession card holders were considered when Hampstead Rehabilitation centre set the fees.

METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

In reply to **Hon W.A. MATTHEW** (25 October 2004).

The Hon. P. CONLON: In 2003-04 total salaries and wages for the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) increased from \$43.994 million to \$46.780 million, an increase of 6.3 per cent. Four percent of this increase was due to wage increase provisions contained within the SAMFS Enterprise Agreement with the United Fire Fighters Union.

Overtime cost for this period was \$3.790 million, an increase of \$0.138 million (3.8 per cent) over the previous year; however, overtime cost as a proportion of salaries and wages fell from 8.29 per cent to 8.10 per cent. Overtime cost is mainly the result of recalls of operational staff. Whilst it is possible to retrieve the financial overtime data (in dollars) in considerable detail from existing systems, the HRMS (Human Resources) statistical system available to the SAMFS does not contain recall information to enable a conclusion to be gained as to the cause of the recalls, such as sick leave, training requirements other types of leave or absences, or position vacancies.

Because of the importance of controlling the cost of overtime, the SAMFS does, however, retain information manually of the number of recalls by date and location, but it is unable to link this information with the various causes of recalls.

SAMFS statistics, indicate that total recalls increased by 1 per cent from 2002-03 to 2003-04 and that by number the main group of employees where recalls were worked in both years was the Station Officer category.

The SAMFS recruited and trained 55 new firefighters in 2003-04 and this enabled subsequent promotional processes to fill vacancies in the Station Officer rank. The SAMFS is now at its authorised staffing levels.

Specialised training was provided throughout the service by utilizing the skills of experienced Station Officers who were seconded from operational units, necessitating recalls from this rank. This accounts for the increased number of recalls in the Station Officer rank during 2003-04, as indicated in the following table:

Rank	2003-04	2003-03	Variation	
District Officer	236	389	-153	-39 per cent
Station Officer	3 647	3 579	68	2 per cent
Marine Officer	165	287	-122	-43 per cent

Senior Firefighter	754	806	-52	-6 per cent
Firefighter	867	714	153	21 per cent
Communications	473	326	147	45 per cent
	6 142	6 101	41	1 per cent

SA WORKS

In reply to **Hon. R.G. KERIN** (21 September 2004).

The Hon. S.W. KEY: The Leader of the Opposition raises concerns that SA Works 'brokers', including Regional Development Boards, are being pressured to use TAFE for the provision of training. He also suggests that this is a high cost training option resulting in fewer hours, and is a 'cash windfall' to TAFE.

There are three centrally-administered programs, 'Learn-to-Earn', 'Learning Works', and the 'Alternative Learning Options Program' which are delivered exclusively through the TAFE system and schools. Funding agreements are in place with the TAFE Institutes, which specify the training outcomes to be achieved. The costs associated with the achievement of these outcomes can hardly be described as a 'cash windfall'.

Regional initiatives under SA Works are outlined in Employment and Training Plans, developed by local Employment and Skills Formation Networks. The 17 Networks have procurement processes in place to select training providers for projects outlined in the 2004-05 Plans. Rather than favour TAFE, it is estimated that up to 60 per cent of training funds will be directed to a range of private providers, with 30-40 per cent going to the public provider.

In terms of hours, the Regional Plans for 2004-05 estimate that approximately 600,000 training hours will be delivered through SA Works regional initiatives. This is not a reduction on previous year's training hours.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

In reply to **Mr HANNA** (22 November 2004).

The Hon. L. STEVENS: The terms of reference of the inquiry mainly related to specific matters within the Criminal Justice System, which is the responsibility of the Attorney-General.

The Office for Women, a unit of the Department of Human Services (DHS) at the time, made a submission to the Legislative Review Committee inquiry into sexual assault conviction rates in consultation with various agencies and policy units within DHS.

In addition, several health agencies, namely Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service, Women's Health Statewide, Dale Street Women's Health Centre, Northern Women's Community Health Centre and Southern Women's Community Health Centre, also made submissions as part of the 'Stop Rape Now' coalition. These agencies are well qualified in the area of sexual assault and counselling services.

Therefore, it was not necessary for the Department of Human Services to make a further submission even though a draft was being worked on by another officer in the DHS.

I informed the Presiding Member of the Legislative Review Committee of this on 23 June 2004.

SCHOOLS, FTE TEACHERS

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (25 October 2004).

The Hon. J. LOMAX-SMITH: The total number of full time equivalent teachers in schools as at 30 June 2003 was 12,173 and at 30 June 2004 was 12,254, an increase of 81.

HRMS PROJECT

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (25 October 2004).

The Hon. J. LOMAX-SMITH: The original cabinet approval for HRMS was \$15.965m, to be funded from the department's capital program.

Total expenditure to 30 June 2004 was \$14.207m, leaving a balance of \$1.758 available from the original expenditure approval.

Additional funding was approved in the 2004-5 budget process of \$5.75m. Hence the remaining expenditure authority and budget for the project is \$7.508m (\$5.75m + \$1.758m).

DECS, CARRYOVER FUNDS

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (25 October 2004).

The Hon. J. LOMAX-SMITH: The specific items for which carryover is sought for the Department of Education and Children's Services are:

Description	Carryover Requested
Commonwealth funded programs with unspent balances	\$'000
Rural Care Worker	1,141
LOTE Mapping and Planning	22
Disadvantaged Schools Program	67
EduConnect	1,500
Science and Maths Strategy	85
Other joint state government/external party agreements with unspent balances	
Beyond Blue Schools	89
Other Carryovers requested	
Solar School Program	481
School Data Retention Project	177
Social Inclusion in Early Years—restore early childhood infrastructure in high needs preschools	320
Social Inclusion in Early Years—Improved access to preschool for high needs children	75
Total DECS Carryover Submissions	3,957

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (18 June 2004).

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:

1. What is the difference between consultants and contractors? The definitions for consultants and contractors Given in Treasury Circular 316 (or Accounting Policy Statement 13) is as follows:

'Consultant' - means a person who is engaged by an entity for a specified period to carry out a task that requires specialist skills and knowledge not available in the entity. The objectives of the task will be achieved by the consultant free from direction by the entity as to the way it is performed and in circumstances in which the engagement of a person under normal conditions is not a feasible alternative.

'Contractor'—means a person who is engaged by an entity for a specified period to carry out a defined task subject to direction by the entity as to the way in which that task is to be performed and in circumstances in which the engagement of a person under normal conditions of employment is not a feasible alternative.

2. How many people or services have previously been classed as consultants are now shown as contractors?

- For Attorney-General's Department, there was one consultant that was reclassified as a contractor.
 - For Courts Administration Authority, there were no people or services that were reclassified.
 - Not applicable for State Electoral Office and Legal Services Commission.
3. What is the value of their contract?
- For Attorney-General's Department, the value of the contract was \$5,000.
 - Not applicable for Courts Administration Authority.
 - Not applicable for State Electoral Office and Legal Services Commission.

4. What are the services they provide?

- For Attorney-General's Department, the service provided by the contractor is: assisting in the preparation and facilitation of processes and documentation to produce a strategic Directions Plan for the Aboriginal Justice Strategy Unit.
- Not applicable for Courts Administration Authority, State Electoral Office and Legal Services Commission.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES A AND B

CASUALTY CRASHES

In reply to **Mr BROKENSHIRE**.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Commissioner of Police has provided the following:

Quarterly Casualty Crashes and Casualty Crashes involving alcohol recorded by SAPOL July 2002-March 2003									
	July– Sep 2002	Oct– Dec 2002	Jan– Mar 2003	Apr– Jun 2003	Jul– Sep 2003	Oct– Dec 2003	Jan– Mar 2004	2002- 2003 Avge.	2003- 2004 Avge.
Casualty Crashes Per 100,000	117.77	121.41	121.34	119.94	117.77	120.41	110.30	120.11	116.16
Casualty Crashes involving alcohol	109	96	93	97	109	97	69	98.75	91.67

The statistics show a marginal decline in casualty crashes per 100,000 population since July 2002—reflecting the fact that changing driver perceptions and behaviours about their driving habits does take time. The trend in drink driving casualty crashes is far more obvious, and this can be attributed to the new policing strategies for detection of drink drivers introduced in September 2003, such as Mobile RBT. Drink driving crashes also appear to be seasonal, with peaks observed in winter times.

The South Australian Road Safety Strategy identifies several areas in which a reduction in crashes can be achieved. Safer roads, safer people and safer vehicles will collectively result in fewer crashes on our roads. It has been identified that improvement in legislation, education and enforcement may result in improved road user behaviour which has the potential to affect the reduction in crashes to the extent of approximately twenty two (22) per cent. Other future improvements in road safety are most likely to come from improved road conditions (48 per cent) improved occupant safety (25 per cent) and new technology (5 per cent). SAPOL has responsibility for enforcement; however, as identified in the South Australian Road Safety Strategy, many of the elements of casualty crashes are beyond its control. In South Australia, enforcement along with education conducted by SAPOL is directed towards the fatal five:

- speeding;
- drink driving;
- inattentive driving (fatigue, unsafe overtaking, dangerous driving and following too close);
- failing to wear seat belts; and
- vulnerable road users (pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists).

BUDGET SAVINGS TARGETS

In reply to various members

Did all departments and agencies reporting to the Minister⁽¹⁾ meet all required budget savings targets for 2003-04 set for them in the 2002-03 and 2003-04 budgets? If not, what specific proposed project and program cuts were not implemented?

(1) The question was asked of the following Ministers:

- Premier/Minister for Economic Development/Minister for Social Inclusion/Minister for the Arts/Minister for Volunteers
- Treasurer/Minister for Police
- Minister for Industry, Trade & Regional Development/Minister for Mineral Resources Development/Minister for Small Business
- Minister for Infrastructure/Minister for Energy/Minister for Emergency Services
- Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation/Minister for Correctional Services/Minister Assisting the Minister for Environment and Conservation
- Minister for Health/Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion
- Minister for Transport
- Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education/Minister for Status of Women
- Minister for Administrative Services/Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing
- Minister for Education and Children's Services/Minister for Tourism
- Minister for Families and Communities/Minister for Housing/Minister for Disability

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: In relation to portfolios reporting to the Ministers of whom this question was asked, the following table details the savings initiatives established at the time of the 2002-03 and 2003-04 Budgets that the Government has decided should not proceed or has decided to adjust the level of the savings requirement.

		Savings initiatives reversed or reduced				
Agency	Initiative	2002-03 Budget \$'000	2003-04 Budget \$'000	2004-05 Budget \$'000	2005-06 Budget \$'000	2006-07 Budget \$'000
2002-03 Savings initiatives ^(a)						
South Australia Police						
	Closure of the Dog Squad	-177	-177	-177	-177	-177
Department for Administrative and Information Services						
	Riverbank Precinct Development Stages 2 and 3	-300	-2 700	0	0	0
Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology						
	Extension of the Thebarton Bioscience precinct	-2 641	842	-64	1 162	0
2003-04 Savings initiatives ^(a)						
Department of Education and Children's Services						
	Revision of savings targets	0	-2 500	900	500	500
Department of Justice						
	Fleet management—fleet procurement and management savings	0	-229	-268	-268	
	Magistrates Court—reduction in adjournments/remands	0	-137	-275	-275	-268 -275
Department for Administrative and Information Services						
	EDS—reduced cost based on outcome of market price review	0	-653	0	0	0

(a) Negative numbers indicate an increase in expenditure and a deterioration in the budget position

ELECTORATE OFFICE STAFFING

In reply to **Mrs HALL**.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: In reference to the first part of the member's question, I would like to clarify that the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees referred to on page 3.1 of Volume 1 of the Portfolio Statements refers to the work force summary figures for the Department of Treasury and Finance, and not electorate office staff.

In response to the second part of the question, I will refer to the three largest electorates of Flinders, Stuart and Giles as the rural electorate offices, as per my initial response to the member on 16 June 2004.

These electorates have been identified as being rural because they are the largest in the state and each covers a similar geographical area.

The member for Giles received an increase in staff resources of 0.6 FTE Personal Assistant. This increase was approved by Cabinet in October 2003. The increase brought the member's staff allocation to 2.6 FTEs, the same as that provided to the member for Stuart.

With the exception of Giles there have been no electorate office staff increases in these three rural electorate offices by this government.

EXPENDITURE ON CONSULTANTS 2003-04

In reply to **Hon. I.F. Evans** (Omnibus Question No. 2).

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I can advise the honourable member that the attached table provides a detailed breakdown on expenditure for consultants in 2003-04 for agencies reporting to the Treasurer, including the name of the consultant, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment.

The expenditure figures for 2003-04 are still being finalised as part of the process to produce financial statements for the year. However, the material is likely to align with the published statements as the audit process is nearly complete.

The information relating to the Essential Services Commission of SA is current to 31 March 2004.

In relation to the Public Non-financial Corporations (Motor Accident Commission and the South Australian Asset Management Corporation) the level of detail requested is not incorporated. However reporting will occur in the respective financial statements when they are published.

Consultant	Work undertaken	Method of appointment	July 2003 to June 2004 Expenditure \$
DTF—BRANCHES—30 June 2004			
Corporate Services Branch			
Strategic Data Management	Investigation	2 quotes	7 395
Finance Branch			
SA Centre of Economic Studies	Review	3 quotes	22 077
Government Accounting and Reporting			
Trudy Coad Consulting	Review	Direct offer	20 160
Revenue and Economics Branch			
Access Economics Pty Ltd	Report	Direct offer	51 000
Super SA			
McPhee Andrewartha Pty Ltd	Advice	Quote and acceptance	6 300
NSP Buck Pty Ltd	Report	Quote and acceptance	6 000
Micro-Economic Reform and Infrastructure Branch			
Bardak Ventures Pty Ltd	Advice	Direct negotiation	8 182
KPMG			
	Advice	Tender	118 788
	Advice	Tender	236 015
	Advice	Tender	8 133
Charles River Associates	Advice	Tender	34 802
Charles River Associates	Advice	Tender	86 331
	Advice	Tender	32 000
	Advice	Tender	44 923
Price Waterhouse Coopers	Advice	Tender	5 792
Project Analysis Branch			
Equity & Advisory Ltd	Advice	Request for proposal	10 045
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Advice	Request for proposal	12 769
KPMG	Advice	Request for proposal	452 813
Connell Wagner Pty Ltd	Advice	Request for proposal	258 683
Leadenhall Aust Ltd	Advice	Request for proposal	152 013
Savant	Advice	Request for proposal	184 926
P3 Alliance	Advice	Request for proposal	5 500
DTF—Admin items—National Wine Centre			
Ferrier Hodgson	Report, review, investigation and advice	Direct negotiation	406 151
GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR (other than DTF)—31 March 2004			
Essential Services Commission of SA			
Leadership Solutions	Report	Direct negotiation	6 300
Energy Reform Consulting	Advice	Direct negotiation	8 706
Ernst and Young	Advice	Request for proposal	10 544

Consultant	Work undertaken	Method of appointment	July 2003 to June 2004 Expenditure \$
Essential Services Commission of Victoria KPMG	Report	Contribution to a national regulatory project	10 662
McGregor Tan Research Pty Ltd	Investigation	Direct negotiation	10 800
Charles River & Associates	Report	Request for proposal	14 19
Finlaysons Lawyers	Advice	Tender (ongoing legal advice provision)	15 423
Field Business Services	Report	Tender (ongoing provision of media relations)	19 053
Saha Energy International Ltd	Advice	Public tender	20 000
BDO Consulting	Advice	Request for proposal	20 084
McGregor Tan Research Pty Ltd	Report	Waive of competitive process	21 000
Northern Territory Utilities Commission	Advice	Direct negotiation	24 000
Welford, J	Report	Direct negotiation	24 250
Charles River & Associates	Advice	Public tender	24 580
KPMG	Advice	Request for proposal	26 799
PKF Chartered Accountants	Report	Request for proposal	28 749
KPMG	Investigation	Public tender	30 568
KPMG	Advice	Public tender	37 439
Intelligent Energy Systems Pty Ltd	Advice	Direct negotiation	46 833
Finlaysons Lawyers	Advice	Tender (ongoing legal advice provision)	49 712
Parsons Brinckerhoff Pty Ltd	Advice	Direct negotiation	73 830
Charles River & Associates	Advice	Request for proposal	82 900

UNDER EXPENDITURE AND CARRYOVER EXPENDITURE

In reply to various members

For all departments and agencies reporting to the Premier⁽¹⁾, what is the estimated level of under expenditure for 2003-04, and has Cabinet approved any carryover expenditure into 2004-05?

(1) In addition the question was also asked of the following Ministers:

- Treasurer/Minister for Police
- Minister for Industry, Trade & Regional Development/Minister for Mineral Resources Development/Minister for Small Business
- Minister for Infrastructure/Minister for Energy/Minister for Emergency Services
- Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation/Minister for Correctional Services/Minister Assisting the Minister for Environment and Conservation
- Minister for Health/Minister assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion

- Minister for Transport
- Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education/Minister for Status of Women
- Minister for Administrative Services/Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing
- Minister for Education and Children's Services/Minister for Tourism
- Minister for Families and Communities/Minister for Housing/Minister for Disability

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: For the Ministers of whom the question was asked, the enclosed table lists the estimate of 2003-04 underspending against the approved Budget and carryovers that have been approved and already reflected in the expenditure figures for 2004-05. In this case, the estimated level of underspending is measured by requests submitted by agencies to carry over expenditure as part of the 2004-05 Budget process.

There is not, in all cases, a one to one relationship between Ministers responsibilities and the scope of agency activities. The agency data may therefore only reflect that part of the agency that reports to the Minister. The figures do not count the potential value of carryovers that have been conditionally approved, but will only be finally approved if and when they are required in 2004-05.

Minister	Agency/Component of agency reporting to the Minister	2003-04 under-spend estimated in 2004-05 Budget \$000 ⁽¹⁾	Approvals to carry over expenditure into 2004-05 Budget and forward estimates \$000 ⁽²⁾
Premier, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Volunteers	Premier and Cabinet	474	0
Treasurer, Minister for Police	Department of Treasury and Finance	10,860	-7,960
	Treasury and Finance Administered Items	10,668	-10,418
	South Australia Police	1,000	-1,000
	Administered Items of Police	430	-430

Minister for Industry, Trade & Regional Development, Minister for Mineral Resources Development, Minister for Small Business	Department of Primary Industries and Resources - Mineral resources development component	618	-618
Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy, Minister for Emergency Services	Country Fire Service	2,483	-2,483
	Emergency Services Administrative Unit	2,108	-1,848
	Department of Primary Industries and Resources - Energy component	157	0
	South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service	2,780	-2,780
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs & Reconciliation, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister Assisting the Minister for Environment & Conservation	Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation	6,325	-6,325
	Administered Items for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation	149	0
Minister for Health, Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion	Human Services - Health component	64,588	-53,142
Minister for Transport	Transport Services	6,004	-4,150
Minister for Education and Children's Services, Minister for Tourism	Department for Education and Children's Services	12,360	-12,360
Minister for Employment, Training & Further Education, Minister for Status of Women	Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology	6,759	-6,115
Minister for Families & Communities, Minister for Housing, Minister for Disability	Department of Human Services	93 ⁽³⁾	-600
Minister for Administrative Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport & Racing	Administered Items for Administrative and Information Services	1,393	-393
	Department for Administrative and Information Services	16,528	-13,918
	Recreation and Sport Fund	4	-4
	Sport and Recreation Fund	1,294	0

(1) Represents the impact of identified underspending in 2003-04 that was, as part of the 2004-05 Budget, sought as carryovers from 2003-04 into the 2004-05 Budget and forward estimates.

(2) Represents approvals to carry over and increase expenditure authority in the 2004-05 Budget and forward estimates as a result of estimated underspending in 2003-04.

Negatives reflect an increase in expenditures.

(3) Under expenditure offset by \$3 million of investing receipts not achieved.

COUNCIL REPORTS

The SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 131 of the Local Government Act, I lay on the table the following reports of local councils for 2003-04:

Adelaide City
 Barunga West
 Berri Barmera
 Burnside
 Campbelltown
 Copper Coast
 Coorong District
 Gawler
 Grant
 Holdfast Bay
 Kimba
 Lower Eyre Peninsula
 Mallala
 Marion
 Mid Murray
 Mount Remarkable
 Murray Bridge
 Naracoorte Lucindale
 Northern Areas
 Norwood, Payneham and St. Peters
 Onkaparinga
 Peterborough
 Playford
 Port Adelaide Enfield

Port Augusta City
 Port Pirie
 Robe
 Southern Mallee
 Tea Tree Gully
 Wattle Range
 West Torrens

CROWN SOLICITOR'S TRUST ACCOUNT

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: On 22 December 2004 I wrote to you, Mr Speaker, to give you additional information in reply to questions without notice on 8 and 9 December 2004 on the misuse of the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account. The house adjourned on 9 December and, since other information had come to my attention, I informed you that I intended to update the house when it resumed sitting. I also gave copies of this correspondence to a select committee in another place and the Economic and Finance Committee of this house for their information. I understand that you, Mr Speaker, also provided a copy of my correspondence forthwith to the Leader of the Opposition.

On 8 December 2004, I tabled in the house an agenda dated 5 February 2004 in good faith and on advice that it was the last agenda on file of a meeting with Ms Lennon in her role as Chief Executive of the Attorney-General's Department. To the best of my knowledge and belief at the time, it

was the agenda of my final Chief Executive's meeting with Ms Lennon. In any event, I undertook to inquire about any other records on this matter, and I did. As a result of my further inquiries, additional information was brought to my attention after my replies to the house on 9 December. The Deputy Chief Executive of the Attorney-General's Department, Mr Terry Evans, provided my staff with copies of agenda dated 19 February 2004 and 26 February 2004.

It now appears that Ms Lennon attended the meeting of 19 February 2004, but it is not clear whether she attended the meeting on 26 February 2004. These documents contain no reference to the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account either as an item on the agenda or in the handwritten notes. In my letter to you, Mr Speaker, I also advised you of my recollection of a brief discussion with Ms Lennon which, to the best of my recollection, occurred towards the end of February or early March 2004. We spoke briefly about her departure from my department and I wished her well on her new appointment to another department. Again, there was no mention of the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account in our discussions. I now table those agendas and a copy of my letter to the Speaker.

ADOPTION, INTER-COUNTRY

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Families and Communities): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: As of 1 April 2005, all services relating to inter-country adoption will be delivered directly by the Department for Families and Communities through AFIS. The state government currently administers inter-country adoption services through the Adoption and Family Information Service, pursuant to the Adoption Act 1998. Certain functions are, however, delivered by a non-government agency, Australians Aiding Children Adopting Agency, which was licensed in the early 1990s in an attempt to establish structure and accountability over adoption activities.

Developments in the field of inter-country adoption throughout the 1990s occurred, bringing a renewed emphasis on high standards in the administration of inter-country adoption programs. This included the 1993 state and territory ministers' agreement to the national principles on adoption, Australia's ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation and Respect of Inter-country Adoption 1988, and the commonwealth-state agreement in 1988, signed by the ministers to implement the Hague Convention.

One objective of this policy change is to make the adoption process simpler by requiring applications to deal with only one agency instead of two, as is the current situation. The government also believes the process of adopting children is part of its core business. This government shares the general community's expectation that adoption should be conducted in a rigorous but equitable fashion, focusing on achieving the best interests of the children concerned.

Through the development and implementation of keeping them safe, this government has demonstrated its commitment to providing best practice policies and programs that affect children and families in South Australia. The new approach to adoption services for South Australia is the same as that which operates successfully in all other states of Australia. The transition from the old to the improved model of

adoption services will be managed by a project team external to AFIS.

The government has also announced a community consultation regarding the removal of the presumption in the adoption regulations against older couples adopting. The government wants to ensure that adoption legislation reflects changes in our community.

QUESTION TIME

CROWN SOLICITOR'S TRUST ACCOUNT

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Attorney-General. Does the Attorney agree that Ms Kate Lennon briefed him on specific funding requirements for the following three matters: the Public Advocate, \$180 000; Child Protection, \$300 000; and Crime Prevention Programs, \$300 000?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I am interested that the Leader of the Opposition raises the question of the Office of the Public Advocate because, after Ms Lennon's testimony, my department has advised me that the money coming from the Department of Health for the Office of the Public Advocate never entered the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account, contrary to Ms Lennon's evidence. Of course, Ms Lennon and I spoke at some length about the Office of the Public Advocate because there were negotiations to bring the Office of the Public Advocate and the Guardianship Board out of the Human Services Department and into the Attorney-General's Department because of a conflict of interest in having it in Human Services.

The Leader of the Opposition can beat around the bush, but the main thing is that Kate Lennon used one of the oldest accounting tricks known to man: she had two sets of books, one for the Treasurer, the Auditor-General, the parliament and the public and me, and a second set of books for a small circle who needed to know. In the words of Kym Penniford before the upper house select committee, it was disclosed on a need-to-know basis and I was not one of the people who needed to know.

On the question of crime prevention, yes, there was discussion about the crime prevention program because, as members opposite keep reminding us, there was a cut to local government crime prevention in the first budget.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: By way of supplementary question, will the minister confirm that any or all of these programs were then funded from the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I am advised by my department that the Office of the Public Advocate refit and information technology was not funded from the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account as claimed by Ms Lennon in her evidence to the select committee in another place. On the question of child protection and crime prevention, I shall get back to the house promptly.

The Hon. R.G. Kerin: Come on!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.W. KEY: On a point of order, while we are more than happy to answer questions, I think the clock is stuck on 60 minutes and Groundhog Day should not be with us.

BUSHFIRE ASSISTANCE

Ms BREUER (Giles): My question is to the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education. What employment and training assistance is being provided to the Eyre Peninsula in the wake of the recent bushfires?

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education): I thank the member for Giles for her question. Last week in Port Lincoln I was able to announce the state government's funding of more than \$645 000 to assist 650 people into jobs in the areas of skill demand. This commitment to the Eyre Peninsula is more than double what we provided last year through the South Australian works program. Priority is given to rural reconstruction, regeneration of environment, community support and recovery, and career development and counselling for families who have been set back or have lost their livelihoods following the bushfires. The South Australia Works program for the Eyre Peninsula also features a wide range of other job training initiatives for the local government areas of Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Cleve, Elliston, Kimba, Le Hunte, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Franklin Harbour, Streaky Bay and Tumby Bay.

The initiatives target industries experiencing skill shortages within the region including commercial fishing, fish processing, construction, community services and retail. An Employment and Skills Formation Network involving TAFE SA, the Eyre Regional Development Board and local industries and employment agencies has been working very closely with the state government on the regional plan. This partnership approach with the local Eyre community has resulted in an additional \$244 000 worth of support for the South Australia Works plan for local industry, community groups, local and commonwealth governments. Since its inception last year, the state government's commitment to the Eyre Peninsula exceeds \$811 000.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the multi-skilled employees who work in the region and who come under the DFEST portfolio, and also the women's services portfolios. I would like to express my pride and appreciation of not only the work that they did during the bushfire but also the work that they continue to do. There have been some very important speeches made today about the bushfire and its aftermath but I would particularly like to mention the terrific work done by the DFEST and women's services workers and their families.

CROWN SOLICITOR'S TRUST ACCOUNT

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): Will the Attorney confirm the evidence given by former CEO Kate Lennon to the select committee that during a meeting between the Attorney-General and the Chief Justice and herself the Attorney-General was 'studying the TAB form guide'.

The SPEAKER: Order! The question is out of order. Honourable members need to know that, where the house has delegated its authority and responsibility to investigate matters to a committee of the house, then it must wait until the evidence that has been taken by that committee and considered by that committee has been prepared and put into a report that is comprehensible to the house before it begins to debate that. There cannot be an inquiry on foot at one and the same time between a committee of the house and in the house as a whole.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Point of order, Mr Speaker: the committee to which I refer is a committee of the other place, not a committee appointed by this house.

The SPEAKER: I know. The other role of the Speaker is to prevent quarrels between the chambers. That information is not yet reported to the other place and the honourable member for Waite ought to have known better.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I am happy to answer the question because it is a misrepresentation.

The SPEAKER: The chair does not mind that the Attorney-General may be happy or unhappy. The standing orders prevail and until such time as the chamber itself might choose to divorce itself from the hundreds of years of practice of other parliaments of the CPA group to go down a path which ignores that principle then the standing orders will remain and the chair will be a servant of the chamber by ensuring that they remain in place.

EDUCATION SUPPORT, EYRE PENINSULA

Mr CAICA (Colton): My question is to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. What is the government doing to support schools, children and families affected by the fires on the Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): Thank you, sir. I would also like to thank the member for Colton for his question which involves an area of expertise where he has had much experience in dealing with people involved in emergency services, and the grief and personal disruption that they can suffer from. We were committed to recognising that going back to school was a time of normality for children and families, and we particularly wanted the damage done to buildings and the disruption to children's lives to be worked upon significantly so that young people going back to school could have a measure of regularity, normality, even discipline, back in their lives so that they could begin to rebuild the structures of their community. When we went to the Eyre Peninsula it was quite clear that the Eyre District Director and his team had put considerable effort into the rebuilding activities and had instituted a range of measures to help students themselves and their families, but particularly to support those staff in our pre-school, childcare and school sectors whose lives had also been affected by the fires.

As I said earlier, the only school directly involved was Poonindi Primary School which, as the Premier said, looked as if a blow torch had been run over it. It was considerably blackened, dirt had gone through louvre windows, there was a layer of grime in every cupboard and drawer, and it took an extraordinary effort by the Department of Administrative and Information Services, as well as many volunteers, in cleaning fabric, dry cleaning some materials, but also hard work in scrubbing and cleaning many surfaces. The school looked stunning. I thought that the buildings had been repainted but they had been steam cleaned and all the murals were back in order. There were tiles being laid when I was there and I have every confidence that the school looked better than ever at the start of the school year.

In addition we provided additional temporary staff to the district office to assist in the recovery work. We made sure that the administrative issues affecting teachers who were involved in the fire were smoothed as much as possible. In relation to Mrs Castle, we made sure that all documentation was delivered in a way that had the welfare of the family as

the primary consideration. We have made sure that all leave applications for staff have been dealt with promptly so that they can deal with issues outside of the peninsula quickly, and can have absences as required to sort their lives. We also made sure that when one of the principal's homes was destroyed they got emergency government housing immediately. We have fast tracked all TRT (Temporary Relief Teaching) applications to make sure that all staff who have to be away for temporary periods have their positions backfilled to protect the education of the children. We are also aware of the needs in counselling and mental health support not just for students but also for staff. We have had support from the local mental health personnel, child and adolescent mental health groups and, in concert, we have made sure that there were councillors, social workers and psychiatric support for those involved, and that, of course, means in both the Poonindi and Port Lincoln High schools where there were additional social workers and personnel councillors.

We developed a resource package providing information to those working with children who faced trauma so that it could be distributed, and they could pick the early signs of de-compensation in children. But we were also committed to supporting our staff, of course, as they are members of the community and they have also suffered extraordinary hardship. The Premier made available emergency assistance funds of \$20 000 to be distributed by the district education centre with as little red tape and form filling as possible. Parents, of course, in sending their children back to school were distressed by the lack of school uniforms, sports equipment, books and general materials, and we wanted to ensure that normality could be produced in those young people's lives by making sure they had uniforms and equipment as soon as possible.

We also included, in that assistance fund, those young people who are actually going on to TAFE or university because we believed that, although it was an education fund, there were problems that needed solving and they had to be worked upon. The West Coast recovery team, of course, had to allow relocation of many families, and some of those children have gone to their relatives' or friends' homes, often in other towns and areas. There was some temptation to say that, of course, those children should go to the closest school. The problem with that, of course, is that, adding to the disruption of their own lives, going to new school would have been more than many of them deserve to endure, so that we offered every child the chance to return to their own peer group and community.

We were fortunate in that no school buses were damaged, but we have rerouted buses, we have put larger buses on some of the routes, and we had support from some vehicle owners because many cars were lost in the fire as well. We have ensured a door-to-door service for children to get to their school from which ever home they are currently residing in. This has meant that as little disruption has been in their lives as could be possibly brought about. We have managed to get all but, I think, three students back to their normal schools. Where children and families decided to send their young people to another school other than the one they were enrolled in, it has generally been because they were changing schools in any case and chose to go back to their old school rather than the new one that had enrolled in.

I really must commend the staff involved in this plan. It has been an unpleasant experience for many people, but we were determined that the Education Department and services

available to young people should be a support and prop to them rather than an added challenge, and I think we have achieved that.

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is again to the Attorney-General. What action has he taken to address the extremely low clearance rate in the civil and criminal jurisdictions of both the Supreme and District Courts in the state? The report on government services issued by the Productivity Commission last month has revealed that the clearance rate, which is the measure of whether a court is keeping up with its workload, of the Supreme Court in South Australia is only 66.7 per cent—by far the lowest in Australia. In New South Wales, the comparable figure is 98.2 per cent; in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania it is over 100 per cent. In the criminal division of the District Court the rate is also the lowest—only 77 per cent—when all other states are over 90 per cent and two of them are over 100 per cent.

The SPEAKER: The leader produces interesting information without citing the authority for it. It has to be considered debate and will in future be regarded as debate.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I am citing the Productivity Commission report.

The SPEAKER: I apologise to the honourable leader. I had not heard him say that he was quoting the Productivity Commission Report. The honourable the Attorney.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): Well, sir, it is a question of comparing apples with apples. I will look at those figures and see if they are comparable. The most important court in South Australia, from the point of view of the South Australian public, where well over 90 per cent of matters are dealt with, is the Magistrates Court—and I notice that the leader is not talking at all about the Magistrates Court. On the question of the District Court, we have a new appointment to make soon, and also a new appointment to make to the Supreme Court, and when they are up to full strength they will catch up.

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): My question is also to the Attorney-General. Will he explain the hold up in the appointment of a Director of Public Prosecutions? It is now over nine months since 3 May 2004 when Paul Rofe QC resigned as the DPP, and two days after his resignation the Premier announced that the government was going to advertise nationally for the replacement, and that he wanted Elliot Ness for the position.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): It is a fair question. Upon the resignation of Paul Rofe, we advertised nationally. I think there are three approaches that we could have taken to the appointment. The first is to try to obtain a senior prosecutor at senior counsel level from interstate and make an entirely fresh start with the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Secondly, we could make a fresh start by appointing someone senior from the South Australian Bar who was outside the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and who had prosecuting experience, experience with the criminal law. The third thing we could do was to appoint someone from within the Office of the

Director of Public Prosecutions. In the interim, the office has been commanded by Ms Wendy Abraham, QC, and as far as I can tell, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has been going well. There has been none of the controversy that dogged the previous period in the office of DPP. I think it is very good that Ms Wendy Abraham has been given an opportunity to be in the top job for a period to show her mettle. We paid Paul Rofe nine months salary when he was paid out as the Director of Public Prosecutions. A decision will be made soon, and it will be a good and considered one.

MILLBROOK RESERVOIR

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): My question is to the Minister for Administrative Services. What is the updated information regarding the Millbrook dam?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Administrative Services): I thank the member for Napier for his question. Members may be aware that on 18 and 19 January this year damp areas were identified on the downstream face of the Millbrook dam wall. There was a concern that the damp areas could develop into a failure of the dam wall and, consequently, SA Water and the government acted prudently by implementing prepared contingency plans until a dam safety expert could determine the nature and extent of the problem. The public were informed, and police notified residents who would have been directly affected by any failure of the dam.

A dam safety expert inspected the dam wall on 20 January. He assessed that the risk was lower than at first thought and recommended that the water level in the dam continue to be lowered by about one per cent per week, that the damp areas be protected with filter membrane and rock, and that a complete survey of the dam wall be carried out, and it identified two more damp areas on the embankment. In line with the expert's advice, all the damp areas have now been exposed and thoroughly investigated. Three of the damp areas have been protected with filter membrane and rock. The fourth area was considered more soft and wet and will be monitored. Shallow bore holes were installed in the damp areas so that water levels can be monitored daily.

Members may be aware that SA Water owns and operates 17 large reservoirs in South Australia. I am advised that in 1998, under the former government, SA Water established its program to meet national and international guidelines for best practice management and safety of dam structures. I am also advised that this program has been maintained with the same level of commitment under this government and, furthermore, that the 1998 risk assessment placed Millbrook dam in phase 2 of the dam safety improvement program. SA Water has already undertaken works in excess of \$30 million on Happy Valley, Hope Valley and Middle River dams; minor works on Mount Bold and Kangaroo Creek dams; and installation of instrumentation at Millbrook dam. Because Millbrook is the next dam scheduled for a safety upgrade concept, designs for the upgrade are well advanced. I can inform members that the Millbrook dam upgrade was scheduled for completion by July 2007 and that this time line will now be accelerated.

I would like to thank the Premier for visiting the site on 20 January. I also visited on my return from annual leave and I know that the member for Kavel has been briefed and a site visit organised for him and for the shadow minister.

CROWN SOLICITOR'S TRUST ACCOUNT

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): When will the Treasurer answer the three FOI requests dated

15 October 2004 from the opposition to the Department of Treasury and Finance regarding the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account? FOI responses were due on 18 November but, in direct contradiction of the Freedom of Information Act, no documentation has been forthcoming.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer): I am more than happy to get that followed up. Unlike the former government, I do not interfere with the FOI process: it is a due and just process handled by senior public servants in the Department of Treasury and Finance. I do not interfere, and any suggestion that I, my office, or the government have somehow conspired not to provide information is incorrect. I am not aware of anything, but I will take that question on notice and come back to the house. I think one is always surprised with what one finds in FOIs.

ROAD TOLL

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): Can the Minister for Transport advise the house on the 2004 road toll result as it relates to South Australia's strategic plan target of reducing road fatalities by 40 per cent by 2010?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): It is true that we have set a target for South Australia's road safety strategy of a 40 per cent reduction in the fatality rate by 2010. It was very good news indeed that last year saw the lowest road toll in this state in the last 50 years although, unfortunately, that did mean that 139 people died on South Australian roads last year. It also means, though, that there were 17 fewer families grieving for such an unnecessary waste of life and about 150 fewer maimed on our roads by that trauma.

In terms of deaths in relation to South Australia's population, last year's fatality rate of 9.1 deaths per 100 000 population is the lowest ever recorded. Obviously, we must pay tribute to our fine South Australian police force for the efforts they have made in detection and safety improvement on our roads. We had a fairly significant education campaign, particularly towards end of last year, and some of those messages are getting out there. Last year's road toll showed significant improvements in many areas, including a 65 per cent decrease in the deaths among the high risk group of 16 to 19 year olds, a 48 per cent decrease in passenger deaths, a 22 per cent decrease in rural road deaths, and a 35 per cent decrease in pedestrian deaths.

Unfortunately, we did see a significant increase in the number of drivers who died on our roads where drink driving was involved. In fact, while 26 per cent of road fatalities in 2003 involved drink driving, last year's figure was 36 per cent. So, although our road toll was much lower last year, we did see a significant increase in drink driving. Obviously, there is no room for complacency: every death is one too many, every wasted life too much heartbreak for those young people. There are still too many people getting into their cars, having been drinking.

I also put on the record my personal appreciation for and recognition of the work of the Road Safety Advisory Council under the leadership of Sir Eric Neal who continued to provide the government with good road safety advice. We had a better result in 2004 than we have seen in the last 50 years, but it will take effort on behalf of not only the government, communities and police but also the whole of South Australia to make sure that we do not see an increase in that toll and that unnecessary loss of life.

POLICE, RECRUITMENT

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is to the Minister for Police. Given the publicity over the recruitment of police from the United Kingdom, why does the South Australia Police web site state:

Question: I am a serving police officer in the United Kingdom. Can I transfer to the South Australia Police? Answer: It is NOT possible to transfer to the South Australia Police. Should you wish to apply it is necessary to be an Australian citizen or hold permanent residency status prior to making application.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Minister for Police): The explanation is the answer to the question, I would have thought. The funny thing is that the shadow police minister wants to continually misrepresent this government's initiative of recruiting extra police. The shadow minister takes great delight in criticising the senior management of our state's police force. I have confidence in the Commissioner and his recruitment process. I have confidence in our program of achieving an extra 200 police. The labour market in this state is very tight. We have an unemployment rate not seen for decades, if ever, in the state courtesy of this Labor government. That means that there is a high demand on available labour in this state. There is barely a company that I talk to in the private sector that is not experiencing difficulty in hiring labour. We are seeing staff coming in from all parts of Australia and overseas. The recruitment program from the United Kingdom is a good program. We need—

Mr Williams: What is wrong with Australians?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: What is wrong with Australians?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier and Minister for Police has addressed the substance of the question and should not be seeking to debate the wider implications of the recruiting program or anything else. I think it is time to move on.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Thank you, sir. I will conclude by saying that I would hope that the opposition would resist petty politics and support UK police working in South Australia and not be xenophobic in opposing British police officers serving in our police force in this state.

ABORIGINAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): My question is to the Minister for Housing. What Aboriginal Housing Authority developments were recognised in the National Year of the Built Environment Awards?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Housing): I thank the honourable member for Florey for her question and acknowledge her ongoing commitment to raising questions concerning the indigenous community of South Australia. The National Year of the Built Environment Awards is a prestigious event that is recognised by the building and housing industries across this nation. Historically, both private and government sectors participate in the event. In 2004, for the first time, the Aboriginal Housing Authority was nominated for an award.

The project in question was the Wangka Wilurra Accommodation Centre that was entered in the Healthy Environments and Building Regional Communities categories. This project was between the AHA, the Ceduna District Council and the ATSIC Regional Council. I was proud to officially open the centre on 24 April 2004, and it is pleasing

to see the success of the centre in such a short period of time. The centre provides a safe accommodation service to offer pathways out of an itinerant lifestyle. This is achieved through appropriate accommodation together with important early intervention programs that meet the needs of transient Aboriginal people.

The centre was developed as a response to issues of overcrowding experienced by AHA tenants within the township of Ceduna and also the influx that occurs in the Ceduna region during the hot months of the year. I have witnessed firsthand, before this camp got up and running, the town camps that emerge on the fringes of the Ceduna township where, unhappily, many instances of violence and appalling degradation occurred. The accommodation facility was fully operational in September 2003 after many years of cooperative work between Aboriginal communities, the Ceduna District Council, the ATSIC Regional Council and the Aboriginal Housing Authority. The process strengthened ties between local government, the community and local agencies in service provision for Aboriginal people. This commendation was one of only two awarded to South Australian entries out of the 396 nominations across all categories. The centre was expressly mentioned for its acknowledgment of traditional indigenous culture in design techniques, combined with the ability to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. In addition to design techniques to improve wellbeing, the centre also integrates a range of services that bring together health and community services.

POLICE, RECRUITMENT

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is to the Minister for Police. Why is it that police wishing to move from interstate service into the South Australia Police have to go through police training all over again, which takes six months, when the British police would only require a bridging course of 12 weeks in which to familiarise themselves with South Australian laws and the South Australian experience?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Minister for Police): It is quite extraordinary because the policy for recruitment from interstate as far as I understand it, and I am happy to get this checked, is exactly the same today as the policy that was in place when the member for Mawson was the police minister. Honestly, I do not know what I am supposed to be doing when the policy about interstate police is the same as when the honourable member was the police minister. Let's not mistake what is occurring here—a deliberate, sustained criticism of the Police Commissioner and his policies.

The shadow police minister wants to white-ant the management of our state's Police Force while professing to be a supporter of police. At every opportunity the member for Mawson is critical of the management of our state's Police Force. I have confidence in the management of our Police Force and I have confidence in the commissioner and his senior management, and I urge the shadow minister for police to show some statesmanship and support our police in a constructive way. I find it particularly disturbing that the member is a former minister for police—

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I rise on a point of order, sir. The question was specifically about why there is one rule for British police and another rule for interstate police.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I will seek advice and a report from the Police Commissioner because, as the shadow

minister knows so well as a former minister, it is not my role to shape recruitment policy in the SA Police Force.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Why not? The member for Bragg asks, 'Why not?' Let us hope the member for Bragg never sees the Treasury benches: she would be a nightmare in waiting and a disaster.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: She has no understanding—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Deputy Premier may not reflect on the reputations or conduct of other honourable members in the course of responding to inquiries put to him in an orderly manner from members of the opposition, or anyone else.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Thank you, sir. As I said, the member for Mawson knows full well that is the responsibility of the Police Commissioner. I am happy to receive his advice and his answer to the question which was put in a critical manner by the member for Mawson.

AUSTRALIA DAY, MULTICULTURAL PARTICIPATION

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): My question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. How has the government supported—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Norwood has the call. The honourable member will need to restart asking the question because I was unable to hear it.

Ms CICCARELLO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Attorney-General. How has the government supported multicultural community participation in Australia Day festivities?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Minister for Multicultural Affairs): Congratulations are due to the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Australia Day Council of South Australia for giving South Australia's multicultural communities the opportunity to take part in the Australia Day Grand Parade with all South Australians in a way that affirms both their origins and their commitment to Australia and to South Australia. I am pleased to say that I viewed all the Australia Day Grand Parade from Victoria Square. This year, the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission joined the Australia Day Council to give people of all backgrounds an opportunity to participate in the parade. The commission's knowledge of the communities and its excellent relationship with them paid off handsomely.

On 26 January, about 900 people from a variety of multicultural community groups participated in the parade. They represented peoples, cultures and regions as diverse as East, West and South Europe, South and East Asia, the Middle East, Scotland, Ireland, Africa and the Pacific Islands. As well, there were contingencies from small and emerging communities such as the Nuer community from Sudan and Islamic and Sikh associations. They marched to the tunes of multicultural bands from the Pacific Islands, Ireland, Scotland, Italy and elsewhere, and they were coordinated by marshals they had nominated themselves. The Adelaide City Council kindly provided signs to identify each multicultural contingent, as well as vintage trucks to carry some of the multicultural bands.

The commission coordinated the participation by managing the invitations to communities and arranging information

sessions for them. It also organised the participants on the day of the parade and ensured that culturally appropriate food, such as halal sausages, was available before the parade. The participants waved Australian flags and flags representing their ethnic origin. I hope the member for Hartley will not see that as an illegitimate expression of dual citizenship, which he so much deplores.

After the grand parade people enjoyed festivities in Victoria Square where there were decorative displays reflecting the meaning and spirit of Australia Day. I was pleased to wander through the various groups, including the Ukrainians and Italians. I was called over by the Polish Tetry dance group and spent some time with the Bangladeshis and also the Vietnamese, who were by far the most numerous in the parade and whose big day out it was because it was the 30th anniversary of their settlement in Australia.

The Australia Day celebration broke all records for participation of multicultural communities in South Australia. In the past, participation was on a smaller scale with an average of three or four multicultural community groups and a few dozen people. This year there were 32 multicultural community groups with about 900 people marching as well as the bands. The South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and Multicultural SA did a wonderful job to assist the Australia Day Council, and I know that we can expect even greater things in future for the Australia Day celebrations. In particular, I commend the Deputy Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, Mr Hieu Van Le, on his outstanding organisation.

POLICE, RECRUITMENT

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is to the Minister for Police. Is the minister aware of and concerned about a report which cites United Kingdom police as the worst in the world and, if so, will he explain why the government is recruiting police from the United Kingdom? A recent study of policing in the United Kingdom named 'Cultures and Crimes: Policing in Four Nations' has shown that British police have 'failed to focus on crime prevention and the zero tolerance of low-level disorder and anti-social behaviour'. It also says that, due to ineffective policing, Britain is now 'a seriously crime-afflicted and disintegrating society'.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Minister for Police): What an absolute disgrace! The alternative police minister of this state today in this house has decided to go Brit-bashing! He has decided personally to vilify people from another country who are coming to work in our state's public sector. What a disgraceful, cheap, disgusting piece of politics! I do not think I have ever had a more offensive question put to me than this one. Honestly! This is a xenophobic, narrowminded opposition who cannot compete for good public policy, so they want to get into some sort of racial vilification. To suggest that a police officer from the United Kingdom could not—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:—come here and properly serve our state in the 21st century is a bloody disgrace, quite frankly. I cannot even begin to understand what would motivate a former minister for police to launch an all-out assault on the Commissioner of Police's policy of recruiting people from the United Kingdom. I say to members of the house that there are immigrants from Britain working in our

car plants, our factories and in this parliament. There are immigrants from England living and working in the electorate of Mawson, but the member for Mawson today has decided to make an extraordinary attack on British police. This is an absolute disgrace!

Mr BROKENSHERE: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. We have heard the diatribe. I draw your attention to standing order 98. We are asking for a response on the report on the incompetence of the British police.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The minister has answered the question.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I can't believe this! The shadow minister for police—

The SPEAKER: Order! It is time to move on.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The shadow minister for police—

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has answered the question.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Sir, I want to contribute one more thing, if I may.

The SPEAKER: Order! Notwithstanding your desire, the chair has ruled that the question has been answered. I call the member for Enfield.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Sorry?

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: No, I just want to conclude on this.

The SPEAKER: Order! Notwithstanding the desire of the Deputy Premier—

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I want to conclude on this—

The SPEAKER:—the question has been addressed. The member for Enfield has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier must understand that, whilst the remarks he has made may have been interesting, they are debate. The member for Enfield has the call.

ORGAN DONATION

Mr RAU (Enfield): My question is directed to the Minister for Health. What steps is the South Australian government taking to increase the rate of organ donation in this state?

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): New rules about organ donation were agreed upon at the recent Australian Health Ministers Council in Sydney. The rules have been changed to ensure that the wishes of donors are honoured. Doctors will no longer need the consent of families to take organs from a person who has registered to donate through the Australian Organ Donor Register. Clinicians will still be required to inform families of this consent and ask them whether their loved ones may have changed their minds since registering. At the moment, families must give consent before organs can be transplanted. The changes are not about ignoring the wishes of families. If families maintain sincerely held objections, even in the face of a deceased person's legally recorded consent, organ donation will not proceed.

We hope that these changes will significantly increase the availability of lifesaving organs for transplantation. This will make a big difference to those people who are in desperate need of an organ transplant. From July, the commonwealth government will operate the Australian Organ Donor Register as a register of consent rather than one of intention. This

means that some currently registered donors will need to lodge a new form to strengthen their registration to consent. Despite the new rules, it is still important for people to talk about organ donation with their families and make their wishes known. This is important because figures show that, when a family is not aware of a relative's wishes, organ donation does not proceed in 50 per cent of cases. In spite of a record year for organ donation in South Australia last year, Australia as a whole has one of the lowest organ donor rates in the world. We hope that with the establishment of a National Organ Donor Register and new consistent protocols donation rates will increase.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure. Now that previous deadlines that the minister has given us publicly have passed, when will the government release the State Infrastructure Plan? On 2 June last year, at a local government ministers forum attended by numerous mayors, four ministers and chief executive officers of departments, the Minister for Infrastructure provided an update on the progress of the development of the State Infrastructure Plan. At that meeting, the minister stated that the plan 'will be released in late 2004 following a recommendation from the Economic Development Board.' The plan is still to be released.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Infrastructure): I am pleased the opposition is keen to see a State Infrastructure Plan, and I hope we get its bipartisan support in building the infrastructure of this state. The plan was intended to be released in late 2004. We did not quite finish all the work, and it was intended to be released in January, but there were a couple of intervening events. I am not making excuses, but the bushfires in the middle of January necessitated not only my spending a lot of time on Eyre Peninsula but my chief of staff has been there for the past month, and that has made it difficult for us to do all that we would have liked to do in that period of time. I am sure that the house will agree that, in the circumstances, it was a very worthwhile priority.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: What was that, Vickie? You don't think it was?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable minister will not respond to interjections, nor will the honourable minister refer to an honourable member by their family or given names. And nor will the Deputy Premier assist the honourable minister in behaving in a disorderly manner by interjecting when the chair is speaking.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I had hoped it would be ready. There is an enormous amount of final work going into it. It is an enormously important piece of work for the state. It is the first phase in setting out infrastructure priorities for five years and 10 years, and from it will flow a program of projects. It is extremely important not only for infrastructure investment in South Australia but for the private sector and local government. It will become a statement of opportunity for those people. In those circumstances, given that it is a little over a month later than the original forecast and given its incredible importance—and one or two things that came along in January—I do not think it will be tragic that we wait a few weeks longer than we thought.

The other thing that happened in that period—and I apologise to the house for it delaying me a little—is that my daughter was born on 15 December, and I have a new

understanding of how much time such a little thing can take up. Can I also say that I cannot believe that something of such incredible beauty sprang from me! I will not use it as an excuse—but my daughter is absolutely beautiful.

The SPEAKER: Order! Narcissism does not come into this at all: it is modesty.

HOSPITALS, REPATRIATION GENERAL

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister for Health. What is the projected financial deficit of the Repatriation General Hospital for this financial year, based on the financial performance of the hospital for the first six months of the financial year? Last year the Repatriation General Hospital incurred a projected deficit of about \$9 million at this stage of the year.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I will need to obtain that information for the deputy leader. Let me assure him that we are working with all our hospitals in relation to their financial performance and also in relation to ensuring that services are not restricted and continue.

SCHMERL, Mr E.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Will the Minister for Health explain to the house the employment position of Mr Eric Schmerl, who has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Repatriation General Hospital until very recently? On 13 January 2005, the chair of the Repatriation General Hospital board, Mr Laurie Lewis, sent an email to all the staff at the hospital which said:

I am aware that there is considerable concern and, indeed, anger at the board's decision regarding the Chief Executive Officer Eric Schmerl. . . . At this stage the board is not in a position to provide further detail or explanation but will do so as soon as possible. . . . I would also like to refute the consistent rumour that the report by Helen Chambers was in any way linked to the board's decision.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): The board of the Repatriation General Hospital has moved Mr Eric Schmerl, the former CEO. He has now taken up a position in the Southern Adelaide Health Service, I understand.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: That is a matter for the board. The employment of a chief executive officer is a matter for the board. That decision was taken by the board and the position of Chief Executive of the Repatriation General Hospital will be taken up in an acting capacity by Mr Chris Overland.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: As a supplementary question, I would like to know the position of the minister, and whether or not she supported or asked for that change to be made.

The Hon. L. STEVENS: As I said before, the position of a chief executive of an incorporated health unit lies with its board. The issues in relation to the board making that decision would have been undertaken by it in consideration of the challenges that were in front of the Repatriation General Hospital. Obviously, in making that decision there would have been discussions with departmental officers. Also, I have just been informed that Mr Chris Overland has begun his tenure as Acting Chief Executive of the Repatriation General Hospital today.

INSOMNIA

Ms RANKINE (Wright): My question is to the Minister for Health. What initiatives are being taken by the government to reduce the long-term use of drugs to treat people suffering from insomnia?

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I think this is a most appropriate question for the end of Question Time. This actually is a very important question. Each year an estimated one in three adults complain of sleeping difficulties in this state. Perhaps there is more than that proportion in this house. The management of sleeping difficulties has nearly always been by medication. The most commonly used medication belongs to a class of drugs called benzodiazepines, which were hailed as the new wonder drugs in the 1960s. However, health professionals now know that this medication can have many serious side effects, especially for people over 60 years of age.

For elderly people benzodiazepines can be associated with falls and hip fractures, memory loss, confusion and night time incontinence. It is recommended that these drugs only be used for less than seven days at a time and only in crisis situations, but many people are using them for the longer term, which is quite serious. This is concerning because these drugs can be associated with dependence and in some cases can produce adverse side effects such as drowsiness, impaired alertness, loss of balance and memory problems.

I am pleased to inform the house that the South Australian Health Department has taken out a national award for a project which successfully reduces the reliance on sleeping pills of people with insomnia. Reducing the use of benzodiazepines in insomnia management project recently won the National Health Professional Quality Use of Medicines Award. In the Health Department's pilot project, conducted in the Southern Fleurieu region—

The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: That's right—your area, deputy leader—work with local GPs, pharmacists, aged care facilities and consumers led to a 16 per cent reduction in the dispensing of benzodiazepines. The following year a further 8 per cent reduction was achieved. The success of the project has led to the development of an insomnia management kit, which is now available from most GPs and pharmacists. The insomnia management kit outlines alternatives to sleep medication that deal with the underlying causes of insomnia and which are more likely to be successful in the long-term. It contains handbooks on proven techniques, information about sleep, its cycles, how it changes over time, suggestions for a healthy lifestyle and routines that will promote a good night's sleep. People are encouraged to discuss their use of sleep medication, along with any sleep difficulties they may be experiencing, with their doctor or pharmacists. That is goodnight from me.

TRANSADELAIDE, GENERAL MANAGER

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I am pleased to advise the house of the appointment of Mr Bill Watson as the new General

Manager of TransAdelaide following the retirement of Mr Roy Arnold. TransAdelaide is a statutory authority that strives to improve the effectiveness of its business in providing Adelaide's passenger rail services. In 2004-05 TransAdelaide's major objectives include working to continue the growth and patronage to achieve the objective in South Australia's strategic plan to double the use of public transport to 10 per cent of weekday travel by 2018, as well as working with the Department of Transport and Urban Planning to prepare the Glenelg tram system for the arrival of the new trams.

After providing a number of years of solid, dedicated and active leadership, Mr Roy Arnold is retiring as General Manager of TransAdelaide. On behalf of the state government I wish to acknowledge his dedicated and skilled service to TransAdelaide and thank him for it. A selection committee comprising Ms Virginia Hickey, Chairperson, TransAdelaide Board, Mr Kevin Bengier, Deputy Chairperson, TransAdelaide Board, and Mr Roy Arnold and Mr Bill Cossey, as external members of the selection committee, conducted a thorough selection process. Following a nationwide search the selection committee unanimously recommended to the board of TransAdelaide the appointment of Mr Bill Watson as the new General Manager.

Mr Watson comes to Adelaide from Sydney where he was consulting on transport matters and is a former General Manager of Sydney Ferries, a business unit within the State Transit Authority in New South Wales. Mr Watson has worked as a senior executive with Adsteam based in Sydney, where he formed and led the Flinders Ports Consortium. Mr Watson's appointment will take effect from Monday 14 February 2005.

PETRY, Mr K., DEATH

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I lay on the table a copy of the investigation report into the Leigh Creek rail line hi-rail incident in relation to the tragic death of Mr Karl Petry in a rail accident that occurred on the Leigh Creek coal line on Tuesday 7 September 2004. In accordance with section 38 of the Rail Safety Act 1996, the state's rail regulator under the act formally directed the four rail organisations involved to conduct an investigation into this incident and provide an investigation report within the required eight-week period. The investigation was conducted in accordance with Australian Standard AS5022—Guidelines for Railway Safety Investigation.

The accident occurred when a Toyota Land Cruiser hi-rail track inspection vehicle operated by Mr Petry became derailed just prior to a bridge and rolled down an embankment. Mr Petry was an employee of Works Infrastructure, the company contracted by NRG Flinders to maintain the Leigh Creek rail line. The location was approximately 190 kilometres north of Port Augusta near Neuroodla and Brachina. Mr Petry was the only occupant. He was transported to the Hawker hospital by ambulance and subsequently transferred to Adelaide. Sadly, Mr Petry passed away early on Thursday morning, 9 September.

The report raises significant concerns with the monitoring of rail safety workers, particularly in remote locations, or when working alone. The report makes recommendations in the areas of improving communication procedures, introduc-

ing appropriate communications technology and the manufacture, maintenance and operation of hi-rail vehicles. The South Australian Railway Regulator has advised that he has written to South Australian accredited rail operators, requiring them to review their procedures relating to the workers operating in remote locations or working alone. He has written to South Australian accredited railway operators using hi-rail vehicles, requiring them to comply with manufacturer requirements and legal load limits and to review their procedures governing hi-rail operation. He has issued safety alerts to the industry on a national basis in relation to maintenance and operation of hi-rail vehicles, reinforcing the need to comply with manufacturers and vehicle standards regulations, and has written to the Australasian Railway Association requesting it to coordinate, through its Code Management Company, an industry review of the manufacture, maintenance and operation of hi-rail vehicles and the procedures in relation to the monitoring of rail safety workers and the management of overdue track occupancies.

The findings of this investigation, along with possible national actions have been discussed at a national rail safety regulators meeting and a Rail Safety Consultative Forum. The hi-rail vehicle operation and procedures for managing workers in remote or isolated locations will also form a critical component of ongoing rail safety audits undertaken by my department. Further to the above, I also advise that the South Australian government is investigating options for prosecutions under the current Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act and the Rail Safety Act. A copy of the report has also been provided to Workplace Services by the investigation team to assist in its own independent investigation into the accident under occupational health, safety and welfare legislation. It is understood that the coroner will receive the relevant reports.

I have invited the Rail, Tram and Bus Union to provide comment on these above actions, as well as any additional suggested actions it may have in relation to the findings of the report. The need for strong national laws will continue to be pursued through the Australian Transport Council in conjunction with the national review of the approach to rail safety regulation, and this is being managed through the National Transport Commission. National railway experts met with my staff last week for three days. I have asked my department to progress any improvements to the South Australian legislation that will ensure a regulatory environment in this state of maximum safety.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S REMARKS

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Mr Speaker, I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr SCALZI: During an answer to a question, the Attorney-General implied that I was against general dual citizenship for Australians. Although I am only an Australian citizen, and I introduced a bill for members of parliament, I have never advocated that this should apply to the general public. So, I wish to put that on the record.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I move: That the sitting of the house be extended beyond 6 p.m.

Motion carried.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

APPRENTICESHIPS

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Today I wish to bring to the attention of the house the matter of the difficulty in attaining some training for apprentices. Whilst we all are pleased that the general unemployment rate in Australia, and in South Australia, is at one of the lowest in our last 20 year history—and I commend the federal government, with a recent poll showing the trust that the public has in the coalition's running of the economy—it is important to note that, of the 26 500 jobs created across Australia in December, South Australia counted for just 1 400 proportionately. The state, if you take into account its population, should be attaining more than double this number. More concerning is the actual youth unemployment rate of 25.7 per cent compared with the national average of 21.1 per cent. We rightly are concerned that to maintain our lifestyle and our economy we have to really invest in our future, and put in structures that will create jobs, especially for young people.

I was very much concerned when I was contacted by an accredited locksmith who tells me that accredited locksmith training is only available at the Melbourne or Sydney TAFE and not in Adelaide. The component of the apprenticeship dealing with pure locksmithing can be completed at year levels one to three during the apprenticeship. Years ago there was an old arrangement with Regency TAFE but this was discontinued due to small numbers and also some question of ill-fit of course offering and requirements. Currently apprentices must be sent interstate four times a year for two weeks. The cost of the airfares is about \$240 and gets funding from the government, but the \$240 per person for costs is not enough for accommodation and food.

Currently Mr Clark, a respected locksmith, sends his apprentices to Sydney due to difficulties with the service provider in Melbourne, and he is aware of another locksmith company with the same preference. He estimates that six to seven apprentices each year require this training component. Mr Clark proposes that it would be more cost effective to provide this training in South Australia. I know that we have difficulties in that area, and in other areas, for example in the funeral industry, which I have brought to the attention of the minister. As it is dependent on specialised teaching staff, he is unsure whether such will be currently available in Adelaide. Mr Clark proposes that the TAFE lecturer be brought to Adelaide for the four teaching blocks per year. He has investigated this option in the past, and advises that there would be an appropriate teaching space available at Playford High School where joinery machinery is already provided. Further, some years ago, he investigated costs required by Business SA for the additional key cutting machinery.

Given the ongoing issue of skills shortages in South Australia, Mr Clark's proposal would appear to address important issues of access to essential specialised training for locksmith apprentices, and also seeks to provide local training infrastructure to lay the foundation for such training to be undertaken by TAFE SA in the future. It is important that we provide these programs.

I was really amazed when my office was contacted by Mr Clark because I would have thought that locksmithing would require a significant number of apprentices each year. Given the demand for this service in the security industry, there should be provision for apprentices in South Australia.

Indeed, why not have the courses in South Australia so that we can supply future locksmiths for other states?

HYDE, Dr M.

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): During the break I read with interest the story of Alicia Callisto, a 12 year old piano prodigy who took part in the Music Teachers' Association biennial summer school. She had recently attended a masterclass with David Helfgott, whose own life story has been immortalised by the Australian film industry. Alicia dedicated her performance to the Music Teachers' Association patron, Dr Miriam Hyde, who passed away on Tuesday 11 January, just short of her 92nd birthday. The significance of her passing and her life's work was perhaps overshadowed by the catastrophe of the Eyre Peninsula fires.

Dr Hyde was a remarkable woman, a prolific composer of music and poetry, with four pages of works listed on the internet site of the Australian Music Centre, some 150 instrumental and vocal pieces in the pastoral style of the early 20th century, as well as being an internationally acclaimed music educator and concert pianist. Her works include many for piano from preliminary to diploma standard, more than 50 songs, some of the lyrics of which were from her own poems. She won prizes for her works, and they are well known throughout chamber music circles. She has sonatas for viola, clarinet and flute, four overtures and other classical works.

Dr Hyde's *Happy Occasion Overture* was performed at the inaugural concert of the Australian Youth Orchestra in the Sydney Town Hall in 1957. Her literary prowess, which yielded nearly 500 poems, culminated in 1991 when Sydney's Currency Press published her autobiography, *Complete Accord*. The royalties from this publication go to the Elder Scholarship, the award that she won in 1931, the value of which, needless to say, has been reduced by inflation over many years. Miriam was born in Adelaide in 1913 and, after being taught by her mother, she continued her studies with William Silver at the Elder Conservatorium. Throughout the formative years of her career, she won many awards including the 1931 Elder Scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London. She won many prizes there also, taking part in broadcasts by shortwave to the countries of the British Empire.

Dr Hyde returned to Adelaide in 1936, the centenary year of our state, and wrote much of the orchestral work for the pageant *Heritage*. Of this music, her *Fantasia on Waltzing Matilda*, an overture to one of the scenes, has become well-known as an independent piece in her various arrangements. She has immortalised herself with a rendition of *Waltzing Matilda* as well. Seeking wider scope, she moved to Sydney where she taught for several years, and lived there for most of the remainder of her life. For a period during World War II, however, when her husband, Marcus Edwards, was a prisoner of war in Germany, she returned to Adelaide and taught piano and musical perception at the conservatorium.

In 1975 Dr Hyde was appointed Patron of the Music Teachers' Association of South Australia. Later, she also became a life member of the Victorian body of the same name, and also became a patron of the New South Wales Music Teachers' Association. It is here that I found a connection to my childhood home of Strathfield in New South Wales where Miriam was a life member of the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra. I must say that I did not have any idea that Strathfield had a symphony orchestra until

I read about Miriam. Throughout the years she also won many other awards, including the Order of the British Empire in 1981. She was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1991, and she also received an honorary doctorate from Macquarie University.

She was also International Woman of the Year in 1991-92 for services to music, bestowed by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, and an Honorary Fellow of Music in 1995. The President of the Music Teachers' Association of South Australia, Malcolm Potter, reflecting on Dr Hyde's life work said, 'As a musician, Miriam was without peer, being an acclaimed composer of music, not only for piano, but other instruments and also the voice.'

I would like to add my condolences to those members of the university community and the Music Teachers' Association of South Australia. As a final contribution to music in this state, her daughter Christine and her family ask that all donations in tribute to Dr Hyde be made towards the Elder Scholarship, the award that perhaps started her stellar career and nurtured her life-long love of music. Within the electorate of Florey we have the Florey Music Award nurturing students of music at all the schools in my electorate.

Time expired.

GAWLER HEALTH SERVICE

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): I rise today to talk about the Gawler Health Service, and I am pleased that the health minister is in the chamber so that she can hear my words directly, as I was not able to get a question up today about the issue of funding of the Gawler Health Service. Towards the end of last year, doctors of the Gawler area made me aware of the fact that the Gawler Health Service would not be able to meet its budget and continue the same level of service as they had provided the previous year. It was then that I took up lobbying the minister to see if additional funds could be found, and I am pleased to say that in the allocation for the Wakefield regional health area an additional \$500 000 has been allocated to the Gawler Health Service. Unfortunately, this still leaves the service approximately \$130 000 short to provide the same services and same level of service as they had the previous year.

In speaking to the chair of the Gawler Health Service board he advised me that they had cut all the areas that they could possibly look at to meet the budget as set out by the department—and that included the closing of a staff canteen as well as various other areas in which they had tried to trim the budget—and, as in previous years, they were closing certain beds over the Christmas and Easter periods to ensure that they could adhere to the budget as set down by the department. I was advised that this was basically the bottom line, so my question to the minister today was going to be whether the department would provide the extra \$130 000 to the Gawler Health Service to ensure that they can continue to deliver the excellent work they undertake in the Gawler area, particularly because Gawler services a very large hinterland to the north and also to the south. So, I am pleased that the minister is in the chamber and is able to hear my plea directly, and perhaps she will take it back to her department to see what the situation is now and whether that funding can be found.

On another issue, I have been contacted by a couple of constituents, who have mental health issues, regarding their experiences in trying to contact the assessment and crisis information service. This happened towards the end of last year so I was not able to bring it to the notice of the parlia-

ment until now. These constituents found that on two occasions when they rang the phone actually rang out rather than either going to an answering service or getting an officer on the other end of the line who was able to discuss their problem with them at that time. This is very concerning because people in that state of health often need to talk to someone immediately. It was fortunate that in both of these separate incidents the constituents were able to access another person—a health carer—within their local network who was able to talk to them and ensure that they did not undertake any actions which were harmful to themselves, anyone else, or the places in which they lived.

Both of these people are paranoid schizophrenics and one particular person, whom I spoke with in my office, said that had he not been able to access someone the next step for him would basically have been to trash his own place of residence. That is what had happened in the past and he knew what was coming from the warning signs, but he was not able to control it. Fortunately, he was able to contact another person within his network who was able to talk to him and walk him through the stage that he was going through.

I bring the minister's attention to the document entitled, 'A New Beginning: Emergency demand management and the assessment of crisis intervention service'. In the minimum standards on page 9 of that document, point 1 says that every telephone call to a mental health crisis service will be answered properly, will not be answered with a recorded message, and will not ring out.

CHATELS AUCTIONS

Mr RAU (Enfield): I want to briefly address a couple of matters. First, I would like to thank all those people who have expressed their words of support and assistance to me in recent days in the mistaken understanding that a person in the newspaper is a relative of mine. That is not the case, although I am obviously deeply disturbed about what has happened to her and I hope this sort of thing does not repeat itself. However, that person and I are not related as far as I know.

The other thing I wanted to talk about is the fact that matters have been brought to my attention regarding the conduct of auctions in South Australia—in this case chattels auctions—which concern me greatly. I stress that at present these are allegations only and for that reason I will not name any person about whom I have information in relation to this conduct. However, I would like to draw the parliament's attention to these allegations, which essentially are that at chattels auctions in South Australia today—particularly chattels auctions which involve goods described as antiques—two practices are endemic.

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

Mr RAU: The first of those is that, as the honourable member for Davenport quite rightly says, some of these antiques are not, in fact, antiques. Mr Speaker, you would be aware that the difference between a Ming vase and a copy Ming vase in terms of its intrinsic value is substantial, and whilst I do not know how many Ming vases are being passed off on a daily basis in Adelaide auction premises I do know that the misdescription of these goods is a very concerning matter—if it is, indeed, occurring—particularly, because the number of people who would be able to accurately identify these goods as being a Ming vase or a copy is not that many. We are really in a situation where only a very small group of people have detailed knowledge about these items, and if those people are misrepresenting these items to members of

the public it is all very well to say caveat emptor, they should know better, but the fact is that in South Australia in this day and age we should not condone or permit the knowing misdescription of copied goods as being original goods which have a substantial and different value.

The second aspect of this procedure which has been drawn to my attention (and I am reliably informed there is no dispute about this) is the endemic use of dummy bidding by auctioneers in these processes. We have seen the industry, inasmuch as we are talking about real estate, substantially clean itself up, and that is to be commended; however, there is another area which appears to be quite untouched by the reforms that have overtaken the real estate sector. I am informed that it is quite common for dummy bids or pulling of bids to occur in these auction houses. If it is going on—and I emphasise ‘if’—it is something that needs to be dealt with and needs to be exposed. Mr Speaker, through you and the parliament, I invite any member of the public who has been a victim of either a misdescription or a misdescription of a good purchased, particularly regarding antiques, to contact me and give me details of their particular circumstances so that I can be more familiar with what is going on and make a more informed judgment about this.

Secondly, anybody who has information about endemic dummy bidding practices should also get in touch with me because I am interested in it. There is no reason why vendors cannot protect their position, but announcing their reserve is an obvious, easy and transparent way of doing it. Rather than doing that, if they are choosing to employ a covert mechanism of having dummies in the audience or pulling bids out of thin air, that is something that needs to be drawn to the attention of the public and, ideally, it should be a practice that does not continue.

LAND TAX

Mr MEIER (Goyder): An issue that has been festering and, in fact, has reached boiling point in the past year or so has been that of land tax. I know that all members here are aware of the great burden that land tax has been placing on a large section of our community. It was interesting that today the Treasurer, together with the Premier, announced some reductions in land tax, but it was very interesting the way it was announced. First of all, the headline stated that the state government was going to deliver \$245 million in land tax relief, and I thought that was going to go a long way towards solving the problem. However, that is over four years so, in real terms, that is only \$61 million for one year.

I think that is immediately trying to create a smokescreen as to the truth of what sort of relief will be available. If we have a look at the actual relief, we see that they have increased the threshold from \$50 000 to \$100 000. I would say that that is a welcome first step, but anyone who has looked at the land tax issue would have realised that \$50 000 is totally inadequate; \$100 000 is likewise hardly adequate; \$150 000 probably would have been a reasonable starting point. So, the starting point is not even close to the mark to commence with.

One of the key issues that has been annoying people who have invested their money in property has been the fact that their land tax bill has escalated astronomically once they acquire more than one or two properties. Some of the migrants to this country in earlier years had decided that, rather than invest their money in shares, term deposits, property trusts or the like, they would invest in property. You

can imagine a situation where a person has four houses valued at \$250 000 each, which is not excessive; in fact, he or she would be quite lucky to get reasonable properties at \$250 000 each—a total of \$1 million. Under the system that has applied until today that person was liable to pay \$12 425 in land tax. Under the announcement today of the Treasurer and the Premier, guess what that person will pay for four properties? It is not \$12 425 but only \$11 450—still an astronomical amount.

What does that mean in real terms? In real terms it means that that person will have to charge each of his or her tenants an extra \$55 per week in rent if he or she wants to cover that land tax bill. That is under the new arrangement, but under the old arrangement that landlord had to charge \$59.70 per week to cover the land tax bill or let us say \$60. So, the government has been phenomenally generous to these people who invest their money in property. You will not have to charge your tenant \$60 per week to cover the tax now; you only have to charge them \$55 per week extra to cover the land tax. This so-called relief for land tax is a complete sham and I cannot believe that the Premier believes he is actually doing the community of South Australia a favour.

Let us compare it to Victoria, because I think they would be the ones closest to us. In Victoria, we find that, if you have a property worth \$200 000 that you have to pay land tax on, you would be paying \$200. What are you going to be paying in South Australia under the new relief scheme? You will be paying \$300—50 per cent more. If it is a \$300 000 property in Victoria, you would pay \$400; here, under the new scheme, you would pay \$600. In Victoria, for a \$500 000 property, you would pay \$800; here, you would pay \$1800—\$1000 more. It is absolutely outrageous.

There have been some reductions but they are very minimal. It is not going to do anything. There is no CPI factor. It is clear that the Treasurer has been rolled. It is a knee-jerk reaction. It has been rushed through, and I know that the people in my electorate and the people who have holiday shacks in my electorate are not going to be helped in real terms at all. The only thing that the government has seen to is to give refund cheques, and people will think it is great to get a refund cheque. Wait for one year when the reality hits again. I find that the government has reacted in a way that not even in my wildest imagination would I have imagined it going down that track.

RAU, Ms C.

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): I rise to speak today about the case of Cornelia Rau. This heart-breaking case can be spoken about in some detail in this place because the media over the last few days have already published a considerable amount of personal information about the matter. Cornelia Rau, as recently as four years ago, was a Qantas flight attendant. She is a permanent resident of Australia. Unfortunately, in later life she developed mental illness. She was found wandering in Northern Queensland on 31 March last year and was handed to Queensland police, who decided that she may be from another country. She was speaking in German, despite the fact that she can speak fluent English. She was handed to DIMIA (department of immigration) officials on 5 April 2004 and placed in the Brisbane Women’s Prison.

Three or four months ago she was transferred to Baxter Detention Centre, where she was given the title BX8311. The numbering of the prisoners is just one aspect of their degradation. The case is all the more poignant for me

because, apart from the fact that I have visited Baxter and met dozens of the inmates (many of whom deserve and need better medical treatment than they are receiving), I knew Cornelia Rau as a girl. Her family and mine holidayed together on the Barrier Reef in 1975, and at that time she was a happy, carefree, normal young girl. Her sister and she were the same age as my brother and me, and we played together. We lost touch because her family went back to Germany, but later she returned to live permanently in Australia.

In Baxter she exhibited many symptoms of mental illness, including screaming, eating of dirt, throwing food and removing her clothes. She was showered by male guards and under constant video surveillance. She was kept in the solitary confinement section in the infamous Red One compound. These isolation units are referred to as 'management units' by the GSL company and DIMIA. The GSL company is the private corporation which manages the Baxter Detention Centre. The fact that Cornelia has an attractive appearance and is of Northern European heritage I suspect had something to do with the public outcry over her treatment. She is a mentally ill person who was locked up in the Baxter Detention Centre in isolation. The fact is that, under our immigration laws, if publicity had not led to her family's identifying her, she could have been kept there indefinitely without adequate psychiatric treatment.

There needs to be an inquiry into this matter. The minister (Hon. Amanda Vanstone) initially defended her department's actions and she will now set about initiating an inquiry. However, it has to be a far-reaching inquiry into how DIMIA treats mentally ill people and conditions in Baxter; and there is a separate issue about the fact that Queensland police did not check the missing persons lists around the country. It is not good enough for it to be a whitewash report. I believe that we need a royal commission, and that is indeed what Senator Kerry Nettle, the federal Greens senator, is calling for.

The fact is that Ms Rau is now being treated in a state health care facility, and that is a good thing, but there are many dozens of people with varying degrees of mental illness still in Baxter. They are beyond treatment and, unfortunately, it seems, beyond the care of the federal government.

[Sitting suspended from 6.05 to 7.30 p.m.]

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STATUTES AMENDMENT (PARLIAMENT FINANCE AND SERVICES) BILL

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I move:

That the time for bringing up the select committee's report on the bill be extended until Monday 2 May 2005.

Motion carried.

PITJANTJATJARA LAND RIGHTS (REGULATED SUBSTANCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Recent press coverage of conditions on the APY lands graphically illustrates the misery the practice of petrol sniffing inflicts not only on those that participate in it, but on all community members.

The Co-ordinator of State Government services and the Task Force are developing a range of responses to assist those people that are sniffing, or have long-term health problems as a result of sniffing, as well as identifying and addressing the reasons that people resort to this form of abuse.

Measures designed to stem the illegal supply of regulated and illegal substances coming onto the APY lands is one response that this Government will instigate.

This Bill recognises the seriousness of the conduct of those persons who are trafficking in petrol and other substances to the detriment of the people on the APY lands.

The Bill introduces a new offence to the Act substantially increasing the penalties for a person who is caught on the lands selling or supplying a regulated substance, taking part in the sale or supply of a regulated substance, or having a regulated substance in his or her possession for the purpose of selling or supplying the regulated substance, knowing or having reason to suspect that the regulated substance will be inhaled or otherwise consumed. The maximum penalty of \$50 000 fine or imprisonment for 10 years is severe, and in keeping with the provisions of the *Controlled Substances Act*. This Bill includes provision for the forfeiture of the vehicle used to traffic in the regulated substance where appropriate. The Government believes the trafficking in petrol, and possibly other substances, is no less serious than the conduct caught by the *Controlled Substances Act*, that is to say, trafficking in illicit drugs.

The Bill also enables a representative of the news media to enter the APY lands to investigate or report on matters of public interest occurring there, and further provides for a system of mandatory referral to an assessment service for a Pitjantjatjara of or above the age of 14 who is alleged to have committed an offence on the lands consisting of, in general terms, inhaling or consuming a regulated substance, and in particular petrol. It should be noted, however, that these provisions are not Government provisions, rather they were inserted by amendment in the Legislative Council.

It is important that we continue to tackle the problem of petrol sniffing and consumption of other illegal substances from every angle.

I commend the Bill to the House.

EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal

Part 2—Amendment of *Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act 1981*

4—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause inserts a definition of *motor vehicle* and *regulated substance* into section 4 of the principal Act. The definition of motor vehicle is consistent with that in the Motor Vehicles Act, while a regulated substance is defined as petrol, or any other substance declared by the regulations to be a regulated substance.

5—Amendment of section 19—Unauthorised entry on the lands

This clause amends section 19(8) of the principal Act to include a representative of the news media who enters the APY lands to investigate or report on matters of public interest occurring there, along with a person providing an assessment and treatment service, in the persons described by that section.

6—Repeal of section 38

This clause makes a consequential amendment.

7—Insertion of sections 42BA and 42C

This clause provides for the mandatory referral to an assessment service of a Pitjantjatjara of or above the age of 14 who is alleged to have committed an offence on the lands constituted of the inhalation or consumption of a regulated substance. The clause further sets out procedural matters related to such a program, including requiring the Minister to establish the necessary services.

The clause also inserts a new section 42C into the principal Act, which provides that—

- it is an offence to, on the lands, sell or supply, or take part in the sale or supply, or have in your possession for the purpose of sale or supply, a regulated substance. The maximum penalty for contravention is a fine of \$50 000 or imprisonment for 10 years;

- a police officer may seize and retain a motor vehicle that the officer suspects of being used for, or in connection with, an offence against the clause, or which affords evidence of such an offence;

- the mechanism for dealing with a motor vehicle seized under the clause, including its forfeiture upon conviction of the offence charged to which the motor vehicle's seizure relates, and the payment of the proceeds of the sale less costs to AP. The Minister may, however, permit the release of the motor vehicle on such conditions as the Minister thinks fit.

8—Amendment of section 43—Regulations

This clause makes amendments consequential upon clause 6 of the Bill. To preserve consistency, the clause mirrors the seizure and forfeiture provisions found in proposed section 42C of the principal Act in relation to a contravention of a by-law relating to the sale or supply of alcohol on the lands.

9—Insertion of Schedule 4

This clause inserts a new Schedule 4 into the principal Act, setting out requirements relating to a treatment and referral service referred to in proposed section 42BA.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SANCTUARY BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 September. Page 99.)

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I indicate that I am not the lead speaker for the opposition, but I have some items to contribute. This is really an unnecessary bill, as the need to establish a dolphin sanctuary in South Australia is arguable. Certainly, I understand that this can be achieved via a number of other mechanisms and without the introduction of this measure, which will add another 48 pages to the statute books. Having said that, we need to recognise dolphins as an iconic aquatic species (as they are not fish but mammals) in and around South Australian waters.

One of the reasons I am keen to see this dolphin sanctuary established is that, if it does nothing else, it will continue to raise the status of dolphins as an iconic aquatic species and it will also enhance the tourist trade that is centred around dolphin watching. I am not sure how much more science is to be learnt about dolphins—they have been almost studied to death (no pun intended). In South Australia we are uniquely blessed in that we have some of the best dolphin watching in Australia just off my electorate of Morphett at Glenelg. There is no need to go to a sanctuary in the Port River, because there you will not experience anywhere near the quality of the dolphin watching experience that you get off Glenelg. I am not encouraging in any way, shape or form a sanctuary to be declared there, because dolphins are wild creatures and they can be found right throughout the gulf.

I should preface my remarks by saying that I am talking about two main species here: the bottlenose dolphin and the common dolphin. It is a bit of a paradox, but the common dolphin is not common in our inland waters. It is the bottlenose dolphin that we see off our beaches and in the Port River. There are thousands and thousands of these dolphins of both species in our gulf waters. The ability to use dolphins as a tourist feature is well-known around Australia. People hear about the ones at Monkey Mia in Western Australia and

Port Douglas in Queensland, but the ones at the bay are not a well-known fact.

Steve Waite, who built the boat *Temptation*—this is not an advert for Steve Waite and his organisation, but I know him personally—has been running a dolphin watching experience for a couple of years now, educating thousands and thousands of locals and interstate and international tourists. Steve offers a moneyback guarantee on his experience with dolphins. At Monkey Mia you get about 15 minutes with dolphins, and at Port Douglas you get about 15 to 20 minutes. Just the other day Steve was out with a big pod of dolphins for about 45 minutes; 20 minutes is a short experience down there.

Protecting the dolphins in the Port River is just a small part of protecting our dolphins. I do not object to it, obviously—particularly with my background as a veterinarian I am keen to see all of our animals (terrestrial or aquatic) protected from stupid idiots who want to harm them for who knows what reason—but, as I say, the introduction of this legislation is I think something of a PR stunt. However, if this public relations exercise improves tourism and the efforts of people such as Mike Bosley, the fellow who has been working at the port educating people; if it enhances what he is doing and brings in more money for research to educate the public about dolphins, that is a good thing.

At this time of the year dolphins are giving birth. February is the time when they give birth along our coast, particularly in the Seacliff area off Marino Rocks. I am not sure whether this is happening in the Port River, but the people at Glenelg saw one born the other day right in front of their eyes. I forget the correct name for a mother dolphin, but the mother held the calf above the water for about an hour to get it to breathe. On the same day they saw a common dolphin inshore, which is not common, but there are hundreds and hundreds of them out to sea in that area. There are thousands of dolphins out there. I hope that this bill goes some way towards making people more aware of the fact that we live in a fantastic place in South Australia with more hours of sunlight than the Gold Coast, more navigable islands than the Whitsundays, better diving, and a broader range of marine flora and fauna on our coral reefs, not to mention the fantastic dolphin experiences that can be had by visitors (both local and interstate) on tours such as those operated by Mike Bosley at the port and Steve Waite with *Temptation Sailing* in my electorate of Morphett.

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): I begin by congratulating the Minister for Environment and Conservation on this initiative. It is a clear and tangible indication of this government's strong willingness to protect and conserve South Australia's unique environment. This bill throws into stark relief the fact that the former Liberal government, in the words of Dr Mike Bossley of the Australian Dolphin Research Foundation, 'showed little interest' in providing for and conserving the environment found at the Port Adelaide estuary and Barker Inlet. Unlike the opposition, Labor's commitment to the Port River and its dolphins has been unwavering and consistent right from its days in opposition.

I will now spend some time discussing the area in which the sanctuary will be created in an effort to illustrate why this bill is so important. Port Adelaide was settled by Europeans in 1840. At that time, the area was known as Port Misery and was considered to be little more than a huge tidal swamp of mud, mangroves and mosquitoes. However, the sheltered nature of the area, as well as the close proximity to the city of Adelaide, ensured that Port Misery would be transformed

into Port Adelaide, South Australia's premier port. This area is now home to billions of dollars of assets, including some of South Australia's most vital infrastructure and industries. Examples include the Australian Submarine Corporation, major power companies, waste water and treatment plants and Adelaide Brighton Cement.

While the economic value of this area runs into billions of dollars, its environmental value can be classed only as priceless. The Port River estuary and Barker Inlet are home to many important marine species, including dolphins, garfish, bream, blue swimmer crabs and western king prawns. Furthermore, the Port River and Barker Inlet have also been identified as a place of international importance for shorebirds. It is these special inhabitants the bill seeks to protect. While all the species found within the Port River and Barker Inlet will benefit from the proposed sanctuary, the bill is specifically designed to protect the dolphins, which have made this area their home.

As the house may be aware, Adelaide is probably one of only two major cities in the world that has its own truly urban pod of bottlenose dolphins. To the best of my knowledge, Hong Kong is the only other major city in the world that has an urban pod. Adelaide's dolphins are unfortunately under threat. Human activities, including chemical and thermal pollution, introduced marine pests, litter and excess nutrients, have seen the degradation of the waterways in which our dolphins live. Toxic pollution, in particular, is a deadly hidden threat to the dolphins and the other inhabitants within these waterways. The extent of this threat was made apparent when in 1999 the bodies of dead dolphins from the local community were tested by the South Australian Museum for toxin load PCBs and heavy metals. This testing provided clear evidence of PCB, lead and mercury contamination.

While most of these 'persistent pollutants' have been banned, such pollutants are still making their way into the waterways, most probably through our stormwater system. It is believed that these pollutants affect the dolphin community by creating immune system deficiencies, skin disorders and problems with growth and reproduction. Habitat damage is also a major threat to the survival of these dolphins. Port Adelaide is a major industrial port for Australia. The proximity of a major port to the dolphins habitat affects the dolphins in two ways. First, it creates additional environmental pollution which can cause neurological damage, suppresses the immune system and reduces the rate of reproduction by disrupting sex hormone production. Other less recognisable forms of habitat damage also threaten the existence of the dolphins.

For example, noise and turbidity through muddy, opaque, clouded water damage can affect the dolphins' ability to communicate and, as a result, hunting becomes less effective for the dolphins. Human litter, particularly fishing litter, is another deadly danger faced by the dolphins. This is because dolphins can easily become entangled by such litter. Entanglements result in a dolphin's ability to hunt for food being severely diminished. Consequently, if the entangled fishing litter is not removed, the fate of the dolphin is likely to be death. The dangers of fishing litter are demonstrated by the number of dolphins that have been found dead as a result of entanglement.

Additionally, boats and other water vehicles are also a threat to the wellbeing of the dolphins. Evidence for this is found by the fact that several dolphins have been sighted with wounds that are consistent with being cut by propellers. In fact, at least one dolphin calf is known to have been killed by

a propeller. Although dolphins are being harmed unintentionally by human activity, this is not always the case. Within the last few decades dolphins have, sadly, become the targets of deliberate and malicious human attacks. The first known attack on a dolphin occurred in 1988 and involved a spear attack on a solitary dolphin, Jock. In this cruel attack, the young male was left with a five-pronged spear stuck in his side and about a metre of broken spear shaft attached to his body. Although Jock survived, more recent victims have not been so lucky. In June 1998, to the dismay of many South Australians, three dolphins were found dead in the estuary due to gunshot wounds. The situation became even sadder when a dependent calf of one of the killed animals died two weeks later.

While there was a public outcry against such violence, various other attacks have occurred since 1998. These include the killing of a dolphin calf with a bayonet and several non-fatal spear attacks on other juvenile dolphins. Unfortunately, there have been no arrests for these killings, despite a substantial reward being offered for any valuable information in relation to the attacks. Clearly, such attacks are greatly condemned by this parliament and by the vast majority of South Australians. Such behaviour must be stopped, and that is what this bill sets out to do.

The bill increases the penalty for harming a dolphin from \$30 000 to \$100 000. However, the bill does much more than merely increasing the penalty for harming dolphins. The bill creates a sanctuary in which the welfare of the dolphins becomes paramount. This bill creates a system in which the local community, industry and government agencies are focused on the protection of the dolphins and their habitat. Accordingly, the bill requires the minister to create a management plan that will ensure the protection of the dolphins and their habitat.

The bill also creates the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board. This board will comprise 11 members from the community who have expertise in a number of important areas relevant to the sanctuary, including community education program management, Kaurna culture from both a female and a male perspective and, of course, dolphin conservation and research. Furthermore, the bill also ensures that the sanctuary will be adequately funded, as it enables an Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Fund. The creation of this fund is a clear example of Labor's commitment to the sanctuary, as it ensures that necessary funding will be available for future generations. Finally, the bill increases the powers and availability of local rangers and other authorised officers, and will be another method by which the dolphins will be offered greater protection. These increased powers will ensure that the perpetrators of violent acts against dolphins are more easily convicted.

I would now like to discuss the area in which the sanctuary will lie. According to the bill, the sanctuary will cover an area of 118 square kilometres, extending from the upper reaches of the Port Adelaide River and North Haven through North Arm and Barker Inlet, and will extend into the Gulf St Vincent and Port Gawler. This area encompasses places in which the dolphins swim and also the tidal areas where their food sources may be found. Thus the proposed sanctuary includes all waters within the above boundaries and will also include Torrens and Garden islands as well as Port Gawler Conservation Park. Clearly, the size of this sanctuary is large. In fact, the sanctuary shares borders with three local councils: the cities of Playford, Salisbury and Port Adelaide Enfield. Furthermore, these boundaries have the special

advantage of being easily recognised, as they are mostly determined by sea water levee banks.

In supporting this bill and the measures it contains, I would like to draw the house's attention to a similar sanctuary in India. Recently, India legislated for a sanctuary near Bhagalpur, which is located in Bihar state. The establishment of this sanctuary has enabled a significant increase in dolphin numbers. For example, by 2002 dolphin numbers had grown to 150, compared to fewer than 100 in the year 2000. A major reason why it is believed that the sanctuary has been so successful is because of the increased awareness of good environmental practices by the community. Furthermore, the sanctuary's success has also been attributed to the support it has received from the local community.

The fact that the sanctuary proposed by this bill in South Australia also encourages community awareness and support leads me to believe that it will achieve similar success to that which has been achieved in India. Once again, I commend the Minister for Environment and Conservation and the government for the measures contained in this bill.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport): I will not hold the house long. This bill gives the government the opportunity to do some marketing through the establishment of a dolphin sanctuary. The Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Bill has been slow in hitting the house: it was promised two years ago and we are finally debating it now in the last year of the government. The bill does nothing new that is not available under any other legislation, particularly the national parks legislation. There are no new powers in the bill and nothing being done in the bill that could not be done under other pieces of legislation. Essentially, what the government has done is drag bits and pieces out of other legislation, put it together in another act, gave it a fancy name, and it will go out and say that it has protected the dolphins.

It could easily have done that under other pieces of legislation and, for its own marketing reasons, has decided not to. The way to really go about protecting dolphins is to deal with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The minister has been promising for six months now to release a discussion paper on a revision of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. I noted the other day that, in response to a gross act of indecency against a cat, the Premier said that the government would review the act. Whoopy-do! They promised six months ago that they would review the act and release a discussion paper, and they have not done it. This does nothing other than is already available under other legislation.

It does increase the penalties, but that could have been done through broadly increasing the penalties in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The member for Napier would need to make an argument why harming a dolphin should have a penalty of \$100 000 and harming a koala or some other animal might have a lower penalty. The reason why that is so is that the government wants to use this bill to market its environmental credentials. The fact is that all the provisions in this bill could have been enacted under other pieces of legislation that already exist. The opposition is not going to oppose the bill. Obviously, the government has the numbers to get it through. We hope that the government enjoys marketing the dolphin sanctuary. But there is not one activity that this bill stops.

The reason why the dolphin sanctuary works in India, I suggest to the member for Napier, is that the government has taken some action to prevent some activities in the area, such

as fishing or industry. I am not suggesting that should happen here. I am saying to the member for Napier that not one activity changes as a result of this dolphin sanctuary. All the industries keep going. The mercury levels and the other heavy metal levels—all that activity—about which the member for Napier talks are still there. The flow of heavy metals into the Port River will be dealt with through water catchment boards and other measures, I am sure. That is already being done under legislation. The way to better protect dolphins is by better protecting all animals through a review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

This government has been tardy in the review of that act. That act was promised to be reviewed six months ago. Questions were asked by the member for Mitchell in last year's estimates committee. I am sure that the member for Mitchell recalls asking the minister in last year's estimates when he intended releasing the discussion paper into the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and the answer was 'shortly'. Well, here we are in February (eight months later) and what do we get? We get a bill that was promised two years ago, and a bill that produces no new powers for the government.

It simply says, 'Let us get the existing powers together, put them into a bill and call it a dolphin sanctuary. Do not change any activity at all and we will call it a dolphin sanctuary. Somehow the dolphins will breed and suddenly we will have more dolphins.' I do not think so. The way in which to address that issue is through the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in terms of dealing with the penalties and the powers of officers within that act, as animal rights group have been begging this minister to do since he attained office, and particularly since he made the promise over six months ago to release the discussion paper.

But as with this minister and all matters marine, this bill has been slow in coming. Marine protected areas have blown out by an extra four years to 2010. They were to be completed by 2006, and now it is out to 2010. The marine planning system has slowed. The trial marine planning protected area at Encounter Bay is yet to eventuate. The dolphin sanctuary is two years late. This bill is about a 10 second grab on radio so that the minister can say, 'We did a dolphin sanctuary.' New powers? None. Any activity closing? None. If the minister wants to do something and another minister disagrees, the environment minister does not get the override.

That is what the environment groups wanted. They wanted this minister to be able to say to his cabinet colleagues, 'No, the environment takes precedence.' That does not happen. It goes to cabinet. All those people associated with economic development agencies will override this minister. I do not share the member for Napier's enthusiasm for this piece of legislation. I believe that this is nothing more than a clever marketing ploy by the minister to say, 'Look at this: we have a dolphin sanctuary.' He could have made any number of conservation reserves under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, as the conservation groups have been asking him to do in regard to marine protected areas as an interim measure. But the minister, for his own reasons, will not do it. The opposition will not oppose the legislation. As we say, the powers are nothing different to what already exists in the other act. This is simply a marketing exercise for the government and, ultimately, the conservation groups will see through it.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher): I support the bill. I understand what the member for Davenport is saying. The

government will get kudos. I do not have a problem with that. In a democracy if people want something and the government delivers, that illustrates the importance of having a democratic society. I cannot understand cruelty to animals, or cruelty to people for that matter, and we have had plenty of sad examples. I noticed in the newspaper—either today or yesterday—that the RSPCA put down over 100 dogs which were bought at Christmas, presumably, as presents and which are no longer wanted.

Recently we had the sad case down south of someone setting fire to a horse. I just cannot understand that mentality—or someone putting a spear into a dolphin. What the member for Davenport has said may well be true, but the reality of perception, public feeling and so on is that there is often merit in encapsulating the feelings of the community into a specially designated piece of legislation. We do it all the time in various ways. What is important in this proposal, as with any conservation measure, is that people look at the whole ecological context. We tend to focus on a particular creature or plant without necessarily looking at the whole habitat that supports that particular creature or plant.

Whilst our community has made considerable progress, there is still a long way to go. We see it, for example, in the Adelaide Hills where people say they have saved a tree in the backyard, but they have destroyed all the understorey—the shrubs and grasses—that support the small birds and other creatures. We still have a long way to go, and understanding those two basic principles of ecology—interaction and interdependence—means that people can see that putting wrong chemicals into the Port River will affect the dolphins, fish and everything else.

We still have the irony that it is illegal to kill a particular creature, but you can effectively kill not only one but umpteen by destroying their habitat. Whilst South Australia has progressed quite a way down the path of stopping that, in many respects other states still have an open go where people say, 'Isn't it outrageous to kill a koala?', but you can kill hundreds of them by making sure there is no habitat in which they can survive. We still have that ironic and unfortunate paradox.

One of the interesting things about dolphins, like whales (and I have had a theory for a long time, being interested in environmental matters), is that we tend to get attached to creatures that we think have some affinity with or similarity to us. Dolphins and whales supposedly have a high IQ and therefore they are particularly worthy of saving. Because koalas have some likeness to some humans, they are seen as cute and cuddly, but people do not have the same affection for the taipan or other creatures which are just as important if you look at them on an intrinsic basis. The way in which animals are portrayed by the media is such that those like us—the so-called smart ones, dolphins and whales—will be saved (and I am not saying they should not) and koalas will be seen in an emotive way because they look like someone in the human population (fortunately, no-one here).

There is this emotional attachment, which means that we save them, but other creatures that are just as important in the web of life do not get the same support. If you ran a campaign to save the snake, which we know is protected, you will not get many people queuing up to sign the petition. Snakes have their place—not in my house—and they are good at catching rats and mice. That is not to detract from this bill. I commend the government for bringing it in. We know it will get public appreciation, which is fine, but at least an effort is being made to try to keep an attractive, good-looking or

whatever species in the Port River. In an urban environment it is great that we can keep some links with nature. Heaven knows, we have very few left if we look at the role of some of our councils, which seem determined to make us look like downtown Vienna rather than Australia. It is important we keep that link with nature, and to have to have it in the Port River in the form of dolphins and other creatures is great. I look forward to the speedy passage of this bill.

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): I rise to speak on behalf of the Greens on this bill. This bill sets up the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Advisory Board and expresses a number of objectives in relation to the dolphins living in the Port Adelaide River estuary. The member for Davenport, speaking on behalf of the opposition, cynically described it as something of a marketing exercise on behalf of the government. I do not know why he would think that, other than that an entire part of the act is devoted to the provisions relating to official insignia, whereby the minister may declare a logo and chase people who use the logo for their own profit rather than for the purpose of promoting the dolphin sanctuary.

It has to be said, of course, that dolphins are probably the cutest creatures that have neither fur nor feathers and, no doubt, that is a motivation for the government's introducing this bill. Everyone agrees that the dolphins in the Port River should be protected. Let us look at how the bill does that. An advisory board is set up, so 11 dolphin lovers, presumably, come onto the government payroll. Their role, essentially, is to advise the minister. It is up to the minister to come up with a management plan for the sanctuary, and the minister will listen to the board in relation to that. It might be pointed out that, even in respect of the plan, it is essentially a set of guidelines. Section 11(10) provides:

The plan is an expression of policy and does not in itself affect rights or liabilities, whether of a substantive, procedural or other nature.

One might well ask: what indeed is the point of the plan? It cannot be seen directly to protect dolphins because it has no teeth at all: dolphins have more teeth than the plan. However, there is a general objective of protecting these dolphins, and a duty of care is imposed on behalf of people not to do things which would harm the dolphins. This is good. The interesting thing is that a breach of that duty of care is quite deliberately specified not to be a criminal offence. I repeat: a breach of the duty of care is specifically said not to be a criminal offence. However, where there is such a breach of duty, the minister may step in and issue a protection order, which provides that the person must stop doing that harmful thing. If there are teeth in the legislation anywhere, that is where they are.

It is after a lengthy process of appointing a board, the board receiving submissions in relation to a proposed management plan and consultation taking place in relation to the management plan that ultimately the minister of the day will issue a management plan. That management plan is simply an expression of policy. A general duty of care will be imposed by the act. If that is breached, no-one is actually committing an offence. Indeed, for specific harm to dolphins one would have to refer back to the general legislation regarding cruelty to animals. After all that process, if there is a breach of that general duty, the minister of the day may issue a protection order. If that order is breached, then the person harming dolphins might get into trouble.

Although the media headlines in relation to dolphins over the past couple of years have featured isolated incidents of cruelty in relation to specific dolphins by one or two people

behaving in a nasty manner, the real dangerous factor in relation to these dolphins is the pollution that goes into the Port River. That will be the real test of courage for the minister of the day when it is established that this general duty is being breached and that there is harm to the habitat of the dolphins. Will there be protection orders in relation to polluting industry? The timing of the bill and the lengthy process I have outlined means that it will be a question for after the next election. That really tough issue of whether to crack down on polluters is something that will happen after the next election. In the meantime, we have a bill setting up a dolphin sanctuary. It feels good. No-one will oppose it. No doubt it will pass through the parliament quickly and, indeed, the government will make much of it.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I would like to make a couple of brief comments. I do not have any problem at all with this bill and I am very happy to support it and happy to see dolphins protected, but it reminds me of that period in the last few weeks before the last state election when, with great gusto, members of the department went up to Port Augusta and had a public meeting with a desire to put restrictions up at the top of Spencer Gulf, which greatly enraged my constituents. If I was a cynical person I would have said that those bureaucrats were anxious to make life as difficult as they possibly could for me, and they were successful.

Ms Bedford interjecting:

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: If the honourable member thinks that it is funny, two can play that game, let me tell her. I have a long memory, because I know who they were and I know exactly what happened. I was given a pretty rough time, as the now member for Davenport clearly understands, with what took place next morning when I got on the telephone. He is fully aware. The interesting thing is that since that meeting we have heard not a thing about it—but dolphin sanctuaries: fortunately, there has not been anything. I wonder what the department is now doing with those sorts of proposals. They had glossy pamphlets and things, but nothing has happened. These sorts of ideas, whether we are protecting dolphins or protecting whales, are emotional and important.

It reminds me of an occasion with a former minister when we were at Innamincka. We had a very senior commonwealth director there, and they were talking about whales. This commonwealth bureaucrat said, 'Well you know minister, one day we are going to have to start culling whales.' Well, the poor minister for the environment completely lost his composure and did not want to discuss the issue. I asked the then minister whether he would like to make a press statement in relation to the advice that he had received. That minister is now spending his time looking after the River Murray. He did not want to discuss that subject, and I will never forget that occasion at Innamincka. It is one of those things that has stuck in my mind, just as that meeting at Port Augusta a couple of weeks before the state election sticks in my mind. I wonder where the departmental officers are at this time in relation to that matter.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I thank all members who have contributed to the debate, and I thank all of them for their support for the proposition, although some express some concerns or cynicism about the motivation behind the legislation. As one of the speakers said—I think it was you, Mr Deputy Speaker—this bill is an expression of a desire by a certain part of the community to have the dolphin sanctuary established and

for protection to be given to dolphins in that part of South Australia. I think that the overwhelming number of South Australians would agree with the parliament that it is worthy of support. The point was made by a couple of speakers—at least by the member for Morphett, but I guess similar points were made by the member for Davenport—that this was an unnecessary piece of legislation and that it does not do anything new. I beg to differ. I think that it does some new things, although certainly the powers that congregated in this legislation are found elsewhere and with difficulty could be applied in a coordinated way if one were to choose.

By bringing all these powers and issues together, this legislation provides for the integration and coordination of activities to best protect the dolphins and their habitat. That is what this legislation is really all about: to give focus and status (I think the member for Morphett used the word 'status') to the dolphins—and not only the dolphins that are found in the sanctuary, because there are relatively few of those, but also to dolphins generally in South Australia. So, it is about public relations, but it is about public relations for dolphins and their habitat, not public relations for the government of the day. It will help educate South Australians about dolphins. A year or so ago, at one of the stages during the consultation about this piece of legislation, the Department for Environment, together with a couple of other agencies, organised an education program for a number of school children in the Port Adelaide area, and I think half a dozen or so kids from maybe eight or nine different schools attended and participated in a round robin of learning activities about the habitat, the breeding cycle, the threats and a range of other issues about the dolphins.

It was really interesting to sit with the kids and to witness their enthusiasm and excitement about learning about their local environment. It seems to me that, if we can repeat this exercise on an annual basis and get all the kids from that district learning about their local environment, they will become very good environmentalists and they will be able to talk to their father, brothers, sisters, mother, uncles and everyone else in their family about the need to protect their environment.

I think that, through the educational aspects, we will achieve a lot of good. One of the key parts of this legislation is to try to educate the community, particularly the local community, about the needs of the dolphins and their environment. It is a complex location, which I think is the point the member for Mitchell was making. This is a highly complex location; much activity occurs there. It is important for our state's economy. We have shipping, a whole lot of industrial processes and tourism, and residential development is about to occur there as well. We need to take many things into account. We do not want to stop people doing those things. I think that it would have been impossible to obtain support for this legislation if we had tried to stop all those activities. This is a balancing act between the current activities and the needs of the dolphin.

The legislation will provide a focus for the needs of the dolphin as all these other activities are progressed, and we will have to continue to maintain that balance. A management plan and an advisory board will be established under this legislation. All these structures will help the minister of the day attend to all these issues. There are two other aspects to the legislation. One is the establishment of proprietary rights and certain paraphernalia and names associated with the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary. There is some intellectual property which we want to protect and I would hope, over

time, that that intellectual property can be exploited in a way which can generate some revenue which can be ploughed back into the local community and into the protection of that area.

We have had some informal discussions with local businesses, which I know are very eager to supply dollars by way of subscriptions or donations for the protection of the dolphins. They believe that they will obtain some benefits from doing that, and I think it can help the local economy by improving tourism outcomes in that area. The other point is that, as a result of this legislation, there is a significant increase in the fine that will apply to anyone who interferes with marine mammals—and that has been noted by the member for Davenport. The fine goes from \$30 000 to \$100 000. This package is about bringing together various powers which can be used to look after both the habitat of the dolphins and the dolphins.

In conclusion, I understand that the house does not wish to go into committee, so I will use this opportunity to express my thanks to my departmental officers for all the activity that they have undertaken, in particular to Mr Best—and I offer my congratulations to him for his recent award; under the honours system he was granted the Public Service medal for this year and it is a well-deserved award—and also Ms Rita Bogna, parliamentary counsel, for her assistance in preparing this legislation. As I said, I thank members of the house for their support.

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

STATUTES AMENDMENT (DRINK DRIVING) BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 28 October. Page 685.)

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): There are a few points that I would like to put on the public record on behalf of the opposition when it comes to the Statutes Amendment (Drink Driving) Bill 2004. There has been much debate about whether or not there should be opportunities for SAPOL officers to be able to breath test a driver whenever they see fit, not just at a random breath testing station, after an accident or any situation like that, but generally as police see fit. Of course, in the community, in the parliament and (rightly so) in our own party there has been debate about this matter. However, I am pleased to say that, after having healthy debate on the matter, and whilst some members of parliament have expressed to me certain concerns they have over aspects of this legislation—and I know that at least one of my colleagues will be moving some amendments—the principle of allowing police to breath test will be supported by the Liberal opposition.

Once this bill gets through parliament, if anybody out there thinks they can go down the back road on the way home or flout the requirements of drink driving, then there is probably more of a chance that the police will be able to catch them. Certainly, anecdotal evidence has shown that when legislation came in, part of which was agreed to nationally, where on certain designated days police were able to operate breath testing as they saw fit, they detected quite a number of drink drivers. These days, with mobile phones, UHF radios and the like, it is easy to send a scout out ahead, get advice that there is an RBT, sit in the pub until the RBT goes, then get a phone call from the scout advising that the RBT has

gone, and by then consume several more schooners of beer, jump in the car and home they go. For some that has been the practice for some time and, clearly, if this legislation passes the parliament, it is probably a practice that people would do best to forget in the future, because there may well be a local police officer who is working late that night.

However, I want mention a few things about which the opposition has concerns. The first is drug testing drivers. I commend to the member for Schubert, Ivan Venning, for pushing this, not only on his own behalf but also with the full support of the Liberal party.

Many of us have for some time expressed our concerns about illicit drug driving and there is a lot of evidence of the practice in recent reports from around the nation. I say illicit drug driving because if you are on prescribed drugs the doctor has generally discussed with you pretty much what you can and cannot do in terms of operating heavy machinery or driving. Of course, when you go to the pharmacy you also receive a sticker on the medication that tells you if there are matters that need to be addressed with respect to taking that prescription drug and then driving or operating machinery. Sadly, illicit drugs such as cannabis and amphetamines, in particular, are rife in South Australia now and their availability seems to be increasing. Therefore, given that Victoria has been able to lead the way, we are disappointed that South Australia is using the Victorian initiative as an excuse for not going faster in also bringing in drug testing for drivers.

I do want to raise some points but I do not want to spend all night on this because I am told there will be a reasonable amount of debate in any case, and I am sure most members, on their first sitting night, would like to be out of here before midnight if possible. So I will not discuss my amendment now in detail because I will go through it during the committee stage but I foreshadow, and I have advised the minister of, an amendment I am proposing. I know the minister has tabled amendments as well and, as I said, I know that at least one of my colleagues is putting in some further amendments.

However, I want to raise concerns about some other things. Interestingly enough, it was highlighted down in the Mount Gambier area, I think, in the last few days where people who were not actually police officers had somehow been able to get hold of some flashing lights or some other equipment to enable them to pull drivers over. In one particular instance it was reported they had a female come into the van. I understand that fortunately nothing untoward actually happened to that female but I am sure that country members, in particular, better than metropolitan members, understand what can happen in a rural area. Ideally we should have officially marked police cars. For a woman, and even for a man, it can be a scary experience if you are on a lonely road late at night and you get a car pull up alongside you with the lights flashing. If there is nothing to identify that it is an unmarked police car that can cause concern. In fact, an example has been put to me where a young lady experienced a lot of fear when that happened with an unmarked car late at night on a quiet country road.

Some people have discussed the fact that it should only be a uniformed police officer and a marked police vehicle, and that may be discussed further in this debate, but personally I do not have a problem with it being an unmarked vehicle provided that the officer is in uniform. Importantly—and I did speak to police about this and they were going to check—I ask the minister, if she has not already been advised, to seek an opinion on this to at least be able to advise the opposition before this debate goes to the Legislative Council, and that

is the question about having a luminous police sign as well as the small flashing lights on an unmarked car—which are not that visible, I have to say. Most of these unmarked cars have a visor on the back window and on the dash they just have a small red and blue flashing light. However, if they were to have a luminous sign that they could hold up that said 'Police', I think that would allay the fears of many. Years ago I know they used to have that. When I asked about it the police were not sure whether that is actually part of an unmarked vehicle today, and I would like an answer on that prior to this bill going to the Legislative Council, and for legitimate reasons.

I do not think that members are unreasonable when they raise these sorts of matters because, obviously, you have to take care in respect of those people who are out there driving around, particularly on our dark rural roads. As I said, the opposition has some legitimate concerns in respect of new section 47IAA, which deals with the power of police to impose immediate licence disqualification or suspension. I believe that it would be good in the interests of fairness with respect to this legislation if the minister and the government were prepared to wear this amendment, and I will talk in detail about that when we come to the committee stage.

With respect to this bill, after having said that the primary principle of allowing general breath testing at the discretion of police will be supported by the opposition, some other matters will not be supported. I will talk about that as we go through the committee stage. There is enormous concern about disqualification in respect of certain drink driving offences. In fact, a clause amends section 81 to provide that previously expiated offences will also count for previous offences for the purpose of the provision, and it lowers the threshold for application of the provision from two previous offences to only one. A decision has been made that the opposition will not support that particular clause and, again, I will speak to that in the committee stage.

I do not believe that that clause will have a big impact on the prevention of drink driving in any case, but it is a significant impost on people who may have inadvertently gone just to .05 on one or two occasions and have not had an opportunity to test themselves (which is something that I want to discuss in this debate in a moment), and suddenly they find that they are in a more serious situation when it comes to the loss of their licence as a result.

That brings me to the point that I think we need to be serious about two or three other matters other than just legislation ad hoc. I have been critical of what has been happening since Sir Eric Neal's road safety committee gave a significant number of recommendations to the government, whereby it has tended to roll these out on an ad hoc basis. Of course, the minister representing the government will say, 'No, that is all calculated and this particular initiative came out here for that reason.' I happen to be a little more cynical about it and believe that they actually rolled a lot of that out when it suited them on a quiet media day or when they wanted to get a specific piece of publicity.

I say to this house that if you were to go outside here tonight and ask the South Australian community what road safety initiatives and traffic amendments have been put to them over the past year—that is, different requirements on the drivers of motor vehicles—most of the community could not tell you what they were. We really should have had a good debate on all of the recommendations that Sir Eric Neal and his committee put up and had a package agreed to—a bipartisan package, hopefully—by the parliament and then

had that package properly and adequately marketed to the community, including putting that package out when you re-register your motor vehicle.

We have material that goes out when you re-register your motor vehicle. In fact, I had people raise concerns with me that recently Transport SA has been putting out with the material for re-registration an application for a Citibank credit card. Perhaps that is to assist with the payments or some suggestion around helping people to pay the exorbitant increases in motor registration. But I find it a little unusual that, when you get your re-registration of your motor vehicle, Citibank is there with the material saying that you should perhaps consider getting a Visa card from Citibank.

I know that agreements were put in place some time ago to push certain material to make money, and I think approximately \$200 000 a year came back to the government and went into the road improvement fund, as I understand it. An initiative that might talk about good seatbelts or good safety and such things is all right, but I find it a bit unusual to push a Visa card, given the problems that people have with plastic card management these days. I would much rather see a comprehensive package put in with the registration notice so that people know what the changes to the Road Traffic Act are and what their responsibilities are. On a counter and positive note, I acknowledge the initiative of the department in relation to boating, where the registration stickers remind you of your responsibilities in relation to drinking and driving and operating a boat, or being an observer in a boat. That is more proactive and sensible and would be a much better way to go, and I would like to see that thought through more.

In relation to the Productivity Commission report, we hear this minister (probably more than the previous minister) talking a lot about road safety and making announcements when children are going back to school and the like. I have no problem with that: I used to do that myself when I was minister. This minister is pushing that, yet the Productivity Commission report shows that this government spent less money per head of population on police in the past year. It is interesting that today, on that point, the government spoke about comparing apples with apples. The Productivity Commission report clearly compares apples with apples, and not only does it do that but it consistently compares those apples year in and year out state by state at the same given time. I find it cute that now the government says, 'But those figures are not accurate', yet this government when in opposition was very pleased to roll out the Productivity Commission report every time it was tabled and have a go at us because something in that Productivity Commission report showed that we were spending less or not doing something that we were doing the year before.

The fact of the matter is that the latest Productivity Commission report shows that this state is spending only \$230 per head of population on policing, and that is the lowest amount spent per head of population in any state or territory in Australia. However, we see a self-written report card rolled out by the government yesterday saying how tough it is on law and order and how good it is on police spending. I have never seen a student write their own report card, and I find it quite interesting that here we have a government writing its own report card. Well, I will look at the Productivity Commission report because that is independent of the government.

Not only does that report show the lowest spending on police per head of population but it also shows that we have had an enormous cut in spending on road safety in relation

to South Australia Police, and that is of enormous concern, particularly when we remember that the government in its own budget papers was looking to catch tens of thousands of additional motorists over this 12 month period and were actually right in people's faces with new speed cameras, mobile radar and red light cameras that also have the capacity to detect speeding. There was plenty on the revenue front but, according to the Productivity Commission report, there was a significant cut (I think around 20 per cent) in relation to road safety initiatives and police. That is something we will have to have a further look at.

The visual presence of police on our roads is paramount for road safety. We need a visual presence, not having speed cameras stuck down the bottom of a hill or hidden behind bushes and the sorts of things that we see, so that people know when they have gone past a speed camera or red light camera. I think there needs to be good visible signage reminding people that they are there. I challenge anyone to tell me, as they go through a set of lights, that they really know whether it is a speed camera or a red light camera. If you look very carefully amongst the jungle of signs, you might find the answer, but you never really know. I often look back and wonder whether it was a red light or a speed camera detection intersection. We need to be quite open about that, and it brings me to another point I want to raise.

In my opinion, it is time that the government and the parliament got serious about assisting people to ensure that they do not drink-drive. These days, you do not have to have consumed a lot of alcohol to receive an expiation notice at .05. It can depend on your size, how much food you have eaten, or whether you are tired. There are plenty of stories about people who have always been careful about their alcohol intake, and who believed that they stayed within the requirements of the standard drinks, only to find that they have gone slightly over .05. They have no real way of detecting that, other than sometimes in a hotel they may find a coaster that tells them the standard drinks they can have in an hour.

Some hotels have chosen to install alcotest machines, but these are not certified by the government. Often, they are not accurate; in fact, I have been advised that, more often than not, they are very inaccurate. I think that it is time that we had a system of proper certified machines, managed through licensed premises, so that people can legitimately check their alcohol level. If they discover that they are close to the limit, or, indeed, over the limit, they can ring for someone to take them home, or organise a taxi. In that way, you are being open and upfront with the community. There are lots of ways of eliminating drink-driving.

The counterargument is that that is a risky situation because, if you have just had a mouthful of alcohol and you blow into the machine, you will be over the limit. Sometimes, if you spray a breath freshener into your mouth and then blow into an alcotester, it will show that you are over the limit, yet all you have done is use an alcohol-based breath freshener. However, I do not believe that is a good enough excuse because, if the material tells you that if you have just had a schooner of beer you need to wait 10 minutes, you are notified of that. If, indeed, you then use the alcotester, you can do so with reasonable confidence. There can still be caveats, but at least you have a chance. At the moment, there is nothing available at all, and often that is when people who are not deliberately drink-driving get caught. That is another reason why I will not support the first amendment of this bill.

In summary, I acknowledge that this is an initiative to try to save lives. Sadly, I have attended the carnage of road trauma and fatalities, and I do not like it one bit, and nor do the police and the emergency services. It impacts on the hospitals and the community, and one can only imagine the impact it has on the family. As the minister pointed out today during question time, whilst the road toll was down last year, and we are all very pleased about that (although I would prefer it to be zero), the fact remains that a significant number of those who died had alcohol in their blood. Clearly, a percentage of people are not listening. For example, the other day I read in the paper of a gentleman in the North who blew .4 (how he was even alive is beyond me, because I thought you died with that much alcohol in your system) and, from memory, of a woman who blew .23.

Those are very high and alarming figures, and they indicate that, quite frankly, a few people do not give a damn about the rest of the community or about their own loved ones. They think that they are bulletproof, that they can drink to excess and jump in a car. If you do that, if you drive with alcohol in your system, the car becomes a weapon. I know from the statistics that I used to see as both police minister and emergency services minister that in road crashes—and I am sure this has not changed—a high percentage of people have reasonably significant to significant amounts of alcohol in their blood. I know that there is debate about below .08 and that there are papers that say that .05 is not a problem, but the fact is that under the legislation that is in place now an expiation notice is issued at .05. However, once you get over .08, all the information that I have read indicates that your driving judgment and behaviour is seriously impaired.

The ability to drive a motor vehicle is a privilege. If you cannot drive for a while, it is an incredible impairment on your life—mine included. You jump in your car every day, it is a tool of work, and you take it for granted; you do not think of it as a privilege, but it is a privilege to drive, and we should drive defensively on all occasions. We should be preventive in the way that we drive and proactive when it comes to trying to read what other drivers are doing. I hope we try to do that all the time, but if someone is happy to go to a pub and get off their face to the point where they are not able to control their vehicle, and they come around a blind bend on the wrong side of the road and wipe out you, your family or your friends, that is not acceptable and, although there are serious penalties, the bottom line is that we need to do everything we can to prevent drink driving.

I give credit to young people today. By and large, they are much more aware than our age group. I am not saying that they do not drink, I have observed that many of them tend to drink heavily on occasions, but they understand that they take their swag with them and camp overnight if they are drinking, or they get one of their friends who does not drink on that night to drive. Some members of previous generations have got into the habit of thinking it is all right to drink and drive, that they will get away with it. It is not all right. It takes only one split-second if you do not have proper control of a vehicle because you are intoxicated with too much alcohol and you leave people grieving for life, because of one stupid mistake.

That is why the general thrust of this measure will be supported, hopefully to get a message through to the community that, if you are going to drink and drive, you are better off to forget about it from the beginning because, if you do, under this aspect of the legislation the chance is that you will probably get caught. So, I personally commend this aspect of

the legislation to the house but, as I have flagged to the minister and my colleagues in the parliament, there will be some amendments coming through and we will debate them in committee.

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): I speak on behalf of the Greens in relation to the Statutes Amendment (Drink Driving) Amendment Bill. The Greens are not known to be conservative, but I am going to be conservative and speak up for two principles long valued in our society. One is the right of citizens to go about their business unrestrained by the forces of the state unless there is a reasonable suspicion of someone committing a crime or, to put it more broadly, of harming themselves or others or perhaps impending harm. Secondly, it is a fundamental principle of the way we have set up our society that the police are there to detect crime and detain suspects and bring them before the courts. It is then for the courts, which are separate from the executive arm of government, to administer punishment. It is fundamental that the police are not there to administer on-the-spot punishment.

These two principles, which have been valued in our society throughout Australian history and back into English history and the development of the common law, are contravened by this bill. That happens in two ways. First, police can stop anyone at any time and ask them to undergo a breath test. Of course, that is subject to there being a reasonable belief that the person is either driving or has driven a motor vehicle, or is attempting or has attempted to put a motor vehicle in motion. Within those parameters, police will be able to stop people at will. Furthermore, they do not need to be in a marked vehicle, so they can sneak up on you if they wish. If they choose not to be in a marked vehicle, the only requirement is that they wear a uniform. So, there is that safeguard, limited as it is.

Secondly, in relation to the principle that the police are there to detect crime, detain people and take them before the courts for adjudication and punishment, this bill brings in instant disqualification of licence, which has to be said, in our car driven society today, is a significant punishment. Of course, that act of punishment is reviewable before the courts. Nonetheless, it is a matter of people suffering punishment and then having to fight in the courts, predictably at some legal expense, to have the punishment overturned. Anyone who takes a traditional view of those rights of citizens in our society would be disturbed by those features of the bill.

I could suggest a few practical examples which highlight the problems. Let us say a woman is driving by herself on a deserted road, whether it be in the country or simply late at night in the city at 3 a.m. when no other cars are around, and a car comes up quickly behind her. It seems to be just another late model car, and she is concerned that it may be men up to no good, wanting to menace her for some criminal purpose. With the red and blue flashing lights that unmarked cars have, she may think that it is a police car. However, I have to say that those red and blue flashing lights are easy enough to obtain from any electronics shop around the city. It is one thing to impersonate a marked police vehicle, which is actually a difficult thing to do, but it is a relatively easy matter to impersonate an unmarked police car by adding red and blue flashing lights. A car that is not apparently a police car forcing a young nervous woman driver at night to stop on a deserted road can be an extremely disturbing experience.

Secondly, I take the example of the patron who comes out of the pub, knowing that he has had a few drinks. He gets into the car and starts the engine, and he thinks, 'Bloody hell, I

shouldn't do this. I've had a few too many. I'm going to turn off the engine and go back into the pub and call a taxi.' Well, the car next to him is an unmarked police car, and inside that car is an officer in uniform, who is able to get out of the car and say, 'I have a reasonable belief that you are attempting to put a vehicle in motion. I will now give you the appropriate directions to undergo a breath test.' That person, if they have the requisite amount of alcohol apparently in their system—and remember, it is unproven in a court of law, but apparently in their system—can then have their licence disqualified immediately. I see a problem in that, because there may be people caught whose intentions are innocent.

Thirdly, there is the potential problem of abuse through targeting. The minister must have consulted criminal defence lawyers around the state and magistrates and police officers and established that every member of our police force is above all forms of prejudice because, unless that is the case, there will be the risk that some police officers among our excellent police force might have a predilection for stopping young men with long hair, or people in powerful cars, or people in utes, or people who appear to be Aboriginal, or people who appear to be of a dark complexion who might be Asian or Middle Eastern or from one of the southern European countries. I would like to think that none of our police officers has such prejudices, and I look forward to the minister's assuring me that that is the case. But if it is not the case, there is that risk of groups of people being targeted. I am very attracted to the amendment that suggests that the Police Commissioner, I think, must prepare a report on the use of the provisions that are set out in this bill.

In summary, there are concerns from the point of view of the traditional rights of our citizens to go about their business unrestrained by the forces of the state if there is absolutely nothing in their behaviour or demeanour to suggest that they are committing a crime or have any intent of committing a crime. That is the basic principle that is contravened by this act. Secondly, the police being able to administer an effective and quite serious punishment on citizens before they have their opportunity to be heard in a court of law is another contravention of a fundamental principle that has applied in our society for a long time.

Of course we are all concerned about drink driving and about the deaths and the crashes that arise from drug abuse (in this particular legislation we are just talking about alcohol). Of course that is a concern to every one of us. But the potential for abuse through contravention of the principles that I have enunciated should equally be a concern for all of us.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I support the comments of the member for Mitchell. I do not share the same enthusiasm as the member for Mawson for some of these provisions, and I think it is time that this parliament carefully analysed what legislation it is passing and whether we are here initiating legislation as members of parliament or whether we are agents for and on behalf of the bureaucracy. Let us not make any mistake. Where does this legislation come from? Sir Humphrey Appleby and his band of willing helpers, who are always eager to impose their unwise and unnecessary actions upon decent, hard-working citizens of this state, who are going to be their victims again.

This has been dreamed up by the bureaucracy: people wanting to have more power. This is a revenue measure. For the life of me, I cannot understand why so-called responsible, sound people would want to enact provisions that take away

people's fundamental rights. This parliament has been setting out to make life as difficult as it can for people for too long. It is not the role of this parliament for people to wake up every morning and think: here we go again. We are all a bunch of fairly well paid people in comfortable surroundings, we are going to make life more difficult for a group of people, many of whom have difficulty sticking up for or representing themselves. You and I, Mr Speaker, know that if you are challenged by the government or its instrumentalities, you are at a grave disadvantage.

It is about time that this parliament woke up to itself and came to some sensible conclusions. When you arm a bureaucrat with this sort of power, most of them are well meaning but quite insensitive and some of them are quite arrogant and rude. Therefore, poor John Citizen can be driving home from a school council meeting perhaps at Pinnaroo, Orroroo or Peterborough, some 25 kilometres down the road, minding their own business, and up comes an unmarked police car. Imagine giving this sort of power to the police officer who caused all the trouble up at Burra; or to the woman you have at Peterborough at the present time. You are giving this sort of power to those people who are already on record as acting quite unreasonably and who need very sound supervision or they act unreasonably.

If drivers fail to stop, they have committed an offence. There is no defence in this legislation. I say to the minister, who would never have experienced that: how would she like to be driving home from a school council meeting somewhere like Peterborough and suddenly an unmarked police car pulls her up? Would she stop?

The Hon. P.L. White: Of course I would.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: Come on! Sir Humphrey has you well coached now. An unmarked car stopping you: not too many people would; and nor should they in a decent society. It is not the role of this minister or this parliament to empower people to carry on in this unreasonable fashion. Let me say to the house so that everyone can be clear: I am going to pay particular attention to any constituents of mine who come to me, who have been stopped when people have acted unreasonably, and I am going to name the policeman in this parliament. What other redress do they have? You, Mr Speaker, are the custodian of members' rights: what other rights have they got?

They do not have any, because you have placed them at a disadvantage. We are told that all these new penalties that people have had imposed on them are road safety measures but, every time anyone wants to lessen the effects of them, the Treasury jumps up and down. They are revenue measures. Let us not kid ourselves. If these are road safety measures, the minister will have no problem in supporting one of my amendments, which states that there has to be a sign when these speed cameras are in place. They are now putting speed cameras on the side of the road, covered over with canvas awnings.

Ms Bedford: To protect them.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: Goodness me: the honourable member has come forward with a brilliant interjection! It is nothing to do with protection: it is a method of hiding them. I thought we lived in a free, open and democratic society where people have rights; where it is not the role of the government, its agencies or instrumentalities (or others) to act secretly or improperly or to unreasonably interfere with people. And we are unreasonably interfering with people. Unlike the member for Mawson, if you represent a constituency like mine it is a necessity of life to be able to drive a

motor car. How do you get from A to B? You have fewer transport services available and now do not have buses even going to Wilpena.

There are fewer bus services, fewer air services, and we are doing our utmost to make life as difficult as possible for people, with unreasonable legislation. These provisions have been put up by the bureaucrats of the minister. For some reason, this government seems to be absolutely mesmerised by public servants and their suggestions.

When this measure does not have the success which certain people had hoped for, what is the next step the minister will take? How much further does the minister and her friends in the bureaucracy, as well as her parliamentary colleagues, want to go? How much further do they want to impede the welfare of the community? I am surprised that the backbenchers are sitting quietly, all with their arms folded with few obvious exceptions. I think that one honourable member will get up and read out a prepared speech to try to justify this action.

He will need to get up pretty early to do it, because when you intend to put these sorts of provisions in the statutes you want to have good reason. I say to the minister quite clearly that, if this is necessary, she must be prepared to accept some sensible amendments that will protect people. We want to know how often these particular actions will be taken. Let me say to the minister without fear of any correction that, because they are now hiding speed cameras, I have made up my mind that we will ask questions on notice about who is authorising these speed cameras. We can fill up the *Notice Paper* with questions and see how the Deputy Commissioner of Police likes answering them.

I will do it, make no mistake about that. I have a few ready to go now. The minister would also be bringing sensible, responsible and hard-working police officers unreasonably into confrontation with the community. I support a responsible policy on road safety. I support people being aware of their actions, but the government must also take some sensible steps. If you have large public functions and if the government intends to have breathalysers there, it is incumbent on the government to have available voluntary testing facilities—it is absolutely incumbent upon the government. We have had a real fight to get those at a couple of rodeos where young people congregate.

I want to know this because, of course, this minister will not be administering this act: it will be the Commissioner of Police. This minister will handball this piece of legislation to the Deputy Premier and that will be the last she will have to do with it. If we ask her a question in parliament she will handball it to the minister, but she has been the architect of this rather interesting set of proposals. I say to the minister quite clearly: what is the follow-up? Will it be extended to have breathalysers at these public functions to protect the public? If people wish to voluntarily test themselves they will know whether they have exceeded their limit. That is not unreasonable. It is a matter of commonsense and fairness for people who want to act responsibly. I think that not that long ago in the member for Schubert's electorate the police refused to do it on one occasion. We have had a bit of a box on over that. It should be broadcast over the loudspeakers that breathalysers will be in place. It is similar to the introduction of on-the-spot fines. Mr Speaker, as you know they were introduced to simplify things. We were told that they were not going to be handed out like confetti for every minor offence.

No, this measure was just to take the weight off the courts; it was just a simple thing. What has happened? They have been handed out like confetti—like pulling a ticket out of a raffle. That is how they have been handed out, and it has been a huge stream of revenue to the government. Now the minister expects us to believe that these other measures do not have an element of revenue raising. You would have to believe in fairies at the bottom of the garden if you believe that there was not that element. It is not our role to sit idly here and accept these propositions at face value.

As you know, Mr Speaker, it is our role to challenge the minister to front up and tell this parliament how these provisions intend to operate and the reasons behind them, to answer the criticisms and, hopefully, to see reason and accept some sensible changes to this unnecessary and draconian measure which this parliament is about to enact. These amendments that I have put forward in relation to a number of matters are fair and reasonable.

Mr Venning: As always.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: That is right. I have taken some time to study this particular document. What is wrong with this parliament being told exactly how many people are stopped at random and tested and divide it up into police districts? It is a fair and reasonable thing to do. We are entitled to know and then it will not be hard to work out which persons may be acting a little enthusiastically in these matters. They will know that at the end of the year, when the Police Commissioner is sitting with his august minister in great reverence to him in this chamber, someone may take the time to draw to his attention particular areas, which is all part of the democratic process of which I hope all members are proud. That is why this assembly meets to debate these issues and why we are entitled to challenge the government as we are entitled to have that knowledge. We are entitled to question regularly the commissioner and his minister on how they intend to exercise these needs.

The police have plenty of authority and powers to stop anyone now without going down this track. I have an amendment No. 9 dealing with signs. I indicated earlier that if these speed detection machines are a road safety measure the exercise is to get people to slow down; therefore there is nothing wrong with telling people these machines are there as that will slow them down if they are minded to act unwisely. Some time ago on certain highways signs were put up indicating that the highway was patrolled by a police patrol car. They thought it was a good idea. There was one at Butler Tanks at Lincoln Gap and at other places. I have not seen these signs for a considerable time. I do not know whether Sir Humphrey or his advisers think it is wrong to tell people. I am interested to know why the signs have been removed. I thought it was a particularly good initiative and whoever was responsible was acting in a commonsense way. I was rather disappointed. That is another area I think the minister ought to be aware of, because knowledge is a great thing and we should all be encouraged to be knowledgeable in those areas.

We have had the minister accepting all these recommendations. How many of these people live more than 200, 300 or 400 kilometres from Adelaide? I just wonder. How many kilometres do these people drive per year? I say to the minister and her adviser: do they drive 2 500 to 3 000 kilometres per week? I would think not. There are people who do.

Ms Breuer: That is irrelevant when it comes to drink driving—absolutely irrelevant. A drunk is a drunk, whether

they are in the middle of Adelaide or the middle of Oodnadatta.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I am delighted with the response from the honourable member. She complains when I talk about people breaking into people's homes and about disruptive tenants. I say to the minister: you want to stop someone at random with unmarked cars, but you have a current situation where people can have their cars stolen and the villains who steal the car can be back on the street before the victim can get the keys from the police station. Legal Aid is out there helping these scoundrels get back on the streets. One of my poor long-suffering constituents had two family cars stolen one night. One was smashed up. They went to the police station and Legal Aid was there getting these villains out of the lock-up, where they should have been left after the keys were thrown away, before she could get her car keys back. What sort of nonsense is this? We want to stop ordinary people being checked at random by unmarked cars, but we are letting people out of prison, who have broken into homes, stolen their cars, stolen their keys and thrown them on the roof in the middle of the night; and they think it is a joke that they terrorise people. They use cigarette lighters and go to their refrigerators. So, we ought to be dealing with the real villains, not stopping ordinary people at random.

The member for Mitchell was right when he talked about ensuring that the power of the police and the power of the state does not go too far. That is my objection: it is going too far. I support responsible road use. I suppose people in this parliament have driven a few kilometres. In my time I have. I got run off the road last week between Balaklava and Mallala and it was a frightening experience. I suppose I am on the road more than any other member in this chamber. I know what people do. We must be very careful that, when we impose conditions on people, we do not go too far. I say to the minister she should be very cautious.

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): I rise to support this bill. Studies into drink driving have consistently revealed the dangers that a driver under the influence of alcohol poses to themselves and the rest of the community. Research reveals that for every .05 increase in the blood alcohol concentration of a driver, the chances of crashing doubles. Thus a driver who has a blood alcohol level of .15 is about eight times more likely to be involved in a serious crash than a sober driver. Given the fact that drink driving poses such a fundamental threat to the life of persons within our community, it must be made clear to most members of the community that drink driving is not acceptable. Unfortunately, this message does not appear to be getting through.

The 2003 national report on government services shows that 12 per cent of South Australian drivers admitted to driving with a BAC above the legal limit in the previous 12 months. Furthermore, a survey undertaken by the Royal Automobile Association of South Australia and published in the October issue of *SA Motor*—I am a former editor of that magazine—found that more than half the respondents in the 16 to 25 age group living in Adelaide admitted to regularly drink driving. The survey also revealed that the rates of drink driving seem to be even higher in the country where almost half the people surveyed admitted to regularly drink driving.

A growth in complacency towards drink driving is verified by the dramatic increase in drivers who are caught drink driving. For instance, in 2004, 6 592 people were caught drink driving. This is a massive increase from the 3 871 people who were caught in the year 2000—it is a four year

gap and a virtual doubling in the number of people caught drink driving. The devastating impact that this increased rate of drink driving is having on the community is revealed by the large increase in the number of people who are killed with an illegal BAC. In fact, the number of people who were killed with an illegal BAC was 26 per cent higher in the year 2003 compared with 1998. This bill introduces important measures that will combat the apparent complacency towards drink driving which is developing within the community. These measures will provide the toughest approach to drink driving in the country, thereby ensuring the greatest deterrence for would-be drink drivers.

The effect of such legislation must not be underestimated. A tougher approach on drink driving will help save lives. The availability of unrestricted random breath testing for the police is an important measure that this bill introduces in the fight against drink driving. Hence this bill will remove the current limitations that are imposed on unrestricted mobile random breath testing thereby allowing police to pull over suspected drink drivers at any time and any place. Police figures reveal that mobile random breath testing is up to ten times more effective in detecting drink drivers than standard RBTs. In fact, the introduction of limited random breath testing is believed to be a major reason why around 1 500 more drivers were detected of drink driving in 2004 compared to the year before.

Therefore, this important measure will ensure that those people who choose to endanger lives by driving under the influence of alcohol are kept off our roads. An additional benefit of random mobile breath testing is that it is particularly effective in country areas where drink driving is such a major problem. A single police vehicle with the power to use mobile random breath testing could more effectively catch drink drivers who rely on remote alternative routes to reach and depart the local pub.

This bill also introduces much harsher penalties for those people who are caught with category 2 (a BAC of .08 to .0149) or category 3 (.015 and above blood alcohol concentration levels). Thus the bill will ensure that those people who are caught with a category 2 BAC will receive an immediate six-month licence disqualification, while those people who are caught with a category 3 BAC will receive an immediate 12-month licence disqualification. While these penalties may be considered tough it is believed that they are warranted when consideration is given to the significant threat that category 2 and 3 drivers pose to their own lives and the lives of the rest of the community.

The effectiveness of licence disqualification as a deterrent to would-be drink drivers is well documented. Therefore the threat of instant licence disqualification is believed to be an important measure that will ensure a decreased number in the number of people who choose to drive with an illegal BAC, therefore making our roads safer. Furthermore, the introduction of immediate licence disqualifications will put an end to the current system where offenders charged with a drink driving offence do not appear in court for weeks or even months during which time they can continue to drive. Accordingly, people who choose to engage in such dangerous behaviour will be taken off the roads immediately, reducing the likelihood of their reoffending.

Opponents of the bill who argue that immediate disqualification amounts to unnatural justice ignore many fundamental issues. Firstly, they ignore that breath testing has been proven to be extremely accurate, and that there are a number of different processes that the offender can choose to undertake

including a blood test that ensures that the offender is not inaccurately charged. Secondly, the bill does not remove the process for the accused to defend the charges in a court of law; thus there is still a right to apply to the Magistrates Court to have the suspension lifted or reduced. Finally, such opponents overlook the fact that a person who drinks and drives is acting in an extremely unjust manner by risking their life and the lives of other road users. Thus, such a bill delivers justice to the law-abiding road users by increasing their safety. This bill also introduces tougher penalties for those people who are consistently caught drink driving. Thus, those people who are caught more than once in a three-year period with a BAC level between .05 and .079 will incur a six-month loss of licence or can elect to be prosecuted.

I now address the widespread support that this bill has from the broader community. The introduction of unrestricted mobile breath testing and immediate loss of licence for drink driving with a BAC of 0.08 was recommended by the Road Service Advisory Council, which consists of senior officers from the Department of Transport and Urban Planning, SA Police, the Department of Education and Children's Services, the Department of Health, the Motor Accident Commission, the Royal Automobile Association and other important bodies in relation to road safety. In fact, the RAA's staunch support for the measures introduced by this bill was recently made clear by Chris Thomson—and I had the pleasure to work with Chris Thomson for a number of years when I was an executive with the RAA. When Mr Thomson was asked about the bill, he stated:

... we're (the RAA) very pleased to see that the government intends to introduce legislation that will see mobile breath testing operate full-time, that is something that we have been pushing for quite some time.

This bill delivers a strong message to the community about the inherent dangers associated with drink driving. The bill's objective is to deter people from drink driving, thereby making the roads more safe and protecting the lives of South Australians. I support the bill.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): As is often the case in this house, I always declare an interest in these matters and, being the member for the Barossa Valley and the Baron of the Barossa, I declare that I have more than a casual interest in this subject, particularly the consumption of alcohol and, more particularly, red and white wine. However, as a member of parliament, one has to be responsible. I do support my wine industry very strongly, and so should every member of this house because it is carrying the economy in this state and we lead Australia, particularly with the export push, which is what it is all about. In his advice to the Labor Party, Mr Robert Champion de Crespigny said that the way forward is through exports, and our wine industry is certainly showing the way. We should not put unnecessary impediments in its way.

Irrespective of that, I do support the principle of this bill, with much qualification and then subsequent amendment. I am happy that we hit drink drivers because they are irresponsible people, and we are all about protecting drivers, ourselves and our families. There are some idiots out there who do the wrong thing and they need to be detected. Currently they can get around the system because it soon becomes known where the breathalyser stations are situated, and with the use of a two-way radio they can avoid them. Certainly there is quite an elaborate network out there to do that. I am happy to look at the random side of that. However, as the

member for Mawson says, I would not let an opportunity like this go by.

We are going to hit drink driving hard, but what about the drug abuse drivers? We seem to be avoiding and forgetting them. I refer to the first two lines of the minister's second reading explanation in which he states:

Drink driving continues to account for just over one in four of driver and rider fatalities in South Australia. In the period 1994 to 2003, 29 per cent of drivers and riders killed had a blood alcohol concentration (or BAC) above the legal limit of 0.05.

The figure stated there is 29 per cent. Try 38 per cent who were drug affected. We are hitting drink drivers hard tonight, but what are we doing about drugs? Nothing. We are not even going to try to copy the Victorians.

We ought to be at least conducting an initial trial as they are doing. We should have something out there to put a deterrent in the way of these young hoons (and not so young) who drug abuse themselves and then drive their vehicles. Everyone knows the problem, but what are we doing about it? It seems to be too hard. The Victorian tests have shown that drug abuse by drivers is worse than drink driving. Their tests are quite clearly showing that. The breakdown is that one in 103 has a positive drug test, with one in 250 for drink driving. Not bad, is it? And we do nothing about it.

Why are we ignoring the drug driving problem? As I said, one in 103 are tested. Thirty eight per cent of people tested after an accident or a fatality have a drug other than alcohol in their system. That is in South Australia; they are our figures, not Victoria's. The Victorians did have some teething problems with their drug testing, as we all know. They should not have used the initial swab test to make an assessment until after the lab tests. They do that now, and we now have no problems. So why do we not mirror the Victorian legislation right now, and provide a disincentive for people to abuse drugs and then drive? There is nothing there now, and it is twice as bad as drink driving. How many people will die while the government dithers on this issue? I have my bill before this parliament. I am happy for the government to take over that bill. Amend it if you like; take ownership; make all your media—I do not care, do whatever you like, but this is my third attempt over two years to bring in this matter. It is getting more and more media play all the time, and still we do nothing about it. Here we are tonight, coming out very strongly on drink driving, and that is okay. This is an immediate and serious problem.

I agree with the member for Stuart on some of his concerns that he raised tonight, particularly in relation to using unmarked cars. I, too, would be very concerned on a country road. I do not think I would want to stop out there. Some six or months ago I was cruising down the road right out in the middle of the never-never between Marrabel and Kapunda at about 1 o'clock at night. It was a straight road, and all of a sudden on comes a flashing light in this car. But it was a police car. So I pulled over. He could not have had his speed machine on because I would have been gone, but he just got the little machine out, a mandatory period breath-testing station, and I blew zero—because it always is when I am coming south; it is not so good going north. Certainly, I had no problem with that because it was a police car. No problem. But if it was an unmarked car, and if you are a female, I reckon you would have some concern with that, because it is very isolated out there, a very dark night. There are no other cars on the road. I did not see a car for half an hour until I saw that vehicle there.

We need to clamp down on our drink drivers, but the problem is that, individuals, after having a couple of drinks, are not sure whether or not they are over the limit. Most of these people never intend to break the law; none of us do. How many of us in this house have got in the car thinking, 'God, I've had a couple, I think I'm okay, well I hope I'm okay,' and turn the key? None of us intend to break the law, but you do not know, do you? We are all affected differently by alcohol. It depends on your build, your metabolism, how long you have been drinking, what you have been drinking, and what you have eaten with it. There are so many imponderables that we really do have to make it more positive in relation to what we do. Because it is not an exact science we are all affected very differently by this. A lot of people are unsure, and they take the risk hoping, as I said, but not knowing if they are under the limit or not.

Under this legislation the penalties are pretty severe. Why can we not provide a breathalyser machine at every alcohol outlet—hotel, club or whatever, and the road fines would pay for it. It is all about revenue raising. Put some of the revenue into buying these machines. They are only about \$300 or \$400 each, and it could be a \$2 coin to operate the machine. I am happy to do that, to make it coin operated to help cover the cost of the police and/or the relevant authority coming around and regularly recalibrating that machine. But would that not be commonsense? Because you have had a couple, you go the machine, put in your coin, blow, and if it is safe I can get in the car. If it is not safe, you leave it right there and ring the taxi there and then. Isn't that commonsense? These machines are not expensive. We are talking about putting these breathalyser ignitions in motor cars. How expensive is that? That is okay, but what is wrong with putting these machines around where people can test themselves?

As the member for Stuart said, we had a confrontation in my electorate where some young people asked the police could they have a test please, before they got in their car. The police would not let them. I said, 'Hang on, this is ridiculous. You will ping them when they get in their car so why not do it beforehand so that they know?' But they did not do that and we had some quite strong words to say about it. The police should be empowered to allow a person who is not yet driving to undertake that test, particularly when asked. Why do we not do that? If the person has the test voluntarily, tests positive, and then goes ahead and drives then that person really is committing a serious offence—but at the moment we do not know that. Most are driving hoping that they are okay. How many members of this house have driven home hoping that everything will be okay? As members know, MPs without a licence—especially country MPs—are a huge impost.

If the government is dinkum and is not just revenue raising it should implement the provision of breathalyser machines where people can test themselves before going to their car. As members have said, there is no doubt that random breath testing will catch more people because people do not know where they are, but will this be an end to the breath testing roadblocks that we currently know? I hope it is not, because I think they have a place. They are very visible and people can see that this is happening, and that is a very important part of the education of responsible driving. I would like to add that I am happy with these random tests but I believe they should always be in a marked car. I am happy for a car to be half hidden, if you like, but when that light goes on the car has to be identifiable by the driver that it is a police vehicle.

A couple of flashing lights is just not good enough: anyone can put flashing lights on their car. It has to be an identified police vehicle.

I am happy to reservedly support this bill if the machines are supplied and if we also deal with drugs in exactly the same way with exactly the same penalties. I have to say that the Victorians have not got this right, because they are too soft with their penalties. At the moment, they get a fine of \$307 plus three demerit points, but that is it. There is no loss of licence and I do not believe that is right. Alcohol and drug testing need to be done in conjunction with each other. There is no problem with that. Members can see the Victorian signs up there, and I have a picture of 'Alcohol and Drug Testing. Prepare to Stop.' It is done together and we should be doing the same thing, sooner rather than later. I believe this will come but it should come now and not in three years' time.

I do not support the use of unmarked cars in anything that police do, particularly on country roads. As I said, I believe the member for Stuart is right so I hope his amendments are successful. We have to protect all those who use the roads, particularly our families, but we also cannot become a nanny state and put the fear of God into people when they have no real reason to be afraid.

Finally, I quoted that second reading speech and I cannot believe the government is still not acting on the drug scene, because it is a very serious matter. There was a very good article in the weekend *Advertiser* (I think it was on 5 February) written by Geoff Roach and I suggest the minister read it. It is exactly what I have been saying here for over two years. Is the government really soft on drugs? That comment has been made, but I certainly hope it is not. So with these many provisos I support the amended bill, remembering that responsible alcohol consumption should be promoted because in moderation it is good for you, particularly red wine. It is also good for industry, good for South Australia and good for the economy. I will see what happens with those amendments, but with those provisos I will support the bill.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher): I support this bill. There is, I guess, always a trade-off between so-called freedom of the individual and irresponsible activity that impinges on the rest of the community. I think it is unfortunate that the opposition has traditionally opposed many measures which could have saved the lives of a lot of country people, and I guess it is principally because of the country linkage. We all know from statistics that a lot of the people who are dying on our roads are unfortunately country people. A lot of people for some reason best known to themselves even today refuse to wear a seat belt and do not seem to understand the basic laws of physics that, when the car stops, you do not if you are not restrained with a seat belt. I have heard of many cases even in recent times when people, particularly in country areas, have not been wearing seat belts and have paid the ultimate price. I cannot understand why members opposite do not want to be part of saving the lives of their fellow country citizens, and I would have thought that that would have been very high on the priority list.

I have been involved in some of these discussions going back over time and, whenever there is any suggestion of random breath testing or radar cameras being used in country areas, there is an outcry that somehow this is outrageous. Well, what is more outrageous is the loss of life in country areas in particular. If anyone looks at the statistics I defy them to come up with any other conclusion than that a lot of country people are dying unnecessarily every day on the

roads. If you look at the history of road safety measures, there is always someone who has been opposed to any measure which restricts individual freedom, as they see it. Seat belts were opposed; drink driving restrictions were opposed; helmets for cyclists and motorcyclists were opposed. We had people saying, 'Free to choose.' Yes, free to become a paraplegic! Then they say, 'Look, that is our choice.' Yes, but who is going to support you when you are a paraplegic or a quadriplegic? They want others to support them. Consistently, people have been opposing these measures over time and, if they had been in place, we would have saved literally thousands of people throughout Australia, because the road toll I believe now exceeds the toll of people killed in the wars.

No-one would suggest that we have the same standard that applies in the air in regard to aviation safety standards but, if we did, hardly anyone would be killed on our roads. I was at a function on Saturday night talking to a pilot, Eric, who flies for a regional airline here, and the amount of scrutiny, testing and compliance that a pilot has to continually undergo where they are transporting people on a passenger flight is quite horrendous, and justifiably so. Apparently a death from an air disaster is seen as more important or significant than if you are killed on our roads. I have never understood the logic of that. I would have thought that if you are dead as a result of an aeroplane accident you are just as dead as if you are killed on our roads. But what we have on our roads is *laissez-faire*, slapdash, almost anything goes and people regard it as their entitlement. Every day, as we heard the member for Stuart say, people are trying to force him off the road because we still have a sloppy system when it comes to driver testing and training and the application of rules as they apply to people on our roads.

The member for Schubert made a good point in relation to alco-testing machines being available at licensed premises and licensed activities. I think it should not be beyond the scope of the people who run those establishments or functions to provide a modern day version so that patrons can test to see what level of alcohol is in the blood. I would have thought that was a smart thing to do. He also alluded to the fact that the impact of alcohol varies according to people's metabolism and so on. So, I think that in spite of a lot of education and awareness people need to know—especially the suppliers to young men and women—the impact of alcohol consumption.

I know of a constituent who consumed a lot of Angostura Bitters thinking it was non-alcoholic but found out, to their cost, that it is alcoholic and quite high in alcohol content. Young women need to be aware, because of their metabolism and body mass and so on, that they are very vulnerable to alcohol intake. Likewise, young men seem to think it is a macho thing to drink products which have a high concentration of alcohol. There is still a long way to go in terms of awareness and education.

The member for Schubert said that drugs are a problem. We know they are a problem, and I believe that that issue will be addressed shortly by the minister. I have to say, not because she is sitting here, that I think this minister has probably done more in terms of road safety than many ministers collectively over the past 10 years, and I give her full marks for that. I believe this process is proceeding. I think Sir Eric Neal and his committee are doing a great job, but it is not helped by people here and in another place who seem to want to hinder and restrict measures which will save lives, particularly in country areas.

I was talking to a senior police officer today who would be known to many people here who said he was puzzled why the Liberal Party and Liberal MPs consistently oppose things such as random breath testing and the use of radar in country locations. He just could not understand it. I asked him why the police do not get a bit more innovative and use vehicles other than the standard Holden and Falcon for radar protection. He said that there has been resistance particularly from opposition MPs over a period of time.

The Queensland police are very innovative, which is probably why they catch a lot of hoon drivers. I had a briefing up there just before Christmas with the officer in charge of traffic for the whole of Queensland and he said they have no problem with using utilities with trail bikes in the back. They use all sorts of vehicles and they catch people. They get in amongst the hoons in vehicles similar to what the hoons use and book them. We seem to be reluctant here to be innovative, and I think the police are held back because they feel that, if they are innovative and have a radar gun attached to a Mack truck parked in a street, there will be an outcry from someone in this place, and I think that is very unfortunate. I think they should be able to use all legitimate means to catch people who are speeding and drink driving, because the basic rule is do not break the law and you will not have a problem.

I have given the minister a copy of the approach in New Zealand, because I have had frequent dealings with the police there. They are very innovative and do not muck around. They suspend your licence immediately for 28 days if you are caught drink driving at more than double the legal alcohol limit. There is a lot of material from there which says that each year around 8 000 drivers are convicted of drink driving offences involving alcohol levels of more than twice the legal alcohol limit; in terms of speeding, 1 800 are caught driving more than 50 km/h above the speed limit; and 1 600 refused to provide a blood sample. They all automatically and immediately lose their licence for 28 days. I was interested to read in the material they sent that an appeal on the ground that roadside licence suspension will cause undue hardship will not be accepted.

So, they do not pussy foot around in places such as New Zealand. They are far ahead of us in road safety in terms of a whole lot of measures. They do not allow teenagers in cars as a group late at night. They have a lot of sensible things which save lives and are shown to work, as do some of the states in the United States. We have been behind the eight-ball here for a long time, and I find it puzzling that random breath testing or speed camera detection are somehow an evil activity. If you do not speed, and you do not consume more alcohol than you should, you do not have a problem.

The point about drugs made by the member for Schubert needs to be addressed, but it is illogical to argue that, because the problem of drugs is yet to be addressed, therefore, we should not deal with a known problem—namely, drink-driving. It is the same as saying that, because we know that a lot of killing is going on in a suburb, we will not deal with bank robbery, which we can deal with on a more immediate basis. It is illogical and does not stack up. We need to deal with drink-driving, where people put others' lives at risk, but we also need to deal with drug affected driving, and that will be done.

The reason for the recent kerfuffle in Victoria was that the police did not carry out the testing in the way that they should. I know a little about this incident because one of my constituents has a business testing for drugs in work prem-

ises, and he said that the statistics are pretty horrifying. He told me that a lot of people, including bus drivers, just resign on the spot as soon as they are told that all the employees will be tested. Apparently, throughout this state, drug taking is absolutely rife in industrial workplaces—in fact, probably to the point of being out of control. I talk to young people who say, 'We're not drug users, because we use them only at the weekend. We're recreational users.' I think they should spell 'recreational' with a 'w' rather than with an 'r'.

The fact that drug-affected driving is rampant in our community (and the figures from Victoria suggest that even more people are killed by that than drink-driving) should not deter us from taking action against drink-drivers. We know how to deal with it. We have demonstrated techniques that are accurate; therefore, we should do something about it. Scientific drug testing is now available, and it can be implemented. I think there is reason for the government to proceed, but with some degree of caution in order to ensure that the drug testing is accurate and fair.

I understand that the test of the driver who created the fuss in Victoria was pretty accurate, because it showed that he had been affected by marijuana over the previous fortnight. However, I am told that the police got it wrong in the way that they tested for some of the drugs, because they held the slide vertically instead of horizontally. I would have thought it fairly elementary that, if you are testing for saliva, you would hold the slide in the horizontal position. People should not be deterred by what was an unfortunate introduction in Victoria.

Referring to the essential elements of the bill, any measure that tries to deal with the misbehaviour of a minority will always restrict the vast majority, who are good, decent people. I do not want to see anyone killed on the roads. In 1990, I had the unfortunate experience of a young nephew, who lived in the country, being killed. I do not want to see that happen to anyone else but, sadly, it happens every day, and people regard it as a statistic. I can tell you that the family never gets over it. The other day, a chap from the Riverland rang me to say that, 15 years ago, his son, who was training to be a triathlete, was run over on the Sturt Highway, and it still haunts him to this day. Someone was driving carelessly, possibly affected by alcohol, and ran over his son, and the family will suffer forever and a day.

This measure may not be perfect, but I think it is a big step forward. There will be some sacrifice in freedom, but I am happy to see that sacrifice if it means that others have the freedom to live.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): The road toll is a serious business, something which parliaments and governments should address. I do not have a problem with the introduction of measures which some might call draconian if they will address the road toll and seek to stop people taking to the roads in motor cars in a condition which makes them a danger to themselves and others. I have no problem with that; I never have and I never will. I have raised a family of four children. How could I suggest that we should have our roads unsafe for people to use? However, I do not think this measure addresses the problem. Worse than that, by doing some of the things that we tend to do in this state we think we have addressed the problem, and then we take our eye off the ball and the real problem continues. I think that is the case with regard to this measure.

The member for Stuart, whose contribution encouraged me to come down here and join in this debate, talked about

some people who have vast experience on our roads. He is one of those people—and there are a few in this place—who travel large distances and spend many hours of the week behind the steering wheel of a motor car. This teaches you a few things. One of the things that it has taught me in recent years is that there is nothing like experience. We are continually making it more and more difficult for young people to gain experience. Because somebody suggests that young people feature more highly in the statistics than they should, we think the way around that is to stop them driving. That is the direction in which we have been moving for a number of years.

I argue that the way around it would be to give young people greater exposure on our roads, greater experience of handling a motor vehicle and the sort of things that might confront them on our roads, and make them into better drivers, but I believe that we tend to do the opposite. Consequently, we now have 20-year-olds who have the

experience of handling a motor vehicle which 15 to 20 years ago an 18-year-old might have had. In a few years' time, we will say that 20-year-olds are featuring too highly in the statistics and we will raise the bar again. I know that this bill is not about driving ages, but I am using that as an example of where we are heading.

The same thing happened with drink driving. In no way do I support someone hopping into a motor car and driving in a condition where they cannot operate that car effectively or efficiently. My argument is that we have gone down the line of saying that somebody who has had a couple of drinks is a drunk. That comment came from the other side of the chamber a while back. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m. the house adjourned until Tuesday 8 February at 2 p.m.