

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 3 May 2006

The **SPEAKER (Hon. J.J. Snelling)** took the chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

MARION SWIMMING POOL

A petition signed by 7 234 residents of South Australia, requesting the house to urge the government to keep the Marion outdoor pool in Hendrie Street, Park Holme open for public use regardless of the development of a new pool at the domain site, was presented by the Hon. P.F. Conlon.

Petition received.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

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

Leave granted.

The **Hon. M.D. RANN**: All assaults and violent criminal offences against a person are repugnant. Sexual assaults including the rape of women and children are particularly repugnant. The horror of sexual assault leaves the victim deeply traumatised and vulnerable. The criminal law and the criminal justice system generally must, in my opinion, become even more sensitive to the victim's needs. The law must ensure, so far as practicable, that the criminal justice system does not contribute to further traumatising the victim. I am informed that conviction rates for rape and sexual assaults are significantly lower than for other types of offences.

Information published by the Parliamentary Review Committee shows that the conviction rate for all reported allegations of rape in 2002 was 1.8 per cent. I am told that in the same year the Office of Crime Statistics and Research reports show that only 17.6 per cent of rape cases that were referred to court resulted in a conviction. The conviction rate is unacceptably low and indicates that there are significant systemic problems and difficulties in prosecuting rape cases. There is a pressing need for reform and we owe it to the victims to get it right.

In November 2005, the government announced it would pursue a comprehensive overhaul of South Australia's rape, sexual assault and domestic violence laws to build on the legal reforms already approved by the government. I reported the government's intentions to parliament at the time. As a result, the government appointed a well-respected former prosecutor and current member of the independent bar, Ms Liesl Chapman, to investigate the existing law and procedures, and make recommendations for change. Ms Chapman completed her report and discussion paper earlier this year and has made recommendations involving major changes and reforms to rape and sexual abuse laws. The discussion paper identifies scope for reform in:

- Pre-recording children's evidence, including examination-in-chief and cross-examination, for use later at trial to overcome evidentiary difficulties caused by delays;
- creating a specialist division of the District Court to hear matters relating to the sexual abuse of children;
- replacing the offence of 'persistent sexual abuse' with a new offence of involvement in a sexually abusive relationship with a child, to overcome inherent difficulties in

proving specific acts of sexual abuse of a child over a protracted period;

- ensuring in legislation that consent to sexual activity means free and voluntary consent, not acquiescence under the threat of harm, deprivation of liberty or while unconscious, drugged or asleep;
- extending criminal culpability for rape to cases where the victim did not consent and the offender did not bother to consider whether the victim was consenting or not;
- allowing courts to admit similar fact evidence in more cases and to try cases together where the offender's propensity to commit sexual offences is relevant to the trial;
- preventing judges from giving inappropriate warnings about the evidence of alleged victims of sexual offences where there has been a delayed complaint.

The proposals provide a sound basis for reform, and the government has released the discussion paper for consultation.

Mr HANNA: On a point of order, is it out of order for the Premier to refer to the Legislative Review Committee falsely as the parliamentary review committee?

The **SPEAKER**: It is not.

The **Hon. M.D. RANN**: I concede that this is a matter of great substance for the honourable member. He obviously cares deeply about this issue, and I apologise if I gave the wrong title to a committee.

Members interjecting:

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The Premier will take his seat. I remind all members that points of order should not be trivial.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE STAFF

The **SPEAKER**: I inform the assembly that the Parliamentary Librarian (Howard Coxon) has retired, and that the Leader of Hansard (Joan Richards) is on leave until her retirement in a few weeks' time. They have been the chief officers of their divisions for 23 and five years respectively, and Joan was also a reporter, editor and deputy leader over 23 years. These are significant periods of service, and the wealth of experience the officers brought to their roles will be missed. Howard Coxon has supervised major rationalisation of the collections and guided the library through great technological and other changes in the way it meets the needs of members.

Joan Richards has overseen difficult but necessary development in the implementation of new technology, operating systems and staffing arrangements for the delivery of Hansard services during her time as leader. Until the positions are permanently filled, Jenni Newton-Farrelly is Acting Librarian and John Clarke is Acting Leader of Hansard. I am sure that all assembly members join me in wishing Howard and Joan good health and happiness in their retirement.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): I bring up the first report of the committee.

Report received.

QUESTION TIME

COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition): In regard to mental health, will the Premier advise the house what new or extra powers Commissioner Cappo will have that the Minister for Mental Health with not have?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I know that the Liberals spend most of their time attacking each other, but we now know that they are going to be attacking Christian leaders in this state as well.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: On a point of order, the Premier is—

The SPEAKER: I think I know what the point of order is. The Premier has to address the substance of the question and not make allegations.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition is delighted that we are putting more money, more effort and more commitment into mental health compared to when he was in government. I am pleased that Monsignor David Cappo has agreed to take the position of Commissioner for Social Inclusion to reinforce this government's commitment to the social inclusion agenda. By the way, I was tipped off that the honourable member was going to ask the question. Yesterday he attributed to me a speech that I did not actually give in terms of something that he got from 5AA, apparently. That is the depth of his research team. Again, it is laziness. You have to put the work in. But Monsignor Cappo's contribution to social policy in South Australia is highly regarded across all sections of the community because of the independent, frank and fearless way he goes about providing advice to government.

In the independent advisory capacity of a commissioner, he will continue to chair the Social Inclusion Board; however, as commissioner he will have increased access to the bureaucracy to ensure the government's agenda is progressed. Rather than being an adviser to the government, rather than being an adviser on Excomp—both of which he has performed brilliantly over the past four years—he will have the independence of a commissioner to do the job.

In the independent advisory capacity as a commissioner he will, however, continue to chair the Social Inclusion Board. The Commissioner for Social Inclusion will ensure the continuation and building up of the joined-up approaches that have been so successful in ensuring much better outcomes in the areas that social inclusion deals with. Let us have a look at the achievements of the Social Inclusion board chaired by Monsignor David Cappo.

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Point of order, the deputy leader.

Ms CHAPMAN: The proposal in relation to significant highlights of this board are completely irrelevant to the question, and I ask that—

The SPEAKER: No.

Ms CHAPMAN: The question was as to what extra powers Commissioner Cappo has.

The SPEAKER: Order! The deputy leader will take her seat. It is not a point of order. The Premier is in order.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I enjoy the deputy leader's Sergeant Pepper approach to question time. But, anyway, over the past four years the social inclusion initiative of the government has delivered significant outcomes for some of the most disadvantaged people in this state, beginning with

reducing rough sleeping. Social inclusion programs have already resulted in over 750 homeless people being provided with accommodation and over 2 450 people at risk of homelessness prevented from losing their accommodation. School retention rates are improving. The social inclusion year 12 retention program contributed to this significantly in 2005. It has supported over 700 young people to complete year 12, who were otherwise likely to drop out before the end of the school year. Social inclusion is now part of the fabric of the public sector's approach to delivering services.

Monsignor Cappo has not been afraid to challenge the government and he has done so publicly—I would have thought that members opposite would have enjoyed and appreciated that—on the hard issues that we all face, and this continues to be appreciated.

On mental health, Monsignor Cappo is a member of the *beyondblue* board and works closely with the Hon. Jeff Kennett, former Liberal premier of Victoria, in promoting and progressing work in the area of depression and mental health. If you do not appreciate Monsignor Cappo's contribution to this state, go and ask Jeff Kennett, the former Liberal premier of Victoria. Ask Jeff Kennett what he thinks of David Cappo and his great service to our state and our nation. Monsignor Cappo is passionate about improving the delivery of mental health services and has been and will be working closely with the Minister for Mental Health to progress this work. The Social Inclusion Board is working with representatives of key consumer, professional, Aboriginal and non-government sector organisations to develop a plan of action for the government's consideration. The work is being informed and influenced by the views of more than 800 South Australians who participated in a phone-in and online survey conducted by the Social Inclusion Board. Making him a commissioner gives him the resources and clout he needs to continue to work for dispossessed South Australians and help the mentally ill, which members opposite do not give a damn about.

FRINGE FESTIVAL AND WOMAD

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): Can the Premier provide the parliament with a report on the success of the 2006 Festival Fringe and WOMAD?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I am delighted to.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: WOMAD?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is answering the question. The Premier.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: No, it wasn't actually. In 1992; we were actually in power then and I remember this brilliant young minister who was responsible at the time. Anyway, I thank the member for her question. I am very pleased to be able to report that the 2006 Festival of Arts, Fringe Festival and WOMAD were all a resounding success and are going from strength to strength. The 2006 Festival of Arts offered a diverse and challenging program this year, which was met with widespread critical acclaim. The spectacular opening event, *Il Cielo che Danza*, attracted massive crowds to Elder Park, with approximately 150 000 people attending over the three nights.

In total, the festival attracted around 500 000 people. Over 35 performances were sold out and there was an 18 per cent increase in tickets sold. The total income generated will not

be available until the final audit. However, box office income for festival-produced events has increased by approximately 20 per cent on 2004 figures and 123 per cent on 2002. The 2006 festival is expected to realise a break-even result in line with the budget. Once again, the festival attracted significant numbers of visitors from around the country and overseas, with approximately 20 per cent of tickets sold to people residing outside this state. Kate Gould, former program manager of the festival, has recently taken up the position of general manager and associate artistic director; and she will be working closely with the artistic director, Brett Sheehy and the board to plan the 2008 festival, which will mark the 25th anniversary of this major event in our arts and tourism calendar. Of course, the 25th anniversary of a biennial event means that it is its 50th year.

The 2006 Adelaide Fringe was also an outstanding success, selling 182 622 tickets through its own Fringe-tix ticket outlets: 2.6 per cent higher than 2002 and 20.4 per cent higher than 2004. This result does not include door sales or tickets sold by other agencies for Fringe events, I am told. The 2006 Fringe had 465 registered events compared with 427 in 2004. More than half these were home-grown South Australian acts. It is estimated that around 100 000 people attended the Fringe's opening night parade and party, with me and the former leader of the opposition. Approximately 40 000 enjoyed the Fringe's Family Day and International Buskers Festival. There were also excellent attendances at the Fringe's visual arts exhibitions. A break-even budget result is expected for the Fringe, but again cannot be confirmed until audited.

The Fringe has been such a success that I am very pleased and excited to advise the house that we intend to make it an annual affair. We have made WOMAD an annual event. We are now making the Fringe an annual event and, of course, in alternate years—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Hear, hear!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —to the Adelaide Festival of Arts, we have the Adelaide Film Festival which is one of the few festivals in the world that actually commissions films from go to whoa. I can see that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: I am excited.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —is excited and I know that he has aspirations, maybe in a decade or so, of being the Minister for the Arts. Already Kathie Massey as acting CEO of the Fringe, the newly appointed artistic director, Christie Anthony, and the board have commenced the planning process for a fringe event in 2007.

The 10th WOMAdelaide Festival surpassed all previous records, with overall attendances peaking at 75 000 over the three days. Over 420 artists from as far afield as Japan, South Africa, Iraq and India charmed and entertained enthusiastic crowds in Adelaide's magical Botanic Park. Survey data is still being analysed, but initial indications are that over 35 per cent of the ticket buyers were from interstate. WOMAdelaide took over \$2 million at the box office and a break-even result is expected. Our WOMAdelaide is the best WOMAD in the world.

COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition): My question is again to the Premier. What information will Commissioner Cappo now get access to as Commissioner for Social Inclusion that he could not get access to as member of

the Executive Cabinet Committee or chair of the Social Inclusion Board?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I know that they do not like each other, but they do not like the church leaders of this state either. Who will they not try to undermine? Yesterday, I read out what they said about each other—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a point of order.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Mr Speaker, the Premier is continually misrepresenting the opposition's position in relation to church leaders.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier must answer the question: he cannot debate it. The Premier.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Monsignor Cappo will have access to government departments, as well as having access to all the systematic pieces of government material. He will be able to work with the heads of the departments to bring them even closer together. We are giving David Cappo greater influence and power to get on with the job which he has been doing so well and which, quite frankly, we have been exploiting him with over the last four years in terms of working tirelessly for the people of this state and, in particular, working tirelessly for the most under-privileged of this state.

It is very interesting that the leader does not say that when his party appointed a multicultural affairs commission it did not have a commissioner—that was his government—or an equal opportunities commissioner. This gives him the official status and clout to get the job done for the most disadvantaged. Members opposite might try to undermine each other and they might try to undermine Monsignor Cappo, but they will not get away with it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is debating the question. The member for Giles.

ELECTRICITY, ROXBY DOWNS

Ms BREUER (Giles): Will the Minister for Energy advise whether there have been sudden and significant increases in electricity charges at Roxby Downs?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): I thank the member for her question, because I understand the concerns she has for those people. I am sure that her concern would have been exaggerated by some quite ridiculous claims made by the member for Waite, the shadow minister for energy. In fact, on 27 April, he claimed—

Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: No, wait, you are going to love this, Martin. He claimed that there had been sudden and significant increases in electricity charges at Roxby Downs.

Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: No, we will get to this. Don't you worry, you will have plenty of time. We will get to this. He claimed that there had been sudden and significant increases in energy charges there. He put out the press release and went on to say that the local member, Lyn Breuer, had done nothing about it. He then went on to say that the government should do something about it, and then implied that, with a big mine coming, we had not done sufficient infrastructure planning at Roxby Downs. Why anyone would

want to talk down such an important project for South Australia amazes me.

The problem is that if the shadow minister had made a simple phone call to the council before he put out the press release—

Mr Hamilton-Smith: He did.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Well, he did, did he, and he just went ahead and did it anyway? He did ring them, but he went ahead and completely misrepresented—

Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: There are a lot of facts here for you, mate, just you pay attention. What happened at Roxby Downs in terms of power in January—and there were large bills; and, as I understand it, the local member took a lot of calls from people. However, the difference between her and the shadow minister is that she addressed them factually. What happened up there was that, because of a change in metering, that period of metering was longer; and something that not even the grand member for Waite can control, it was a hotter than usual January with larger use and therefore bills were larger.

If he had checked out what the government should do about prices he would have found that by law the council is not allowed to put up prices except in relationship to the grid. He would have found that there had been an increase in price of 3 per cent, notified in September. He would have found that under law the council is not allowed to make a profit on electricity. But he would have found out one more astounding fact: that the increase of 3 per cent gave them a charge for electricity in January of 17.5¢ per kilowatt. Now, maybe the shadow minister would like to tell us how that relates to the standing tariff in Adelaide at that time of year, because that charge is 19.5¢ per kilowatt.

So, what he is complaining about is that they paid 2¢ less than the metropolitan area. That is why it is important that you check your facts before you embarrass yourself in an attempt to embarrass the government. This is the same bloke who said that the buses and the trains are not safe and that the electricity prices have gone up. Iain has that look in his eye again. Be careful this time because it might be a two-man attack, not just one. Be very careful, Iain. Obviously this man will do anything to get attention, but he has to get a few facts on the record first.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition): Does the Treasurer stand by his statement to Matthew Abraham on 16 March 2006 that he would not fund extra doctors, police and teachers by getting rid of other Public Service jobs? On ABC Radio on 16 March the Treasurer is quoted as saying, 'That is, 400 police, 100 teachers and 400 new medical specialists.' Matthew Abraham asked the question, 'And you won't fund those by getting rid of other jobs?' The Treasurer responded, 'No.'

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer): I have more than adequately covered that in my ministerial statement, and I have answered a whole series of questions that I have been asked both in the media and in this chamber.

SECURITY LICENSING

Mr KENYON (Newland): My question is to the Attorney-General. What have been the results to date of the Rann Labor government's tough new laws for crowd controllers?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): Last year the government amended the Security and Investigation Agents Act to introduce new stringent requirements for security agents and, in particular, those entitled to act as crowd controllers. Members opposite were in government for eight years and chose not to respond to the influence of bkie gangs in the crowd controlling industry. I was startled when informed by police in mid 2002 that about 80 per cent of crowd controller firms had links to outlaw motorcycle gangs. Our new law took effect on 8 December last. The laws were designed to address public concern about problems in the security industry—first, about unjustified violence by crowd controllers against members of the public and, second, about the infiltration of the vocation by bkie gangs that were suspected of using crowd controllers as a means to commit crimes, notably, the distribution of illegal drugs through licensed premises.

One of the government's reforms is the fingerprinting of all security agents and applicants for security agent licences so that their full criminal history in Australia can be examined. To date, fingerprints have been collected from 396 licence holders or applicants for licences. Another measure is the random drug and alcohol testing of crowd controllers. Testing began earlier this year, and I now have some results for the house. So far, police have conducted a total of 38 drug tests and 332 alcohol tests. Initial screening suggests that five of the drug tests were positive but results of laboratory analysis are awaited. Four people have failed or refused to submit to drug testing. Of those tested for alcohol consumption, only one has proved positive so far.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs has also noticed that about 12 previously licensed security agents have chosen not to seek renewal this year of their entitlement to work as crowd controllers—that is, 12 crowd controllers have let their licences lapse. I am certain that the prospect of increased scrutiny by the government and police have contributed to the decision by some of them not to renew.

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: The member for Heysen is exactly right, thank you. Another aspect of the reforms is that crowd controllers who are charged with security offences will have their licences suspended and, on conviction, cancelled. So far, suspension notices have been issued for nine security agents who have been charged with offences.

In about 25 matters there appear to be cause for disciplinary action against current holders of security agents' licences, and these are being examined by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs with a view to court action. One instance of suspected identity fraud by a person with a criminal record attempting to obtain a licence has also been uncovered and is presently under investigation.

PUBLIC SERVICE CUTS

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Treasurer. Did the government rule out further public sector cuts during pre-election negotiations, as claimed by the Public Service Association General Secretary, Jan McMahon? *The Australian* newspaper on 22 February 2006 quoted Jan McMahon as stating that the Labor government had ruled out further public sector cuts during pre-election negotiations.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer): In my last press conference, I think (and I am sure that media around this chamber are in a much better position to look at their tapes),

when I talked about costings, I was asked by a journalist whether I ruled out the use of voluntary separation packages—

The Hon. I.F. Evans: What did you tell Jan McMahon?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Do you want the answer?

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer has the call.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Thank you, sir. I said in my press conference that I do not rule out (or words to that effect) the use of voluntary separation packages, because that is a necessary tool (for want of a better word) for work force and budgetary management by government.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I had no discussions with Jan McMahon during the election campaign. Any discussions that may have occurred between government and the PSA I would assume would have contained the obvious point that the government would not rule out the use of voluntary separation packages, because that is something that I said on the record during the course of the election campaign.

What we did say is that the genius who is Rob Lucas, the genius who is the architect of their election campaign, the genius who is so good as a shadow treasurer they still leave the Treasury portfolio in the upper house, away from the government (I am somewhat surprised that the opposition does not wish to have the Treasury portfolio here, where the Treasurer of the state resides, and I do not know whether that is a compliment or not), came up with a policy that would require the arbitrary dismissal of up to some 4 000 public servants or more. And, sir, TSPs—

Ms CHAPMAN: I rise on a point of order, sir. The Treasurer is clearly debating the matter. It has nothing to do with the question as to whether the government had ruled this out to Ms McMahon. He has already answered the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! The deputy leader has made her point of order. I think the Deputy Premier is somewhat straying. Have you finished your answer?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Yes, I think I have, sir.

SALISBURY NORTH URBAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Little Para): My question is to the Minister for Housing. How is the government's urban renewal project in Salisbury North assisting local residents with employment opportunities?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Housing): The Salisbury North Urban Improvement Project, known as Hawkesbury Park, has been a real success story; it has been a very successful urban renewal project. I am delighted to report that more than 350 residents have been placed in jobs in the Salisbury North region as a result of the project. The jobs have resulted from a concerted effort between the South Australian Housing Trust and the City of Salisbury. The City of Salisbury really does stand out as one of the leaders in the local government sphere. In particular, its Mayor, Tony Zappia, has played a crucial role in bringing about this fantastic collaboration with the state government.

The \$180 million Hawkesbury Park initiative began in 1999, with the goal of renovating hundreds of aged Housing Trust homes and creating new land allotments for private and public housing. A key objective was also to rebuild the community, help revitalise the local economy and to assist local residents in securing employment, namely, 350 jobs in a range of industries, including manufacturing, light engineer-

ing, aged care, food processing, automotive production, horticulture, and some of the other services sector.

One of the features of the way in which these jobs are being created which is of interest and which we are keen to copy is that a community reference group was set up to identify the needs of local residents and also the job opportunities that existed in this local area. It is a very targeted approach: employers identified their needs and local people were trained to fill the positions. I suppose the thing that underpinned the success of the training program was that people knew that, at the end of the training, they would have a job to go to. So, that was a massive incentive.

The Salisbury North project is one that has been going for some time now. It is a 10-year project, and it is now reaching its final stage and is due to be completed in around 2009.

TAXATION

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition): Does the Treasurer stand by his statement to *The Australian* newspaper journalist Michelle Wiese Bockmann that taxes, charges and levies will not be increased in the coming budget? *The Australian* of 7 April quotes the Treasurer as pledging that taxes, charges and levies will not be increased in this budget.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his insightful question. My guess is that he could have lifted that one off a question I was asked before last year's budget, the budget before that, and the budget before that. Indeed, I reckon that as shadow treasurer I asked that question a few times. It is a good stock, standard filler of a question. When you are running out of questions and you do not have any real substance, just chuck in the old taxes and charges increase question before the budget comes down. To be honest, I used to ask that question when I didn't have anything else worthwhile to ask. But I have to say that that was usually after seven sitting weeks of parliament; it was not after about two or three weeks.

As I said prior to the election, we have no intention at all of raising taxes. We are now going through the budget, and you will know in September whether or not that promise has been kept. I certainly intend to keep that promise, and I do not see that there is a need to increase taxes. The truth is that I am cutting taxes. We are the tax-cutting government: \$1.5 billion by the end of the decade. I think that we have cut taxes in just about every budget. We are tax cutters. We are not a government that has increased taxes, beyond those in our very first budget, but I stand to be corrected on that point.

I say to the opposition that, yes, it is a worthy question, but I have given you the answer. It is a good answer—probably about the same sort of answer that I gave during the last four years and the same sort of answer I got from Liberal treasurers.

VOLUNTEERS

Ms SIMMONS (Morialta): Will the Minister for Volunteers inform the house of the current state of volunteering in South Australia? On a daily basis, I meet many wonderful volunteers from my electorate who work in our schools and in our sporting clubs and those who are helping older people—and so the list goes on. However, I also occasionally hear reports that young people are less likely to volunteer.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Minister for Volunteers): I thank the member for Morialta for her question. I also acknowledge her many years' involvement in the community sector here in South Australia. This is an interesting question, because we have only recently received new data that indicates a fantastic set of figures for the amount of volunteering that is happening here in South Australia.

Recently, a survey involving 1 500 people, commissioned by the Office for Volunteers, designed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and conducted by Harrison Market Research, indicated that 51 per cent of South Australians are involved in formal volunteering. This exceeds the target set by South Australia's Strategic Plan of 50 per cent by 2010. The report also indicates that the amount of time volunteers devote each week was 2.31 hours. This means that about 610 000 South Australian volunteers provide an estimated 1.4 million formal volunteer hours to our community. This is a fantastic result and shows the ongoing generosity of South Australians as they make this commitment to our community.

In relation to young people, it is particularly pleasing to note that the level of formal volunteering among young people is in line with their proportion of the South Australian population. In fact, as the survey states, all age groups are volunteering evenly. These are people who are helping out in our state: in our schools, hospitals, in parks, our museums, in sporting and recreational clubs, in supporting people who are less fortunate, and the young and the elderly. I believe that these results are indicative of the excellent relationship that has developed between the state government and the volunteer sector since the signing of the Advancing the Community Together partnership in 2003. These are marvellous figures but there is more to do. However, I think it is appropriate to again say a big thank you to all those South Australians who make this place a much better place to live, and to congratulate them for their selfless acts of volunteering. We truly can be proud to be the volunteer capital of this nation.

HEALTH SYSTEM

Ms CHAPMAN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Why was Joe Chaplin, the 85-year-old Gold Card war veteran forced to wait eight hours in emergency after being so ill that he was flown by helicopter to the Royal Adelaide Hospital? Mr Joe Chaplin is an 85-year-old man who is a Gold Card war veteran. He was admitted to the Yorketown Hospital after vomiting blood. The doctor felt the situation was so urgent, enough to have him flown by helicopter to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, which landed at around 4 p.m. I am advised that he then spent over eight hours in emergency waiting for a bed. During this time he was treated with disrespect, on his account to us, and received no food or even a glass of water. He was effectively forced to fast for 36 hours. He was not told what was going on, and his daughter says, and has claimed this to us, that her father was treated like a 'demented, brainless piece of meat'. This is an awful indictment and I would seek some response.

The SPEAKER: Order! The deputy leader is now debating.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health): I thank the member for her initial question to me as Minister for Health. I would have thought that after four years of a similar approach by the previous shadow minister for health in the Liberal opposition that the new shadow minister would have

adopted a better tactic because, clearly, after four years, the victim a day strategy did not work, and the reason it did not work is that people see through this tactic. It is easy enough, day after day, to find somebody who has an allegation against the public health system, to drag out their details in this place in an exaggerated way, and say that there is a crisis in the health system. But the hundreds of thousands of people who use the public health system in South Australia every year know that that is not the case. In this particular set of circumstances, the member has made a series of allegations in this place. I have discovered from previous shadow ministers asking me questions that these allegations generally turn out not to be accurate, and not to be substantiated.

I am happy to have a look at the details but when it comes down to managing the public health system, to managing all of our public hospitals, we always have strong demand for emergency places. Those demands have to be managed by the clinicians in the best way that they possibly can at the time. Sometimes there are more people coming into the hospitals, because of a range of emergencies that may have occurred, than can be dealt with by the provision of a particular bed. Sometimes there is a delay. That is acknowledged, and that is the case in any public hospital system anywhere in the world. In the case of this particular gentleman, I am happy to have a look at the allegations.

We, of course, have established a process whereby there is a commissioner to whom people who have complaints about the public health system can take their complaints and they will be analysed. If there is substance to them, measures will be put in place. However, I have great confidence in the public hospitals of South Australia. I think that the allegations that the honourable member raised, directed at the treatment of the patient, are unfair because they are unsubstantiated. If she has proof, we will certainly have a look at it. In any event, all these decisions are managed by clinicians who are in place at the time, not by politicians who sit in this place.

HEALTH, CHILDREN'S

Ms PORTOLESI (Hartley): My question is to the Minister for Health. How does the government help South Australian parents give their children a healthy start in life?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health): I know how important this particular issue is to the honourable member, as the mother of a young child. This is a very important area of policy. Recently, I visited Edwardstown Centre, where 25 families across Adelaide have graduated from the government's two-year Family Home Visiting program, which is part of the Every Chance for Every Child program. This is a program whereby 98 per cent or so of the children born in South Australia each year (and about 17 000 children are born each year) are visited by a trained nurse to help the family bring a new child into the home, to assess the child's general health and to test its hearing, weight and height, and to give support to the family.

It is a very good program and I commend my colleague the former minister for health (the member for Little Para) on her initiative and on her hard work in getting this program off the ground. It is not only the best in Australia but is world's best practice in terms of looking after children. Part of that strategy is that a certain percentage of families are entitled to an extra number of visits, up to 34 visits over the first two years of a child's life. During the election campaign we announced about \$6.5 million dollars in extra funding to

extend that to around 40 per cent of kids born in South Australia. It is a significant investment in our children.

Twenty-five families have now gone through the Family Home Visiting program, which I visited the other day. They have been involved in it for two years, which means that their children have reached the age of two. These visits have made a significant difference to dozens of families in the northern, north-eastern and southern metropolitan suburbs, Gawler, the Riverland, Port Augusta and Whyalla, and we will expand it beyond these areas now. More than 1 200 families have now accepted the offer to enter the program. I have to say that this is a voluntary program: 98 per cent take the Every Chance for Every Child and 1 200 have taken this particular program. Most of these families have been referred from the universal contact visits provided as part of that process.

There are now more than 60 child health nurses working for the visiting program, and its success is largely due to the dedication of these nurses. I met some of these nurses the other day. They are absolutely passionate about what they are doing. They are highly trained, mature women (and some men, I think) who are able to work with families; not just with the mothers but also with the fathers. Last week I also met with some of the parents of the children who have graduated from the program. Some of the mothers described how supportive and valuable the Family Home Visiting program has been over the two-year period, in particular in providing parenting advice, guidance and support, especially during the early years of their child's development, and also helping to establish positive networks of support in the community setting through playgroups, parenting groups and other medical services in the community.

That is particularly important for people who are isolated or very young and who do not actually know these things. The child health nurses who lead the contact with families are strongly supported by other health workers, so there is a network of people. I would like to tell the house about one mother I met: not a particularly young woman; a woman who had an older child. Her child was born a couple of years ago. At the time, the woman had a significant substance abuse problem. She had significant health problems, was unemployed and her life was in pretty bad shape. It is hard to imagine someone in worse circumstances.

With the support of the nurse, she has really got her life together. She is dealing with her addiction problems, has had her health problems addressed and now has part-time work. She has a delightful two-year old child now and she said to me of that child, 'This child is a genius. This child is going to go a long way.' It was absolutely inspiring. It is a fantastic program. We should be proud in South Australia that we have invested in this program. Once again, I commend the member for Little Para for having the initiative to introduce this program. It is something we should all learn about, because it will affect all of the children born in all of our electorates.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): My question is to the Minister for State/Local Government Relations. If no-one has raised with her the subject of compulsory voting in local government elections, as the minister claimed in an answer to the house yesterday, how does the minister explain media interviews just last week with her, reporting that the issue was raised? The *City Messenger* reported on 26 April:

Ms Rankine has promised to consider a range of options to boost voter turnout after the November elections. She would not be drawn on whether making the vote compulsory would be among them.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for State/Local Government Relations.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Minister for State/Local Government Relations): I suggest that the member refer back to his question and my answer, but I am happy to talk about improving voter participation in local government elections. To the best of my knowledge, at the last local government election, we only had something like a 33 per cent rate of voting. In fact, some council elections had even less than that, so we are very keen to improve voter participation and both the state government and the Local Government Association have a strong commitment to doing that.

There will be an emphasis on encouraging nominations in some regional areas where there has been an insufficient number of candidates and to foster representation and participation from unrepresented groups such as young people, women, Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Councils have the statutory responsibility, however, for informing potential voters about the candidates that are standing in their elections. The Local Government Association is providing material for adaptation by councils, and a raft of resources and materials are being produced and promoted.

The Office for State/Local Government Relations and the Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation have revised some resource material that was used in the 2003 local government elections to increase voter turnout and information for Aboriginal people who may be considering nominating. Similar mechanisms are being established to encourage the multicultural community and to increase the participation of women and young people in local government elections. I hope that all members of parliament will be seeking opportunities to encourage and promote the—

Mrs REDMOND: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

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

Mrs REDMOND: My point of order is relevance, sir. This has nothing to do with the question that was asked, which was about the discrepancy between what the minister said to the Messenger and what she said in the house yesterday.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order; the minister is answering the substance of the question. The minister has the call.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: There is a range of things that we are doing to increase voter participation. I have outlined those—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: This is what we are doing to increase voter participation. I want to see more than 33 per cent of South Australians voting in local government elections.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): My question is to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. What

progress has been made regarding the introduction of the South Australian Certificate of Education following the release of the SACE review report?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I thank the member for Reynell for her question. She has been keenly and actively involved in senior secondary education review, particularly the issues related to our initiative for retention in schools, which was a key initiative during the last term of government, and also on ways of making young people in her constituency not only stay in school but develop employability skills to fill the many vacancies in apprenticeship and training jobs in her area. As she alluded to, the report was released earlier this year. It was released for public discussion and, in particular, will be the basis for not just the introduction of a reformed senior secondary certificate but, in addition, the basis for a complete overhaul of senior secondary education.

The review was developed following interviews and discussion with over 1 600 people, with 200 meetings and recommendations, which I know were difficult for those opposite to understand because they had expected the review to produce a series of new examination questions, but in fact that was not the purpose of the review. The review produced a framework for reform: a framework that was designed to engage young people, retain them in the system, develop skills and encourage employability skills in young people so that they could take up the burgeoning job opportunities. As a framework, it was designed for further consultation and further refinement, and that is exactly the stage we are at now; and that reform will be part of our \$79.3 million package of senior secondary reforms.

This reform will include training of 7 500 teachers across the private and public sectors. It will include a whole range of training to work related initiatives, the establishment of 10 new trade schools, as well as developing skills by encouraging people in school and lifting the school leaving age to 17, as part of one of our State Strategic Plan strategies. I have established an implementation advisory committee, which includes the leaders of our three education sectors, as well as representatives from the Northern Territory government and the Department of Further Education. I expect this group to work on responses to refine the recommendations and, in particular, to keep informed and really be involved in consultation with the interest groups as we develop the program over the next few years, because we expect this year's year 8 students to be the first ones who will take part in year 12 in 2010 and we want there to be significant consultation through the education sector to ensure that we have the best SACE system possible.

I am particularly pleased to announce that all principals across all public and private schools, both from the independent and Catholic education sectors, will be called together with public education leaders into a forum to debate and discuss how these changes will be implemented, because we need to have everyone on board to ensure we have the best outcome for young South Australians. The other interest group is the tertiary sector and universities, because it is essential that the TER system (administered probably through the SATAC system) is implemented in a way that makes it possible, easy and transparent for universities to select the best candidates. That work, as well as work with employers and unions, will continue before the system is refined further.

It is quite clear that the government accepts the broad thrust of the recommendations, but of the 26 recommendations there are one or two that will inevitably be altered and

this process will be worked on in the next months. It is essential that we reform senior secondary education, because it is a matter of shame and disappointment to us that only 55 per cent of year 8 students make it through the four year passage to year 12 currently; and that loss of 45 per cent of young people from the SACE system is one that really has to be remediated, because it is quite true to say that the worst brain drain South Australia faces is not our young people moving interstate but the loss of potential and low outcomes for our children. Every child's life is valuable and we cannot afford for them not to reach their full potential.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): My question is again to the Minister for State/Local Government Relations, and I will be a little more specific this time. Did a *City Messenger* journalist raise an issue of compulsory voting for local government elections with the minister?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Minister for State/Local Government Relations): I have had a number of overarching interviews with a number of media outlets covering a range of issues in relation to all my portfolio areas. What I said to the house yesterday was in relation to the introduction of legislation. I have had no discussions with the Local Government Association, my department or anyone about issues that we may need to canvass. We have talked about increasing voter participation, but I have not had serious discussions with anyone in relation to compulsory voting for local government elections.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Waite.

FUEL, GST REVENUE

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): My question is to the Treasurer. I know that he will love this one because he has had a lot to say about it on radio. What GST revenue is the government now receiving from fuel at the petrol pump as a result of the price increase from \$1 to approximately \$1.40 per litre? The Treasurer suggested on ABC Radio on 28 April that even a 1¢ reduction in GST revenue on fuel would cost the state \$26 million. With the price of petrol rising around 40¢ a litre, the government is receiving an additional 4¢ per litre in GST revenue. This equates, according to the Treasurer's own figures, to an extra \$104 million per annum on fuel-related GST if prices remain at the present levels.

The SPEAKER: In his explanation, the member for Waite seemed to answer the question he asks of the Treasurer. Nonetheless, I call the Treasurer.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer): I thought that too, sir. I do not necessarily agree with the answer, but it seemed to me that the honourable member basically gave an answer. However, I did have an interview last Friday afternoon with Annette Marner about GST—

Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I thought it went pretty well, actually; I quite enjoyed it.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Well, I do know one thing: she was given some information by that highly visible lobby group called the RAA. The RAA provided information to the ABC journalist—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I am, actually. The information that was provided to Annette Marner was wrong, but that does not stop the RAA. As far as I am concerned, the RAA is nothing but a Liberal Party lobby group. It lobbied all the way through the election campaign.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: It discusses policy at the Adelaide Club.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Yes; it discusses its policy at the Adelaide Club, according to my colleague. It is a Liberal Party lobby group. Let us be up front about it. It is nothing more than a mob that attacks the government at every opportunity—using inaccurate information, I might add—to aid and abet the Liberal Party of South Australia. If that is the way it wants to conduct its affairs on behalf of its members, so be it, but let us not kid around. Let us not hide the fact that it enjoys attacking government and assisting the Liberal Party where it can.

With respect to GST revenue, as I said, the state government was advised that, following the mid-year budget review by Peter Costello at the end of the last calendar year, GST payments to the state would be down a little under \$30 million for the end of the financial year. What is occurring with petrol pricing is that, as they must pay higher petrol prices, consumers are doing a number of things: first, they are using less petrol; and, secondly, they are shifting their spending from other discretionary items to pay for their petrol.

That is not just me saying that, that is Senator Nick Minchin and Prime Minister John Howard. On 27 April this year, on ABC radio, Nick Minchin said:

The state governments get somewhat more benefit than we do, but although to the extent people buy less petrol, of course, and then they may not be better off at all.

With respect to the issue of rebates and GST funding, Senator Minchin said:

That is a matter entirely for the state government, but they have got to decide are they going to do that or are they going to put money into hospitals and schools. They, like us, have to make those sort of decisions and they are not easy decisions to make.

Senator Nick Minchin says that we are not receiving it, but what did Prime Minister John Howard say? Let us hear what John Howard, the Prime Minister of this country, said. As I have been advised, John Howard said:

To be fair to the states, if people have got to spend more money on petrol and they have a set amount of money each week then they end up spending less on something else.

As I am advised, John Howard further said:

And if the something else is something that attracts the GST, well, what goes up with GST collections on petrol goes down with GST collections on those other items. So you do not necessarily have an increase in GST collections, or a big increase.

That is Prime Minister Howard answering the question. I simply say to the member for Waite, if you are going to attack the government get your facts right and do your homework. I stand with Prime Minister John Howard and Senator Nick Minchin. The reality is that increases in petrol prices do not in themselves equate to higher GST.

FERRY, LUCKY BAY-WALLAROO

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): My question is to the Premier. Given that the Premier gave an undertaking to fast-track development of the Lucky Bay-Wallaroo ferry service in September last year, will he intervene to facilitate the

necessary transfer of land title which is currently being held up by the Department of Environment and Heritage? Twelve months ago, the head of the department of environment said to me, 'Liz, this ferry won't happen.' In September 2005, after a delegation, the Premier intervened to fast-track the project. The proponent of the ferry service has still not been granted the necessary approvals and freehold title he needs before he can establish the berth at Lucky Bay.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Transport): This question from the member for Flinders is simply the latest instalment in her incredibly churlish behaviour about everything this government has done for the Eyre Peninsula.

Mrs Penfold interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I will answer you, because we are the people who have done a good job on this. I would like to know what interests there are on the Eyre Peninsula in this ferry. I would like to know all of that. I would like to know all that goes on about that, but we will not go into that today because there will be another time for it. The history is that a proponent came to us with a proposal for a ferry.

Mrs Penfold: Over 12 months ago.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Yes, over 12 months ago. We went out of our way to assist the proponent with that ferry, and do you know what happened mid-term? He changed the proposal. Despite that, and despite that presenting many difficulties, we continued to assist the proponent. Can I say that I have had no complaints from the proponent. I do not know what interests he has, but I have had no complaints from the proponent, because he knows what we are doing. I point out to the member that some of her constituents are a bit worried about her naked enthusiasm for this: some of them have raised their concerns with me about it. But, despite a lot of difficulties and in difficult circumstances, we assisted with a lot of sensitivity because the region is a coastal protection area.

I have been to Lucky Bay, because I do actually assist people when I say I am going to. I convened a meeting and we had the good grace to invite the member and, as I remember, the then leader of the opposition, to see what we could do, and we went out and did what we said we would. What we cannot do is change the geography of the area and the material, geographical facts. What I will say is: we continue to assist this proponent with a very difficult proposal because he is taking the risk. I would think there will be no complaints from him because he is not a whingeing, churlish proponent. He is actually a sensible person who has a proposal whom we are assisting. I would like to know why the member for Flinders is so much more concerned about this than is the proponent. Perhaps it is her usual churlish attitude to anything this government does, or perhaps it is something else. But, no doubt, we will deal with that at another time.

FRUIT FLY

The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.J. McEWEN: I wish to advise the house of a recent fruit fly outbreak. This outbreak was declared on

Wednesday 26 April by Primary Industries and Resources SA following the detection of four male Mediterranean fruit flies in permanent traps at the Wingfield site. As an honorary authorised officer, I wish to compliment the 15 staff who manage the fruit fly traps across South Australia. There are over 3 800 trap sites in the state. Equally, I would like to compliment the property owners, who cooperate with our 15 staff to make the trapping program possible. This outbreak is the first in South Australia since December 2003.

Fruit fly poses a continuing threat to South Australia's \$250 million commercial horticulture production and to the state's large number of home garden fruit and vegetable growers. The internationally recognised fruit fly free status of our Riverland enables our growers to access key markets such as the USA, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand and Korea. PIRSA's eradication response in this instance is important to minimise the chances of fruit fly becoming established within metropolitan Adelaide and spreading to the nearby commercial production areas of the Northern Adelaide Plains and the Adelaide Hills.

The current outbreak is unlikely to have any significant impact on commercial producers. However, should the pest spread to nearby production areas, host plants such as tomatoes, capsicums and eggplant would require treatment and certification before being able to be exported to key Eastern States markets. The current eradication response involved an initial two-week bait spotting program, followed by the release of a large number of sterile male Mediterranean fruit flies.

PIRSA will be using Naturalure as the bait spotting treatment. Naturalure is an organically certified formulation that contains naturally occurring attractants and control agents with extremely low toxicity and a short residual life. This combination of bait spotting and sterile fly releases is currently considered the world's best practice for the eradication of fruit fly.

Residents and business owners within a 1.5 kilometre radius quarantine area have been notified of the outbreak and of the response measures. Advertisements have been booked in local newspapers and information packages have been provided to local members, local government, schools and other potentially affected businesses and community groups within the area.

Despite this latest outbreak, South Australia still remains the only mainland state free of fruit fly. The South Australian government continues a long-term commitment to the fruit fly freedom status that started almost 60 years ago, following the state's first recorded fruit fly outbreak in 1947. A proactive program is currently employed, including an annual community awareness program, a 24-hour fruit fly hotline, a market inspection program, signage and fruit disposal pits on main roads entering the state, roadblock operations and the use of detector dog teams at Adelaide Airport. I urge residents or business owners with concerns or queries about fruit fly to contact the fruit fly hotline on 1300 666 010.

ABORIGINAL DEATH IN CUSTODY

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I lay on the table a ministerial statement relating to an Aboriginal death in custody made yesterday in another place by the Minister for Correctional Services.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

FUEL, GST REVENUE

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): The government does not want to tell the people of South Australia how much revenue it is raising from GST on petrol prices. It knows that consumers are extremely sensitive about the cost of fuel—

The Hon. R.J. McEwen interjecting:

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: In the member for Mount Gambier's electorate, \$1.40 and, in some cases, slightly more—

The Hon. R.J. McEwen interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: They do not want people to know that a 14¢ GST is being paid to the states from that fuel price. The Treasurer has acknowledged publicly that each cent of that GST brings in about \$26 million. The increase from \$1 to \$1.40 would have brought in, in gross terms, about \$104 million. In light of that, I think the RAA was extremely generous to the Premier and to the Deputy Premier in estimating something like \$30 million to have been the windfall. In reply, the Treasurer told us, 'Oh, but, you know, GST revenues are very complicated, and it does not necessarily mean we get all that revenue back into state coffers.'

Let me just remind the house of some of the facts here. Some \$2 300 million has gone missing in revenue from this state, with nothing much to show for it. Budget papers and other financial documents clearly demonstrate that there is an anticipated six-year windfall from 2003-04 to 2008-09 of around \$1 080 million in gains from GST, above the guaranteed minimum amount.

The government is awash with money. Revenue in the last four years, notwithstanding the mid-year budget review, has gone up in taxation terms by around 30 per cent, in total government revenue terms by around 25 per cent—around 24.7 per cent—with spending almost to match. That is not taking into account other state government charges on motorists. This has been the greatest tax gain over a four-year period in the history of the state. It took from 1857 to 2002 to get to a budget point. It has gone up by 25 per cent in the last four years. This government is awash with money.

The government has ruled out any Queensland-style rebate on fuel prices. That is its decision to make; it is the government. The focus, quite reasonably, now needs to be put on how that money is being spent. It is an extraordinary amount of money. The opposition has called for the government to consider spending it more effectively on public transport. Community groups are calling very vocally for it to be spent on roads, particularly regional roads. I spoke about that yesterday; many of them are in a shocking state. The government simply needs to come clean and tell us how much it is raising through this GST on fuel.

I point the house's attention towards an article written by Terry McCrann in the *Sunday Mail* on 30 April which goes through the figures fairly clearly. It is quite apparent that the government is raising hundreds of millions of dollars from GST on fuel alone. The government says, 'Well, if people spend more on fuel, they are spending less on retail.' How convenient. If there was a reduction in fuel prices, would people run straight out and spend more on retail and, therefore, equalise the GST revenues into the state? Let us just turn it around. The Treasurer keeps telling us that the GST is not fully benefited to the states because they are

spending less on retail. Well, maybe if he extraordinarily reduced their fuel prices, they might go and spend more on retail, and his GST income would even out.

The reality is that the government does not want to tell us the truth. It does not want people to have it confirmed by the Treasurer exactly how much is being raised. It is hundreds of millions of dollars. The government could do something about it by way of a rebate; it is choosing not to. It is the government, and that is its call, but be up-front with people, be frank and say, 'We want to take this money from you, and we have no intention of giving it back to you, either with better roads, better public transport, or in any form of a rebate.' You could do something about these things; you are choosing not to do them. Be honest, be frank. The question was not answered today. I doubt if it ever will be.

Time expired.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): The member for Stuart informed me last year that Don Dunstan had described him as a troglodyte, and that he did not know the meaning of the word but coming from Don he took it as a compliment. I can only assume that Don applied this tag to the member for Stuart, then the member for Eyre, because of his position on the major political issues of the time, namely the ending of the gerrymander, the so-called 'Playmander', and the institution of one vote one value, as well as democratic reform of the upper house by the removal of the property requirement and, with its removal, the institution of full adult franchise. Today these reforms seem so inevitable. Why should all voters not have a voice of equal weight, and why should the poorer in our community be prevented from participating in the election of the Legislative Council? However, at the time, they were fought tooth and nail by the forces of conservatism and reaction within the Liberal and Country League, ultimately bringing about a split within that organisation.

The progressives set up the Liberal Movement with former premier Steele Hall at its head, leaving the forces of reaction and conservatism with control of the LCL. The process of democratic reform continues, and one of the last major challenges in South Australia (besides reform or abolition of the Legislative Council) is removal of the last vestiges of monarchical control over our political process. Neal Blewett (for whom I had the privilege of once working) and Dean Jaensch, in their book *Playford to Dunstan*, identified 'a troglodyte cave within the ranks of the parliamentary Liberal and Country League'. It was from this cave that the opponents of democratic reform once sallied forth and from whence last night another sally was made by the member for Stuart.

Australia will become a republic, and the smart thing to do is to commence the preliminary planning now at both a state and federal level so that we avoid a rerun of the mayhem that was associated with our first referendum on this matter. At the national level, where I do believe we need a head of state, the issue of election or appointment must be resolved. At the state level—and this is the point I made in my earlier grievance on this subject—we have to confront both these options as well as total abolition of the position itself. I am not wedded to any of the possibilities, although at the state level I find the prospect of a directly elected governor a highly unattractive outcome, simply because it would lead to the politicisation of the role and the subsequent expansion of its scope.

I still find great merit in abolition, as I believe that the role of all state premiers needs to be ramped up in terms of profile and power to deal with a federal government intent on aggregating to itself more and more of state constitutional responsibilities. However, this is a discussion and a debate that will run for a number of years in all the states. With the move towards a republic, we are presented with a once in a lifetime opportunity to carry out a thorough re-engineering of the now creaking and tired mechanics of government at the state level. Like the debate and deliberations carried on by the colonial legislatures over the endless possibilities for a new federation, we have a great opportunity to remake ourselves.

There will be some within this parliament and within this community who will resist change, just as there were those opposed to federation, votes for women, full adult suffrage and the removal of the gerrymander. This was the group within the Liberal and Country League who, to quote Blewett and Jaensch, were 'economically, socially and politically conservative'. Just as the more monumental examples of their architecture reflected a hankering after the halcyon days of Victorian England, so they fought to preserve a nineteenth century constitution and a socially hierarchical order. I believe that this description no longer applies to the modern Liberal Party, with one or two notable exceptions.

I am particularly pleased by Malcolm Turnbull's elevation within the Howard government. Malcolm is still associated in the public eye with the push for an Australian republic.

Time expired.

ROADS, COUNTRY

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I am pleased to follow the honourable member, because he is continuing to follow a line that I think is not only unwarranted and unnecessary but not in the best interests of the people of this state. If he refers to me as a conservative, I take that as a compliment, because I want to conserve what is good and change what is bad. I make no apology whatsoever for saying that.

The Deputy Premier has taken umbrage at the RAA today, as if he is the only one who has come into conflict with them. During the election campaign they took considerable umbrage at my views on speed limits. I thought their comments were ill-conceived and grossly inaccurate and unwise, and I was strongly supported by the mayor. The Mayor of Coober Pedy came out and strongly supported me and did not put paid to a number of the arguments put forward by the RAA.

I do point out to the Deputy Premier that he is not the only one that has an axe to grind with the RAA. I think its attitude to speed limits in the north of South Australia needs to be revised and it needs to give proper consideration to the views of people who live in that part of the state. I still contend that between Hawker and Leigh Creek it is an absolute nonsense to have a speed limit of 110 km/h; an absolute nonsense. Between Pimba and Coober Pedy, to have a policeman sitting over the hill pinging people is also arrant nonsense and something ought to be done about it, as with a number of other areas in the state. It has nothing to do with safety. We have better motor cars. When I got a driver's licence you filled out a form—that is not many years ago either—but today people have to have training and do tests and so they are better qualified.

During the last election campaign the government, with great fanfare, announced that they were going to seal the road between Wilpena and Blinman. When is this going to take place? Where are the funds coming from? Is it Roads to

Recovery money, commonwealth government money, or is it allocations from the state government? That, in itself, is important because you have to watch this government: they are great at claiming credit for funds which are coming from the commonwealth. The Roads to Recovery program has been of outstanding assistance to local government and to the outback of South Australia. There would not have been much bitumen laid if it had not been for Roads to Recovery. That is why we currently have about 10 kilometres south of Blinman and the completion between the two sections of Blinman recently being sealed, and there are a number of other roads in my constituency and elsewhere. Unfortunately, there has been very little done on the road between Morgan and Blanchetown, and Lyndhurst and Marree which was another issue at the state election. These are important projects which need consideration. In the member for Flinders district, the road between Wirrulla and Kingoonya is important to the economy of Eyre Peninsula. Also, of course, the road between Lyndhurst and Moomba is economically one of the most important roads in South Australia. Therefore, some of these funds need to be allocated to those particular projects because there will be more and more people travelling on them.

The last thing I want to say is that earlier today I had an interesting interview with Channel 7. It appears to be still on its hobbyhorse of wanting to have a whack at the people who run rodeos and gymkhanas. It may have taken umbrage at my comments last week in the parliament. Let me say to them that as long as I am a member of parliament I am going to stick up for those volunteers who run rodeos. They are good, hardworking, decent people who are providing funds for services which would not otherwise be there. If that upsets Channel 7 in a certain sense of it, so be it. I understand they called me the member for Redneck. I do not know why they would come to that conclusion, but if that is the best criticism they can make of me, I am not going to lose any sleep over it. Let me say I intend to pursue all the elements having a go at my constituents on every occasion I get.

Time expired.

SERVICES TO FAMILIES

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): I wish to commend the member for Napier for his considered report on the types of initiatives that need to be thought of if we are to successfully introduce a republic some time in my lifetime. It reminds me each time we are privileged to be elected to this place that we do really need to take action about this. I am quite confident that the majority of the 67 per cent of my constituents who elected me and gave me the privilege of serving them, expect that I am serving them, and that my loyalty is to them and South Australia rather than to the Queen, let alone her heirs and successors. Making that important pledge at the beginning of each parliament is a reminder to us about having to look at where our loyalties should be. However, today I want to speak about the poor performance of the federal government in terms of its services to families, particularly its services to the families of young children, an area where we all know that, unless those families get help if they are struggling, it is likely to lead to a lifetime of difficulty for those children.

The best place any government can put its money in terms of crime prevention and health is in the ought to two year olds and supporting their families. At question time today we were fortunate to hear from the Minister for Health talk about

the excellent initiative of the family home visiting program instituted by the former minister for health (now the member for Little Para). The family home visiting program has been able to use the wonderful resources of the Pathways Family Centre in the south. This was established in 2004 as a cooperative facility between the federal, state and local governments in order to provide a range of supports to vulnerable families. The bulk of the ongoing funding came from the federal government, but the federal government will not fund Pathways beyond June this year.

The state and local governments continue their commitments. The many non-government organisations who use Pathways continue their commitments, but the federal government—Mr Howard, his ministers and particularly members in very marginal seats such as Kingston—is more interested in having announcements about new programs instead of funding existing programs that are really working for their community. Pathways is changing lives. From the time I first started visiting Pathways at the end of 2004 (after its opening in May), I have met many of the families using Pathways several times. The changes in those families is something really wonderful to behold. Mothers who were very hesitant, unsure of their role and often suffering from postnatal depression are now calm, active and involved. Several of them have taken on further study and a couple of them are going to university.

An important feature of Pathways is the involvement of fathers, with the help of a men's worker. One father recently told me about the difference that Pathways had made to his life. He acknowledged that, prior to his involvement in Pathways, he had trouble with violence, alcohol and drugs. Pathways work has enabled him to overcome those problems, but he finds that the monthly meetings of other men at Pathways are really important to remind him of the type of father and partner he wants to be. However, instead of continuing the funding for Pathways, the federal government decided to introduce a different program, Communities for Children. It has admirable aims, it is just that it spent a year identifying needs when all the community organisations in our community knew exactly what was needed.

It has now set up a situation where organisations such as Pathways and the Hackham West Community Centre—another admirable community organisation—are having to compete with each other in order to deliver services to families. This is just a waste of money and a tragedy for families.

Time expired.

HOUSING, MULTIPLE DWELLINGS

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I will formally congratulate you, Mr Speaker, in my Address in Reply, but it is good to see you in the chair. I raise a very serious issue in this house today, and I hope that the Minister for Education, the Minister for Mental Health and the Minister for Urban Development and Planning are listening. This issue concerns three developments. I hope that the member for Bright is listening also because this concerns three developments in the City of Holdfast Bay. I will not name the two applicants for these three developments, but these two men are seeking to convert three dwellings into what are called multiple dwellings.

One dwelling will end up with seven bedrooms and the other two with six bedrooms each. In fact, one dwelling has already become a place for people who are at the bottom of

the social spectrum in terms of intelligence and mental health. The police and the people I talk to in the social welfare area say that this is just another case of community placement of mental health patients. In one particular case at Jervois Street, Glenelg North (right opposite the St Leonard's Primary School), an application has been lodged with the ERD Court because council knocked back its application to change a house to a seven-bedroom dwelling.

These two applicants initially changed the house to a multiple dwelling, which means that it has only one bathroom, one toilet and one kitchen. However, they can put a lock on each bedroom and create bedrooms out of the lounge room and other rooms and call it a multiple dwelling. This is worse than a lodging house. They then charge \$130 a week to accommodate mental patients. Parolees are also accommodated in these multiple dwellings (and I think that many of those people are also mental patients) as they are classified. The rest of the community around these dwellings must suffer the consequences because, in many cases, these unfortunate people are being left to their own resources.

Mental health workers have visited the dwelling at Jervois Street, Glenelg North, a number of times. Police have been called to domestic violence and noise disturbance complaints a number of times. For approximately two weeks in February household goods were left on the footpath. An old car was left on the footpath. In fact, a young male was sleeping in one of these cars on the footpath, right opposite the St Leonard's Primary School.

It is just not an acceptable situation to have in South Australia. Certainly, it is not acceptable opposite a primary school. According to all the residents with whom I spoke, you have people with a history of violence, as well as psychotic and other forms of mental behaviour. There is a significant chance that the students at St Leonard's Primary School could be in danger from the actions of these people. The number of objectors to the Development Assessment Panel of the City of Holdfast Bay was quite impressive. I would like to read one submission in particular from the principal of the St Leonard's Primary School.

The principal of that school has the welfare of the school at heart. In the school's submission to the Development Assessment Panel of the City of Holdfast Bay, the principal talks about the risks that are both within and out of school hours to the students. The principal says that there are reports of residents congregating on the school oval, drinking, smoking and breaking glass. They have not found syringes yet but they have found condoms on the oval. There is unruly and offensive behaviour in the street in clear view of the school. I heard one man was masturbating on the footpath. If that is true, it is absolutely outrageous. The parents of young families have reported feeling uncomfortable passing people congregating outside the house. I do not know how people know about this, but they say that the smell is from marijuana smoke—whether other drugs are being used at this house, I do not know. If these allegations are true, it is absolutely outrageous. I hope that members on the other side of the chamber are not laughing about the circumstances which these students at this school and the neighbours find themselves subjected to.

There is increased traffic. The principal's submission to the City of Holdfast Bay states:

It is a principal's worst nightmare that a child is injured or physically or emotionally abused while at school or, indeed, coming to or from school.

There is a significant risk from the people occupying this dwelling at Jervois Street, and possibly at the other places. I understand that these applicants have similar sorts of multiple dwellings all over Adelaide. This needs to be stopped now. I hope that the minister reads this speech.

Time expired.

MINING

Mr KENYON (Newland): I rise today to talk about some of the comments made by the member for MacKillop yesterday in his grievance debate. He made the allegation at some stage that the Premier said the upper house was holding up mining. It was interesting when, in his grievance speech, he said, 'I will quote from the 5AA precis.' He was not at the conference, but I attended on the Monday. It was an excellent conference run by Paydirt, and I congratulate that organisation on probably its biggest conference. It has held them every year and I think this is the sixth one. The honourable member was not there but there was a pass for him. If he had wanted to, he could have come and listened to the Premier make an excellent speech. So, he had not been there himself, he did not have a transcript of the speech but he quoted from the 5AA precis, which is incredibly lazy.

I can tell members what the Premier did say, and he was quoted out of context. He started by saying that we had asked the Economic Development Board to make competitiveness its prime focus over the next four years. He then listed a number of areas that he would like the focus to be on. He said that if anyone remains in any doubt about the government's resolve on the issue of reform they need only look at the second term agenda outlined at last Thursday's formal opening of state parliament. He talked about the development bill and referendums, and that is when he talked about changes to the upper house. He stated:

With this, and other reforms I have just outlined, my aim is to remove bottlenecks that are impeding progress.

Of course, he was talking about impeding progress generally, and not specifically about mining. That is something that would have been manifestly apparent to the member for MacKillop had he been there. He keeps coming in here and talking a lot about his commitment to mining and how much he loves it, but I suggest to him that having a daughter who is a geologist is not a significant enough qualification to—

Dr McFetridge: She is a very smart geologist.

Mr KENYON: I have no doubt about it. I am sure she is good. But, if he is going to be this lazy, it is no wonder that the Liberal Party has not offered any significant mining policy in many years. Their best effort was to rebadge the 1992 exploration initiative introduced by the Hon. Frank Blevins, who was a wonderful man. It was rebadged to TEISA by the Liberal government. Full credit goes to the Liberal government for continuing the Labor Party policy, because it was a very effective policy and has worked wonders already. We were leading the world and recognised by the Fraser Institute as being leaders in the provision of geo-scientific data.

So the Liberal Party carried on our work, and all power to them. They set up a task force and it was from that task force that our state plan targets came. It was excellent work by the task force. Then, when we came out with the PACE initiative, the honourable member had the temerity to claim it was all his work. I never saw, at any stage during a Liberal government, any drilling partnership with the industry, or any mining ambassador programs such as the mining and experts

group. So it is quite a ridiculous proposition of the member for MacKillop that somehow this is a rebadging of a Liberal Party policy, and it builds on his theme of laziness that characterises his time as shadow minister for mining and resources.

Dr McFetridge: We do not have 20 media minders.

Mr KENYON: Obviously he had enough time to look at the precis from 5AA and conclude that that was the Premier's speech. He had enough time to look at the media monitoring but he did not have enough time to get down to the SAREIC conference and actually talk to a few miners or listen to what the Premier had to say. It is an embarrassment to the Liberal Party that the member for MacKillop is the shadow minister for mining because he is so comprehensively hopeless and poor at his job that he could not even turn up at the most important investment conference in this state.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health) obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982. Read a first time.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

The Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS) began in 1938 as a development of the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) laboratories. The man who drove the establishment was Sir Trent Champion de Crespigny an eminent physician and Medical Superintendent of the RAH and Dean of Medicine from 1929 to 1947. He had a vision of an institute which combined laboratory services, teaching and research. It is this integrated approach which has continued to distinguish the IMVS from pure research institutes and is a model which has withstood the test of time.

Since its establishment, the IMVS has been involved in the provision of services to other Australian States and the international community. This has enabled the Institute to develop an enviable reputation both nationally and internationally. Currently pathology services are provided to the Northern Territory and some parts of Victoria. Following the recent tsunami, assistance was provided to Aceh Province in establishing pathology laboratories. For over two decades, the TB Reference Laboratory at the IMVS has worked with the World Health Organisation to provide microbiology services for tuberculosis in Indonesia. The provision of services interstate and overseas has therefore been a routine part of the Institute's activities for over 60 years.

It has, however, recently been brought to the Government's attention following advice from the Crown Solicitor that the *Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982* does not provide the legal authority for the IMVS to provide its services outside of South Australia. The Bill will correct this anomaly and will ensure that any risk is removed in relation to the IMVS meeting its contractual arrangements in providing pathology and other services outside South Australia.

This Bill includes a second amendment to align the Act with changes in the structure of the health system in South Australia. Currently, section 7 of the Act specifies the membership of the IMVS council and states that two members shall be nominated by the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Following the regionalisation of the health system, the Central Northern Adelaide Health Service was incorporated under the *South Australian Health Commission Act 1976* and took over the functions of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. It is proposed that section 7 of the Act be amended to reflect the

changed governance arrangements within the health system. The amendment to section 7 accurately reflects this change by referring to the body established under the *South Australian Health Commission Act* to provide health services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

I urge all members to support these amendments so that South Australia's pre-eminent medical research organisation can continue its outstanding work with full legal authority.

I commend the Bill to Members.

EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982*

3—Amendment of section 7—The Council

The proposed amendment to paragraph (ii) of section 7(2)(a) is made to ensure that the body incorporated under the *South Australian Health Commission Act 1976* to provide health services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital is accurately referred to now that the Royal Adelaide Hospital is no longer incorporated under that Act.

4—Amendment of section 14—Functions and powers of the Institute

New subsection (2a) of section 14 enables the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science and any company established by it pursuant to subsection (2)(ab) to operate within or outside the State.

Mrs REDMOND secured the adjournment of the debate.

HEALTH SYSTEM

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Today during question time the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked me a question about a patient from Yorketown, and I said I would obtain some further information for the house. I am advised that Mr Joseph Chaplin was retrieved from Yorketown Hospital on 9 January 2006. He arrived at the Royal Adelaide Hospital at 4.30 p.m. on that day. He was assessed as having a gastric bleed, but was stable on arrival at the hospital. He was seen on arrival by an ED consultant and monitored every five minutes by nursing staff from 4.30 until 5.05 p.m. and then hourly until about 10 p.m. He was also reviewed by medical staff at 7.55 p.m. that evening. At 10 p.m. that evening—that is, 5½ hours after his admission—he was given fluids, underwent an X-ray, had blood tests and was given medication. It was necessary for him to remain fasting for an endoscopy (that was the reason why he did not receive food). That procedure was undertaken on 10 January at 11.25 a.m.

I received a letter dated 22 January 2006 from the patient's daughter with a covering note from Mr Chaplin regarding his treatment and making some of the claims that were made by the deputy leader. I was concerned to read about this report of the treatment of Mr Chaplin and, in a letter to the daughter, I invited Mr Chaplin to meet with the patient adviser at Royal Adelaide Hospital to discuss concerns regarding the treatment. Mr Chaplin's daughter or Mr Chaplin had requested a meeting to go through it, and I invited them to do so.

I am advised by the hospital that no contact has since been made by Mr Chaplin or his daughter. This is unfortunate. It is always difficult when people are under stress and they are in a hospital setting. They can have very strong reactions to that process. I am concerned that these allegations are left standing without Mr Chaplin's having contacted the patient

adviser, so I intend to refer the matter to the Commissioner of Health and Community Complaints.

**NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
(TRANSFER OF WATER LICENCES)
AMENDMENT BILL**

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD (Minister for the River Murray) obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Natural Resources Management Act 2004. Read a first time.

The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

The *Natural Resources Management (Transfer of Water Licences) Amendment Bill 2006* is part of an initiative of the South Australian Government to encourage the community to participate directly to help increase flows to improve the health of the River Murray.

South Australia is pursuing water recovery measures to provide ecological outcomes at all priority sites in South Australia as part of a long-term process to improve river health and achieve South Australia's Strategic Plan target of recovering 1 500 gegalitres of environmental flows for the River Murray by 2018.

One important water recovery mechanism is the voluntary donation of water to environmental watering projects. Voluntary donation represents a potentially significant additional opportunity to increase environmental flows at priority sites. Additional environmental water will be used to improve the condition of ecological systems, enhance water quality and improve the robustness of the river system to withstand extreme events (such as drought or adverse impacts arising from climate change).

A number of groups and individuals have indicated that there is significant willingness within the community to donate water for specific environmental projects. The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board strongly supports the proposal, which is seen as a positive contribution by Government to encourage commitment and participation by the community to improve environmental flows.

The South Australian Government has already announced its commitment to remove certain fees and charges when water is donated to an accredited environmental watering project. The Government has committed to—

- reimbursing a proportion of the Natural Resources Management water based levy paid by the donor in respect of the water donated;
- removing transfer fees on a water allocation or water licence donated to the environment and establishment fees for an environmental donations licence; and
- removing stamp duty on a water allocation and water licences donated to the environment.

Two of these measures have already been taken. Reimbursing the water levy and removing water transfer fees under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* have been achieved through new Regulations under that Act.

The remaining incentive, removing stamp duty on environmental transfers, requires an amendment to the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* itself. That amendment is the subject of the Bill now tabled.

Section 157 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* presently provides that stamp duty is not payable in respect of the transfer of a licence or water allocation, despite the provisions of the *Stamp Duties Act 1923* if the transfer is for a period of five years or less.

However, for transfers longer than five years, ie permanent donations or leases with extension rights which amount to more than five years in total, the *Stamp Duties Act 1923* requires stamp duty to be paid, on an increasing scale depending on the value of the water transferred.

The amendment Bill will enable a regulation to be made under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* to exempt stamp duty on the transfer of a water licence or water allocation donated to an environmental donations licence.

The recently-made *Natural Resources Management (General) (Environmental Donations Licences) Variation Regulations 2005* set out the criteria for environmental donations licences. An environmental donations licence will only be able to be used on accredited environmental watering projects. The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is a key partner in improving flows to the river. The Board will administer the accreditation scheme, using agreed guidelines to assess watering projects for accreditation.

A list of environmental donations licences and the associated approved environmental watering projects will be maintained and made publicly accessible via the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board's websites. The SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board will monitor and annually report on water donations made to the environment.

Information on the proposal will be widely advertised by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board in local community forums, through the local press and local interest groups such as the Local Action Planning groups, regional local governments and irrigator groups.

I commend the Bill to Members.

EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

2—Commencement

The measure will be brought into operation by proclamation.

3—Amendment provisions

This clause is formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*

4—Amendment of section 157—Transfer

Section 157(9) of the Act is to be revised so that the stamp duty exemption will be able to be extended to the transfer of licences, or the transfer of water allocations, that fall within categories prescribed by the regulations.

Dr McFETRIDGE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 2 May. Page 64.)

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen): Last night I sought leave to continue my remarks when I was part way through making some comments on the issue of water prescription in the Mount Lofty Ranges that occurred during the last government. In particular, I had already canvassed a couple of issues to do with water prescription, notably that this was being imposed without any real consultation, and that there was no scientific basis for it. Notwithstanding we are a dry state in a dry continent, the Mount Lofty Ranges has the highest rainfall of any part of the state and, thereby, provides us with the fruit and vegetable bowl of the Adelaide area. One thing that has often been said to me by generational farmers in the electorate of Heysen is that they are using far less water these days than what they used 30 years ago. It is such a consistent thing that is said to me that I really wonder why the government has proceeded down this path when, in fact, there is no scientific basis for the course that they are adopting. Not only is the government going to control—for instance now, the future building of dams—but also under water prescription, the government will now control, and particularly the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (known as WALABI), will control whether you build a new dam on your property, and even the extent to which you can use the water from existing dams. That itself is a problem, but that leads onto the next problem, and that

is that the Department of Water, Land, Biodiversity and Conservation will decide what the land use will be. Now, they are not farmers in that department; they are ideologically driven people who work for the department of the environment, essentially, and they have no appreciation of what the effect of their decision is going to be.

It is the nature of farming that over generations people change what they farm, whether it be from dairy cattle to wine grapes, or to olives, or to fruit and vegetables, or whatever they are going to do, farmers do change what they are going to do with their properties from time to time. It is not a decision that they take lightly. They take it according to their own knowledge, according to what markets are likely to do, and according to whether or not they can actually make a dollar out of it because, at the end of the day, if we do not enable them to make a dollar, we will not have any farmers left in South Australia.

For my part, my discussions with farmers over the years have indicated that they are quite environmentally conscious these days, and more than willing to work towards improving not only the land itself but also the rivers, water courses and streams that relate to the land that they are dealing with. A lot of them become involved in Landcare groups. They are extremely conscientious environmentalists, but they are not sitting behind a desk somewhere in the city making the decision. I have a real problem with the idea that the government can decide what farms will be growing or producing. Indeed, it is at the point under this prescription that if someone, for instance, was part way through converting their property when prescription was introduced from one land use to another—even if they had invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in making that change to a new type of activity on their land—this department decides whether or not they can continue down the track that they have started on, and more than half the time the government department has decided against giving them the right to continue.

So, even when they have invested all this money, they have made a firm decision, they are going about trying to earn a living, they have usually borrowed significant sums from a bank, the department says, 'No, we are not going to agree to you doing this, notwithstanding that you have already invested hundreds of thousands of dollars.' What is more, not only does the department make the decision, but also there is no way for these people to appeal that decision to a court of law. That is unbelievably unjust. It lacks any merit and there is no justification for it. I have tried to argue the point with people from the department—people who are the makers of the decisions—and they concede that, about half the time, they have decided against allowing someone to do what they have decided to do with the property, but they make no apology for that, and have no answer as to why someone should not be entitled to appeal against their internal decision. They always should have that right to appeal to a court of law to fix that decision, and that is being denied them by this government.

We then have on top of that the cost of the meters, because the government is saying, 'Wherever you draw water out, whether it be by a bore from your own dam on your own property, or from any other source around the property, from a bore going down to underground water or anything like that, you have to put a meter on it.' That is not just a meter for your property but a meter for every point of extraction. You can bet your bottom dollar that the next step will be that we then make you pay for the water which has landed on your property and which you have caught in a dam and want to

use. One situation has been brought to my attention at Wistow, where I have a land-holder who is extremely environmentally conscious. He has been doing things with water on his property specifically to improve the environment. He has no commercial interest in the activities that he is carrying out. He is not going to make any money out of it: it will cost him money.

On the basis of that activity, he decided that it would be a good idea to apply for an exemption from the need to have a meter on his property and to apply for a licence, because the government has required all people who use the water to apply for a licence to use the water that has fallen on their properties. He applied for an exemption from this, and that was denied. The consequence of that is that this farmer will now stop doing what he has been doing to improve the environment, so the department—which supposedly is there to improve the environment, help maintain biodiversity and be involved in conservation—is by its very actions having exactly the opposite effect by virtue of the way it is administering this prescription right through the Mount Lofty Ranges.

As I said, the Mount Lofty Ranges is the fruit and vegetable bowl of Adelaide. I can see a day when, if this government is allowed to continue unfettered in the direction in which it is going, we will end up with no areas in the Adelaide Hills that are actually producing any product for us to eat. We will become reliant on bringing product from interstate. We have already seen the problems we have in this state with the egg industry. We will have increasing problems with chicken farming in this state, because there are huge chicken farms interstate with hundreds of acres. Nowhere in South Australia do we have the size of farms that they already have interstate. I do not want to see this state reduced to a butt in terms of agricultural production. We need to keep that independence.

We have the advantage that we actually have one of the cleanest, greenest environments in the world and, if we are clever, we can make ourselves a real target for the markets, because there are so many places around the world that want to have that clean, green environment and want to know that the product they are purchasing has come from that sort of environment. If you talk, for instance, to the people who run Jurlique (which is not in my electorate but in the electorate of Kavel next door), the people who run that came out from Germany and specifically selected the site because it is the cleanest place in the world that they could find in terms of being able to grow the product that they want to grow to make their actual consumables that they sell in shops all around the world. They make it and brand it as coming from the Adelaide Hills, because that is such a great environment.

I remain extremely concerned about this water prescription in the Mount Lofty Ranges. I do not want to see it continued. I think that the government would do well to reverse its decision, go back to the drawing board and see whether it can actually find any scientific basis for introducing water prescription. In my opinion, it will do better to talk to the farmers. As I said, the farmers that I talk to—and I talk to farmers all around the electorate—are environmentally conscious. In my view, the government would do much better to talk to them and see what can be mutually agreed in terms of how better to deal with the environment as a whole, including water on the properties.

To have had this quantum shift from the idea that you can catch the water that falls on your property and use it to saying, 'No, not only will we not allow you to use it but we will make you put a meter on and tell you how much you can

use' is fundamentally wrong and a step very much in the wrong direction. One other topic that I want to cover quickly in this contribution is that of law and order.

A number of things were mentioned in the speech given by Her Excellency last week that suggested that certain bills will be introduced into the house, and I will not comment on any of those specifically. As shadow Attorney-General, I think it is important for me to wait and see the detail of what the government is proposing before commenting on it, but there are a couple of things that I do want to put on record about this government's views on law and order.

For the most part, the government simply seems to want to increase penalties, and I do not think that is necessarily the best way. I keep saying that, when a burglar is breaking into your house at three in the morning, he is not actually contemplating, 'Gee, I better not do this, because they've just doubled the penalty from five years to 10 years as the maximum.' He is contemplating that he is going to get away with it. Our whole focus in law and order needs to be back a couple of steps from increasing the maximum penalty which, by the way, the government has mostly done without producing any evidence as to how many people had been charged, how many had been convicted, how many had the maximum penalty imposed, or anything of the sort.

I want to mention two other things in respect of law and order. The first is that both the Premier and the Attorney-General seem to have a real set against lawyers. I suspect that in the Attorney's case it comes about because, as the leader of the opposition said shortly before the election, we have currently an Attorney-General who has spent more time in a court of law as a witness than he ever has as a practitioner. For that reason he, and the Premier as well, seem to have the attitude that all lawyers are in their profession for no better reason than that they expect to make lots of money, and that is the only basis upon which they perform.

That is not, in my experience, the reality of most practitioners. I do not seek to suggest that lawyers do not make good money—a lot of them do—but a lot of them work for pretty basic money, and I would have included myself in that category when I was practising. The fact is that most of them are motivated and stimulated by, firstly, trying to help their clients—that is their key motivation and they often go well above and beyond the call of duty in trying to do that—and, secondly, by the intellectual stimulation of winning the argument, of solving the problem, or doing what it is they have been trained to do.

They are not there just because they can send out big bills. To give you an example of what I am talking about, I know a number of criminal lawyers, for instance, who have made complaints to me about the fact that there is no provision made for someone in court—who has been accused, on remand or in prison, who has their court case heard and is found not guilty and is released—to actually get home. Many times lawyers put their hands into their own pockets to give them some money just to get home, otherwise they are just left on the street without any assistance, without any way of getting home, let alone assistance in how to actually get started back into a reasonable life.

So I resent the general view that the Premier and the Attorney take, that lawyers are not good people—they are, for the most part. There will always be the odd bad apple but, for the most part, they are hardworking people of great integrity, who do their very best to serve the community and their clients.

My other concern is that the Attorney has, on a number of occasions, in my view, come very close to, or at least blurred, the separation of powers. The separation of the three arms of government is fundamental to our legal system and to the way in which our whole community operates. Whilst he may gain a short-term benefit from a headline in appealing certain cases and so on, his interference in the judicial process is inappropriate. That is a blurring of the powers. In fact, I met a lawyer as I was coming out of Bunnings the other day—and I will not name the person—who said that they thought it damaged the fabric of society to take the view that the Attorney is taking in managing legal issues.

I have a real concern about this, so I want the Attorney to stop and think before he does this the next time, because it is fundamental, as I said, to our whole system of operation of government—which is an extremely stable and good system—that we do not blur that line between the various arms of government. I really think that the Attorney loses in the long run. He may, as I said, get a short-term gain but he will ultimately lose by doing what he has been doing during the past four years.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Unley. I remind the house that this is the member's first speech and that he should be accorded the normal courtesies and respect afforded to new members on this important occasion.

Mr PISONI (Unley): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I address parliament for the first time, I feel proud and privileged to be here representing my community as the member for Unley. I have a very strong sense of responsibility to my constituents and to the state of South Australia. I also have a responsibility to remember where I came from because that is what inspires me and drives me today, to encourage our young people to recognise opportunities when they present themselves and to have the confidence to seize those opportunities to better themselves and their communities.

Growing up in Salisbury, north of Adelaide, was particularly important to me. As a child my parents had a great influence on me. The values they taught me have enabled me to be here today. My father introduced me to politics, more so the impact that politics can have on society. I still have memories of the stories my father told me, when I was very young, of his life in Milan, Italy, before he came to Australia.

The stories I remember best are the ones he told me about the political and social upheaval in Italy at the end of the Second World War and the overthrow and execution of Benito Mussolini. My father, as a young man in 1945, watched the crowds gather as the body of Mussolini was brought to his suburb in Milan. He witnessed first-hand an angry crowd violently assaulting the corpse, before hanging it by its heels from the roof of a service station. Statues of Mussolini were toppled and anti-fascist slogans painted on the walls. He told of his mixed emotions of fear and elation, as he watched the body of Mussolini swinging not far from his home. Thankfully, he had the good sense to stay in the background, whilst the partisans swiftly arrested former fascists, tried them and executed them all in a matter of hours.

Italy's recovery was slow after the war and, a few years later, dad was still living in a single, four-roomed house that his family shared with three other families. Unlike today, in our fortunate Australian society, in his 20s, he was still giving his mother his pay packet. If he was lucky his mother would pull out a few thousand lira for him to spend as pocket money.

In this world some people will seize an opportunity when it presents itself, others will not. Fortunately for me, my father recognised and seized the opportunity to break free from his life of poverty in post-war Italy. He took the biggest risk of his life: he migrated to Australia. Moving to Australia from Italy in the 1950s must have been an enormous challenge, but he was determined to make a new life in a new country. It was a great opportunity. From my father, I learnt that there were opportunities for a better life if you were willing to seize them. His decision to leave Italy was the first stage on this journey of opportunity, and for that I am extremely grateful to him. As I said at the outset, I have a responsibility never to forget where I came from, because my experience has shown me that many of our young people just need to be given an opportunity and they will grasp it with both hands.

The current skills shortage in this state has created enormous opportunity for our young people, but we must ensure that training is both available and accessible. This shortage, combined with a vibrant small business sector and strong industries, will create the opportunity for our young people to prosper in the work force and in our community. I grew up in Barnett Street, Salisbury, and I attended St Augustine's Primary School and Salisbury High School. I am sure the Premier knows the neighbourhood well as it is in the heart of his own electorate of Ramsay and it is only 25 kilometres from his home in Norwood. University was not an option for me. At age 16 I felt my time at school was being wasted. It was time for me to enter the work force. For me the choices were clear. I could remain unskilled, perhaps working on an assembly line, or I could try for an apprenticeship.

In April 1979, I started making phone calls, writing letters and attending tests and interviews. I applied unsuccessfully for over 100 apprenticeship positions. At that time Labor was in power in South Australia and we had an over-regulated labour market and unemployment was over 10 per cent. Youth unemployment was more than twice that. It was not a time to be fussy, and I remember telling my mother that any trade would do. I have in my hand 50 letters saying, 'Thank you but no thank you' in answer to my apprenticeship applications. Many of these companies have since changed hands, closed down, moved interstate or have outsourced to China, Thailand or Vietnam. Just for your interest, Madam Deputy Speaker, these companies include John Shearer, Humes, Tubemakers, Clarks Shoes, Nirroyal, Perry Engineering and Chrysler Australia, just to name a few.

By December that same year, aged 16, I was beginning to feel frustrated about my lack of success when I received a letter informing me that I had been a successful applicant for a wood machining apprenticeship at the very prestigious Norman Turner and Nottage in Wright Street in the city. I began my apprenticeship on 4 February 1980. The company made high quality furniture for the upper end of the market in Adelaide and even had customers interstate. Working in the city was my first real taste of the opportunities beyond my backyard of Salisbury. I was a part-time body builder at that time, so a strong apprentice came in handy as a second man for deliveries. In this way I often had the chance to deliver furniture which I had helped to make, and that was very satisfying, I must say.

That gave me the opportunity to meet the customers, many of whom were doctors, lawyers and business leaders, but there were also small business people, many of whom had started their own businesses with only their tool box and the skills that they had acquired learning on the job. I came into

contact with these self-made people, delivery after delivery, customer after customer. I recognised that, with hard work and persistence, many opportunities were available for personal achievement and advancement beyond the horizons I had known growing up in Salisbury. I was determined, after finishing my apprenticeship, to start my own business.

My interest in politics began the first time I voted at the Salisbury campus of TAFE. I confess that, although proud to be voting, I must have been a naive voter, for on that occasion I voted Labor as that was all I knew. After all, the Labor Party claimed to be the party of the workers and I was a working-class boy. I thought that they would be proud of me for I had worked out a way to improve my lot in life by taking the opportunities that life had presented, just as my father had done. I soon started my own business, and within six months I was summoned—yes, summoned—by the furnishing trade union to appear in the Industrial Relations Commission in Melbourne, with the intent of forcing me to employ under the federal award if, at some time in the future, I had the capacity to employ staff. Needless to say, I was dragged into the federal industrial system.

Then there was the introduction of compulsory superannuation contributions—introduced by the Hawke Labor government. A good idea, or so I thought at the time, but there was a catch. There was no choice of super fund for the employees and the scheme was administered by the union. By this time I was beginning to think that the trade union movement and their mates in the Labor Party were more concerned about the size and control of their membership than with the workers' welfare and best interests. I am pleased to inform the house that this time I was not going to let the union push me around, so I spoke with the Chamber of Commerce and we successfully applied for an exemption, which allowed me to use a fund nominated by our staff and not controlled by the furnishing union. My exemption was even written into the federal award.

It was about this time that I felt I needed to be more politically aware. Learning of the impact the government could have on my business meant that I wanted to have more than just my vote at election time. Having felt let down by Labor, I made some inquiries at Liberal Party head office. I was pleased with the interest shown and the prompt return of my phone calls. I signed up to the Young Liberals and began attending meetings—usually still in my overalls straight from my workshop. I immediately felt a connection with a group of people who shared my enthusiasm for free enterprise. Within 12 months I was elected to the state executive of the Young Liberal Movement and a delegate to the Liberal Party's state governing body.

Members can see that this great state of ours is full of opportunities, but too many of our young people are missing out on them. Whilst some individuals are more naturally inclined to grasp opportunities, all need and deserve to be encouraged. Governments can play an important role in this process. I believe that government must assist to provide those opportunities by encouraging business and investors, and I intend to be a champion of small business and industry in this place.

One of the biggest employment opportunities for young people in South Australia is the expansion of Roxby Downs. Fortunately, and finally, the Premier realises and recognises this, albeit 20 years late. Twenty years ago, this Premier described Roxby Downs as a 'mirage in the desert'. Today, South Australia can position itself as a Persian Gulf of clean energy for the growing economies of our major trading

partners, in particular China. Possibly the most effective way for South Australia to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gasses is to ensure the supply of uranium to potentially the world's largest consumer of energy, China. Just imagine what a mess the world would be in if 1.4 billion Chinese burnt coal for their energy?

Thankfully, the Liberals were in power 20 years ago, and it was Liberal Premier David Tonkin—whose government included ministers such as Dean Brown and John Olsen—who had this vision for South Australia. The legislation to allow Roxby Downs passed the Liberal dominated lower house with enthusiasm, but it was blocked by Labor in the upper house. But there was someone else who could see just how foolish the Labor Party was being on this issue. Norm Foster, a Labor member of the Legislative Council, had foresight and vision. He could see an opportunity being lost—an opportunity too big to be missed by a state such as South Australia.

It should be remembered here today that, as he boasts about the mining boom he is presiding over in South Australia, this Premier did not support uranium mining when it was a fledgling resource industry in this state. South Australia has this massive opportunity today only because of the forward planning of the Liberal Party and the selfless act of Norm Foster, the Labor MLC, who put vision and prosperity before ideology. Norm Foster crossed the floor and was expelled from the Labor Party for doing the right thing for South Australia. His reward was to be banished from Labor Party history—to be labelled a Labor 'rat' for putting the opportunities and prosperity of South Australians ahead of the interests of his loony Left colleagues. This Premier says that he has a vision for South Australia, but on the issue of Roxby Downs he has shown only hindsight.

What about the new Honeymoon mine, a new example of Labor bowing to the loony left. As the Liberal Party approved this mine when it was in government, the minister in the other place regards this mine as an existing mine, so the Labor Party's no new mines policy has no effect. I am an artisan, but this sleight of hand is the work of a master craftsman: criticise the Liberals for encouraging new mining projects in South Australia to placate the likes of Mr Albanese in Canberra and then take the credit for the rewards of the Liberal Party's foresight.

I would now like to speak of my early days in business. As a 21-year old, still living with my parents, I did not know a lot about business. I learnt it all on the job. When you do not have any prior experience you just react to situations as they present themselves: your first order, your first rent payment and even your first tax return. However, as you grow into the job, you learn to plan—plan for new sales, plan to pay your rent and plan to pay your taxes. The Rann government reminds me very much of my early days in business. It simply reacts to each new situation and hopes that everything will be all right, but it remains stuck at that level. Despite having four years' experience, this government just still reacts. It has not learnt to be proactive and plan ahead to avoid the need for ill-considered reaction.

This government reacted angrily to a plan to store low level radioactive waste in remote South Australia. After three years we still see this by-product of essential community services, such as waste from life saving medical procedures stored in 130 locations around the state, many of which are in the Adelaide square mile, not safely stored out of the way but in hotchpotch storage in populated centres. It still reacts to law and order issues by insulting lawyers and judges and

increasing penalties with no plan to properly resource the police, the courts or correctional services. Worst of all, this government deliberately chooses not to address the social problems that lead to much of this crime.

This government might react to the media attention afforded when job losses occur in the automotive industry, but it has no interest in or plan for the thousands of small businesses that find themselves in a similar situation. The 3 000 jobs lost in furniture manufacturing in South Australia over the past five years, for example, have not received any attention. Rather than a 'shoot from the hip' reaction, small business would prefer a government that plans; for example, a government plan to reduce business taxes, payroll tax, land tax and stamp duty. Such a plan might also include reducing WorkCover levies and bringing down WorkCover's record unfunded liabilities to increase investment confidence in this state. It is a fact that South Australia's average WorkCover levy is twice that of the average levy in Victoria, and Victoria is a major competitor of South Australia for new and existing businesses, particularly manufacturing industries. More and more we see South Australia's baby boomer generation travelling to Victoria as they visit more regularly to see their grandchildren, because Labor has failed to offer their own children opportunities in their home state of South Australia.

Adelaide is recognised as a tough market. Interstate businesses often test new products in Adelaide. They say, 'If it sells in Adelaide, it will sell anywhere,' but it does not need to be that way. We can give our economy confidence. We do not need to have some of the highest business taxes in the country. We have one of Australia's lowest payroll tax thresholds, yet also one of the highest rates. Let us remember that payroll tax is not a tax on profit, wealth or even capital. It is a tax on employment, and the more you employ, the more tax you pay. Give your staff a pay rise and, yes, that is right, you pay more tax. I do not believe that payroll tax was ever intended to be paid by the small family business that employs a handful of staff, as is the case today.

It is interesting how history is forgotten as payroll tax is discussed. Payroll tax was first introduced by the federal government in 1941. Its purpose was to fund a new child endowment scheme and, at a time when families had four or five children, it was set at 2.5 per cent. That is interesting in itself because, in September 1971, the new Dunstan Labor government was handed the power from the commonwealth to collect payroll tax and it immediately increased the rate by 35 per cent. This tax on employment reached its peak at 6.25 per cent in the early 1990s when this state was in recession and unemployment was at record levels. This increase happened under the bankrupt Bannon Labor government—which, I should remind this house, this Premier was very much part of. Fortunately, in 1993, South Australians elected a Liberal government and the Liberals fixed the mess that Labor had created and put in place the foundations to return this state to the AAA credit rating it now boasts, but that story is for another day.

So we can see that payroll tax had humble beginnings as a modest tax levied to fund a new plan to improve fairness and equity in Australian society but remains today as a tax that has developed into a millstone around the necks of South Australian businesses. This is at a time when the South Australian manufacturing sector is increasingly competing with low-cost manufacturing nations to our north, with many of whom Australia shares free trade agreements. Labor's failure to address Treasury's reliance on payroll tax is, in effect, placing a tariff on every South Australian-made

product sold locally or shipped out for export. That is a tariff of \$5.50 on every \$100 generated by South Australian workers and represents a free kick to offshore manufacturing.

Small business needs a government that understands its difficulties and shares its aspirations, not a government whose members are drawn from the narrow base of trade union officials and ministerial staffers. Perhaps, if government was more broadly represented, it would also understand just how important home ownership is to South Australians. Maybe then we would see state government stamp duty relief for first home buyers. The federal government provides a \$7 000 grant for first home buyers, but if you spend a modest \$250 000 on your first home you will pay nearly \$9 000 in state government stamp duty. So, what the Howard government gives, the Rann government takes away, and more. This is at a time when South Australia is trying to encourage its youth to stay in this state. We need to encourage those who have left this state to come back and to attract a larger share of settlers from Australia's immigration program. Stamp duty is, in effect, making it more expensive for them to establish themselves in this state.

Maybe, if Labor was more representative, it would understand the need to put in place a plan and a priority on stormwater management in and around my electorate of Unley before there is a major disaster. But my guess is that this government would prefer to react rather than plan. I believe this government has already counted the beans on stormwater management in Unley. Yes, it has had its bean counters sit down and crunch the numbers. It has decided that, financially, it is cheaper for this government to react after the event, even if that means compensating those affected rather than putting together a plan to fix the problem now and for the future. It may very well be a cheaper option for Treasury, but this strategy will have a high personal cost for those affected. It is not a strategy consistent with good government.

At the declaration of the poll in Unley, I made mention of the lifestyle and sense of community that Unley has to offer with its closeness to the city, its character housing, its concentration of strip shopping made up of restaurants, boutiques, homewares and retail services. Many of our state's head offices are found on Greenhill Road, the northern boundary of the seat of Unley. Unley is a place people want to be, to visit, and aspire to live. It is a fact that, geographically, Unley is the smallest of the 47 electorates represented in this chamber. This is reflected in the lack of open space and above average stock of medium and high density housing. This is an issue in Unley. Since my preselection in July last year, I have knocked on 7 000 house doors, from Parkside to Myrtle Bank and from Goodwood to Glenunga, and I am grateful for the courtesy extended to me by those who gave me their time. What soon became apparent to me was Unley's diversity. It has a diversity in housing, from small workers' cottages to large classic homesteads on full acre blocks, from cream brick flats built in the 1960s and 1970s through to the new Tuscan duplexes. Unley has some of Adelaide's finest homes. Unley also enjoys a diversity of culture, language and religion.

It is with personal interest that I discovered that Italians are the largest group that claims ancestry outside of Australia's traditional Anglo-Saxon stock in Unley. The Greek community is not far behind, and is also one of the most active communities in Unley, whose contribution to the district is very much acknowledged and celebrated. Many of Unley's residents are professionals, managers and business

owners. I also met with tradespeople and others with special skills who were employed, as well as those who were self-employed. In recent times, there has been a resurgence of families in Unley. 30 per cent of the electorate is in the 30 to 50 year age group, the age bracket most likely to have dependent children. Our local primary schools have reversed the decline in enrolments of 20 years ago and many are now full to capacity. I come to this house as an advocate of public education, and I stand for parents' rights to have an input into their children's education at government schools. However, I also believe that it is a parent's right to choose an independent school without penalty if they wish to do so.

Before I began preparing this speech, I read the maiden speeches of those who had held this seat before me, for both interest and inspiration. The members themselves were as diverse as the seat of Unley. It is of interest that, since its creation, the seat of Unley has been held by both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party almost equally. Mr John McLeay was elected in 1939. He was an independent Liberal. He spoke of his success in business and his commitment to public service. I would like to share with you a harmless barb that he directed to the then member for Norwood, as follows:

He regards himself as the important member for Norwood. I would describe him as the imported member, as he lives in the Hindmarsh district.

Today we see a number of imported members on the government benches who see themselves as being too important to live in their own electorates. Following Mr McLeay was Mr Colin Dunnage, a businessman and a Liberal. He was elected in 1941 for 21 years. Australia was at war, but life at Unley continued and some things never changed. Mr Dunnage spent a good part of his speech talking about the cost of housing and public transport. He also praised the minister for the introduction of new technical schools that would offer opportunities for our young to enter a trade. His speech also gave evidence of a strong sense of community and an active pool of volunteers, a tradition that continues in Unley today.

Mr Gil Langley, the famous Australian test cricketer, was elected as the member for the seat of Unley in 1962. His speech was brief; just a page of *Hansard*. He included descriptions of Unley's schools and road safety for students, and back then he spoke favourably about an uninterrupted supply of power to the homes in Unley. I am sure that senior constituents of Unley today can only reminisce about such a luxury. I will only be content when I can stand in this house and boast about such an achievement during my time as the member for Unley. It is my intention to reclaim for the people of Unley their right to an uninterrupted power supply.

Labor's Kim Mayes was elected in 1982 on the retirement of Mr Langley. His maiden speech was by far the longest; seven whole pages of *Hansard*. He spoke largely of the Labor Party and about the benefits of public enterprise and the perils of private enterprise. However, he was proven to be wrong in that opinion. He paid the price, losing the seat in the Labor State Bank disaster election of 1993, when the seat returned to the Liberal Party after being held by Labor for more than three decades. My immediate predecessor, the former member for Hayward, was elected in the statewide landslide election victory for the Liberal Party.

Despite what can only be described as a disappointing election result for the Liberal Party on 18 March, I am pleased to have held the seat of Unley for the Liberal Party. I am both honoured and humbled by the support given to me in this tight contest. I am committed to serving the people of

Unley and the state of South Australia. After 22 years in small business one learns to be practical, and I hope to bring a practical point of view to this house. It is a privilege to represent Unley, where I have lived for most of my adult life, where I am part of the community, where Michelle and I are raising a family and where we can see a bright future as we work together for the best interests of our community. I hope that I will be bold enough to raise the issues that concern my constituents and broad enough to take criticism. Not only will I draw from my own life experience but, judging from my contact with my electorate so far, I will learn from the depth of pooled local knowledge found within the members of my community.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my friends and supporters for their help, advice and assistance over the many years of my political involvement. Finally, I would like to thank my family, in particular, my wife Michelle and my two children, Lily and Huon. My family are the most important part of my life, and I would not be here without them.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Morialta, I remind the house that it is the member's maiden speech and I ask the house to extend to the member the usual courtesies.

Ms SIMMONS (Morialta): I congratulate you, sir, on your appointment as Speaker to this house. I remember vividly your supplication to a previous speaker and, concurring with your sentiments, I am sure that you will preside in an impartial and just manner over the deliberations of this chamber. I acknowledge that we meet on Kaurna land, and I pay my respects and extend my thanks to the traditional owners.

It is a great honour to be elected to the South Australian parliament, and it is one that I gladly accept with both respect and humility. I understand the responsibility that the people of Morialta, who elected me to this place, have awarded to me, and I thank them for their faith. I will do my best to advocate for them and represent their needs to this parliament. 'Morialta' is an Aboriginal word meaning overflowing or running water. Its area includes not only the north-eastern suburbs from Magill to Paradise but also way up into the Hills to Cherryville and Basket Range.

Morialta also has an interesting cross-section of ethnicities. Over 27 per cent identify themselves as of Italian extraction, but we also have a strong Greek community, Anglo-Saxon, Irish, Vietnamese, Indian, Chinese and a growing number of new immigrants from the Sudan. The community, therefore, has a diverse range of needs, depending on their ethnic background and living environment. However, in the 18 months that I was campaigning there was a greater cohesion of issues raised than disparity.

People told me that their main concerns reflected the priority areas of the Rann government. They want good health and a better health system, and a good education for their children and grandchildren. They also want to feel safe in their homes, in their streets, and when they travel around their state. They uniformly talked to me about the importance of family and the responsibilities and values that accompany family life, whatever shape that family took. These same values were also seen as the characteristics that supported community life.

I was continually impressed by the people I met, young and old; the local events I attended, which demonstrated people's commitment to the community; the number of volunteer hours worked; the colour and excitement of the festas; and the devotion of the various religious groups to

follow their faith. I particularly enjoyed the diverse multicultural celebrations which mark the calendar. I was also struck by the inclusiveness of all these groups, and I thank them for their warm and friendly invitations. I look forward to continuing relationships I have built, as I represent these groups in parliament. I have a particular interest in multicultural issues and the way in which they add value to the culture and development of our state.

However, I also met a large number of constituents who are doing it hard out there—families who live from week to week, juggling finances to buy their child a new pair of shoes, delaying paying household bills because of an unexpected emergency and feeling that they are for ever on the back foot, never within reach of catching up. Morialta also has a significant number of ageing South Australians, most of whom are dependent on an inadequate pension provided by the federal government or self-funded retirees on a small fixed income, who expressed to me their concerns for their future, wondering if they are going to have enough funds to survive their lifetime.

Members may be aware that for many years I worked in the disability sector. The constituents of Morialta certainly knew. Some who sought me out to tell me their stories were previous clients and others knew of me through word of mouth. Without exception, these people showed an inner strength and resourcefulness to cope with life that I find very humbling. They will welcome the commitment of this government to provide extra help in the area of supported accommodation, transport and autism services. As many of you will know, I was the CEO of the Autism Association for many years. I look forward to the restructuring of the disability system through the creation of Disability Services SA, which will simplify access to these services.

In order to advocate for and represent people well, you have to be a good listener. I found throughout the campaign that people appreciate more than anything the opportunity not only to be heard but to feel heard; they are not same thing. As a professional counsellor, I have learned that everyone has a story to tell, no two stories are the same, and that sometimes people want you to solve their problems. However, most have already gone down the path of solving their own problems and just want to share their load with you. They have expectations that you as a leader in the community can prevent a repeat of their bad experiences for others—to literally take on the problems of society and change for the better the way in which the system works. For me, this is what being a politician is all about. I will continue to listen to my constituents through a range of mediums—through door knocking; street corner meetings, which were ever popular during the campaign; public forums and gatherings—and to advocate for their needs.

For a long time, South Australia has laid the foundations that led the way in vesting rights in women, both as citizens and in parliament. I am honoured to be part of a party that has women as 46 per cent of its elected members. In 1894, Mary Lee, the Secretary of the Women's Suffrage League in South Australia, campaigned doggedly for the public acceptance of women's representation in parliament. She would have been very proud today. Women make up just over 50 per cent of this state, so we very nearly have equal representation. However, it is the greatest representation of women in parliament in Australia, and, as a long-time advocate for equality in parliament, that makes me very proud.

Today, I would like to pay tribute to one of our colleagues, the Hon. Terry Roberts MLC, who died just before the

election. Terry was a mentor and a friend who shared my passion for Aboriginal affairs. I was very privileged to accompany him on a four-day trip to the AP lands back in 2002. I was inspired by his knowledge, his kinship with the people, and the respect paid both by him and to him. Until he became sick, Terry and I continued to debate and discuss Aboriginal affairs at length. We did not always agree on the path and solutions, but I was always taken by his quiet determination and sincerity. Terry was always a real gentleman. He was good with words; he could even talk me under the table. He had a story for every situation, and he will be sorely missed in the other place, in South Australia, and by his friends and colleagues.

Terry knew that I have had a close association with the Aboriginal people since 1990, when the highly respected elder Ruby Hammond adopted my family. To my children she was always Auntie Ruby. I cannot thank her enough for the richness that came into our lives through her teaching. I also want to thank tonight my Arabunna friends from Marree for all their love and support over many years, particularly Pappa Reg Dodd and Nanna Rhonda Gepp and all the Gepp and Dodd children who have taught me so much about land, country, spirituality and family. I look forward to being part of a government that is committed to improving the health and welfare of indigenous South Australians.

Safety and security of employment is, of course, paramount to every individual worker, their families and the communities in which they live. For many of the 6 742 constituents—nearly the 7 000 my colleague from Unley doorknocked—this was a major priority. South Australia has long enjoyed a very stable industrial relations system, but currently people are feeling extremely threatened by the new federal work choices legislation which guts the rights of working families. My constituents told me that they were extremely worried about losing their employment security, and the work entitlements that unions have fought so hard and so long to achieve. They saw the term ‘family friendly workplace’ being thrown out of the window, and fathers as well as mothers expressed their concern about how they were going to balance work and family in the future. Let us not be mistaken: AWAs are bad for family life.

It will be an important role of this government to defend the fundamental right of workers to bargain collectively, and protect workers who are employed under state law. I also fear for the ability of families to preserve their quality time together with the push from big business and the opposition to extend already long shopping hours to public holidays. There is only so much money in people’s pockets. Businesses cannot take more than is in the family purse without people racking up debts. ABS figures show us that Australian families already carry a huge burden of debt over and above their mortgage commitments. We do not need to copy other states—South Australia has a better quality of life than other states—but we do need to provide families with real opportunities to spend time together and we do not need to further extend shopping hours. For the sake of employees, shoppers and their families, I believe that shops do not need to be open on public holidays.

For half of my working career, I have been involved in the education system as a teacher, counsellor, strategic planner and head mistress. I am continually astounded by the educational boundaries being pushed by our schools, the dedication of our teaching staff, and the accomplishments of our children. The greatest gift that we can give our children is a good, well-rounded education that gives them the tools

they need to reach their individual potential. I applaud Premier Mike Rann for the success of his reading challenge. A love of reading is a gift for life. I am pleased with the direction of the new SACE curriculum which will see young people rewarded for their out-of-curricula activities such as volunteering and sport. It will help create citizens who care for their community. However, the health of our young people (both physical and mental) is an area deserving of more attention. Childhood obesity is a scourge and a very real problem facing this community in 2006. I, therefore, welcome this government’s commitment to the banning of junk food in schools and the Premier’s Be Active Challenge which will hopefully mirror the success of the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Exercise and fitness are an important element in a child’s well-balanced life plan, and it is our responsibility to help them to incorporate physical exercise into their everyday lives. Sport has always been an important part of our family life. As a family we enjoyed both participating in and supporting local teams and events. As immigrants, I saw this as an important way to become involved in our community. My son is an avid soccer player. He usually manages to play in at least two teams a week. I have been a soccer mum for the past 12 years attending practices and matches, as taxi driver and sideline supporter and, despite the fact that he is now an adult, I still end up washing the kit more times than not. As a family we have followed the trials and tribulations of Adelaide United since Adelaide City days. My daughter is a keen swimmer, swimming instructor and water skier, and she has also taken up karate in recent years. After much nagging by the children, even I joined the gym two years ago, and I now know and recognise how much more clearly I think after exercise. I am also a dedicated—and some of my colleagues would say, feral—Port supporter. As a team they give me more pleasure than strife and, yes, I was one of the diehards who drove all the way to Melbourne when we became premiers in 2004.

The journey to this house has been longer for me than for some of our other new members. My parents brought up three girls to have strong Catholic principles. We had a nomadic family life as my father was in the Royal Air Force but it meant that we were often able to see first hand the plight of others living in third world conditions. Initially disappointed that his third child was yet again a girl after a 10-year gap, my father threw himself into the role of ensuring that I was well-educated, independent, and took a keen interest in life and politics. My mother, gentle and kind, instilled in me the principles of social justice. I know they would have been proud to have been here today. I also owe a debt of gratitude to my sisters, Carol and Jill, who, being 10 and 11 years older than me, also raised me, teaching me that people matter more than money, and the importance of family, friendship and community which have lasted me through all these years.

Winning a seat like Morialta, with a spectacular swing of nearly 12 per cent after 13 years of a Liberal stronghold does not happen without a passionate and dedicated team. I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the state ALP team for their tremendous efforts during the campaign, especially to David Feeney, Nick Champion and Scott McFarlane. My own campaign manager, Peter Malinauskas, ran a strategic and supremely successful campaign, aided and abetted by Davina Quirke, Carla Leversedge, Brendon Duffy, Jeremy Gaynor, Emily Farrell, and Michael Meurer, who came all the way from New South Wales to work almost round the clock for the last few weeks.

I need to make special mention of my good friend Nimfa Farrell, who kept my life, both personal and professional, on track at all times—not an easy task. I had immense help from officials, staff and members of the SDA, TWU and gassies, and I thank Russell Wortley, Alex Gallagher and particularly Bernie Finnigan for his special skills, which proved invaluable. A special thank you must go to Don Farrell for the faith and trust he put in me and for the patience and support he gave me throughout the campaign. The Morialta sub-branch has worked tirelessly for nearly two years, especially the President Lydia Lorenz, Lou Zollo and Ros Reddaway.

I have been extremely lucky and enjoyed great support from all our ministers, including the Premier and Deputy Premier, who gave generously of their time to campaign in Morialta. However, I must express my appreciation in particular to minister Carmel Zollo and the Attorney Mick Atkinson, who have been extremely generous with their time, mentoring and counselling me. To senators Annette Hurley and Dana Wortley, your guidance and support has been greatly valued, as has that of former senators John Quirke and Jeff Buckland.

Many personal friends have invested both time and finances to help me achieve this dream. Ross Makris, Ken Cooney, Cathy Wilson, Gillian Lewis-Coles, Vaia Prois and George Karzis are mentioned because of their humour, wit, patience and stoic acceptance of my crazy existence over the past couple of years. Penultimately, I thank my children Katie and Matthew, who have lived this journey with me, kept the house and family together and supported and loved me throughout the process. Thank you both. You are my inspiration and my reason for being. Finally, to the people of Morialta, thank you. I will do my best not to let you down.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I remember how nervous I was when I got up to give my maiden speech, but now it is Hansard who get nervous when I stand up in this place! As I said in my card to Hansard at Christmastime, I will speak s-l-o-w-l-y. It is a pleasure to see you in the chair, Mr Speaker. You will be, I know, a fine Speaker. You have both the intellect and the experience, even though you are of a very young age, compared with other Speakers, to be in that position. I know that you will do the job as well as possible under what will sometimes be trying circumstances.

I must congratulate Her Excellency on the way she represents South Australia. She did a wonderful job in presenting the government's speech in the other place the other day. 'Governor Flash', as she is lovingly referred to by many of our constituents and in the media, is a person of the highest quality. Not only did she show that when many years ago she performed in the Olympic Games, but she is giving gold-medal performances as Governor. I hope that any future governors—and I do hope that there are future governors in South Australia—are able to perform at that same Olympic level. I congratulate the member for Reynell on being appointed as Deputy Speaker. Unfortunately, the congratulations cannot continue in the Labor Party from there on.

We have seen some factional deals, some left versus right deals going on, and you only have to see who is in the house with the various maiden speeches to see that the factions are alive and well. We have a marriage made in heaven here: they have a marriage made in hell. They have the ultra left. The Marxist/Leninist/socialist left has joined with the new right to form Progressive Labor. When I was a vet, progressive labour used to be something you got called out for in the

middle of the night when you had some cow calving. It will be a very difficult issue on the other side, Progressive Labor, and it will be interesting to watch what Progressive Labor does in the future.

I hope that it is not just, as the member for Unley in his fine speech said, relying on hindsight to see where we are going or, as Voltaire said about the man sitting in the cafe during the French revolution, 'There goes the mob: I'm their leader, I'd better follow.' We do not need that sort of thing in South Australia. Let us hope that we have some really progressive, forward-looking outcomes from this government, because governing South Australia is a very important process. We have a government that claims to have a mandate. Members should read Dean Jaensch's column in this morning's paper about what he considers a mandate. It is really a furphy to say that it is a mandate to bring in every piece of legislation you have ever dreamt of or that you thought may get you another headline.

Having said that, I congratulate the Premier and the strategists in the Labor Party for their Rann Gets Results campaign. It did create some confusion down in Morphett. I do not think that poor old Tim Looker, the candidate down there, has realised that he has lost, because I understand that he has put out some cards this week saying 'Looker for Labor in Morphett'. I do not know what is going on, but good luck, Tim. That is all I have to say. Tim will get the same results that Rann tried to get for Labor, but the one thing that the government—and it is in government and it has a majority—will not be doing for South Australia is getting results of its own accord.

The Hon. Alexander Downer said in a speech to some Liberal Party officials and members, 'What's Mike Rann doing in our adverts?' Mike Rann was there with the air warfare destroyers—a federal project. He was talking about the battalion moving up north—a federal project. He talked about uranium mining—a private project. If you look around at infrastructure investment in South Australia, there is very little government money—and look at the bags of money this government has. I have said on a number of occasions that South Australians have the government they deserve. Someone said to me that that is a very disparaging remark about South Australians, but it is true.

Unfortunately, South Australians will be governed by a government that they do deserve. They did not examine the issues. The apathy that South Australians and, unfortunately, a lot of Australians show towards politics is something that I would love to see changed. I think members on both sides of the house would like to see that changed.

In my maiden speech and in my final speech in this place during the last parliament, I used a quotation: 'The most totalitarian despot is public opinion in a democracy.' What drives that public opinion? The media. What do we have in South Australia? We have a media that is made up of some very experienced political journalists. They should know better than to put out some of the stuff they do. They usually do an extremely good job, an exceptionally good job, and they talk to us all, but, unfortunately in South Australia, we have a disease, an affliction that I think is far worse than anything that could be presented by bird flu. It is a disease called 'Bottrallism' and is brought about by the journos in town being harangued, being harassed, being cajoled and/or berated by the Labor media minders. The only way that we can get some democracy in this place—because the censorship by omission, the censorship that the Labor media minders would like to have in this place is certainly killing

off democracy, which is a far more serious threat to South Australia than bird flu will ever be.

What I suggest to the journos and the media is to try and avoid contact with these organisms that call themselves media minders, to make sure that we do not have acute fever-like episodes, undulant fever where sometimes they can stand up to the haranguing and other times they become subject to bouts of a fatal disease called censorship by omission. Avoid the haranguing; hang up on the media minders when they are giving you a hard time, no matter what it is about; stick up for your rights; stick up for democracy in South Australia.

The Labor Party in South Australia, as I said before, is made up of factions. They are made up of various influences. They are far more pragmatic than we have ever seen before—no more ideology when you have the far left, the hard left, joining with the right. As a result of that, what do we see? We see very valuable front bench members, like the member for Ashford, being dumped. Why was she dumped? Because she spoke out about the bullyboys in the front row. Well, ladies, the bullyboys are back in town, so you had better watch your backs.

We have seen members such as the member for Enfield, the member for Napier and the member for West Torrens left in the back row. They get a consolation prize; they get a couple of committees, but they should be on the front bench. We know they should be on the front bench. They know they should be on the front bench but, as one Labor Party member said to me, 'It's a left and right deal. You know the story.' What a shame for democracy again. It is just absolutely hopeless.

Not only do they victimise their own members but they victimise those who dare challenge them. We saw it today in the house with the RAA—the RAA was the Liberal stooge. We saw the absolutely atrocious behaviour in committee when public servant Kate Lennon was attacked. Even today in the house, one of the members on the other side—and I will not name that member—reiterated the suggestion that David Holst, who led the Dignity for the Disabled campaign—who I know personally is a decent, honourable man whose only concern is for people with disabilities in South Australia—could be labelled as a Liberal stooge.

The Labor Party had better be very mindful of what happens to people who are not politicians. We have to be robust. Someone said to me, 'You are going to come back with a reduced majority, Duncan. You are going to have to become a head kicker.' I will never be a head kicker, but what I will develop is a very thick skin. Unfortunately, members of the public do not have a thick skin and do not have the protection of being able to stand in this place and answer the slings and arrows and the unfair jibes put to them.

So members of the government should be very careful about what they do to those innocent people out there, the people they make victims when they talk about them in this place, because it does have an effect. It has a real effect. It had an effect on me last time and it still has an effect on me. I take things far too personally, but nowhere near as personally as people such as Kate Lennon and David Holst might. We should remember David Kelly in England, Penny Easton in Western Australia and Greg Maddock in Queensland. We should remember what unfair attacks in parliament and through the media did to them.

I will say one thing: everybody in this place, as MPs, works very hard. Greg Kelton probably did not write the headline in *The Advertiser* on Wednesday, 19 April—I do not know who wrote it—but it states, 'Part-timers. MPs work for

only 38 days'. Atrocious, absolutely atrocious. Then we get some other clown—and I will not name this bloke—in the *Independent Weekly* on the weekend talking about some issues, saying, 'Our lazy, parasitic, 38-day year politicians'. I would like to contact this fellow and ask him to come out with me, or with any member from either side of the lower house or upper house and see how hard we work. It is very unfair for the media to peddle the line that we do not work hard unless we are actually sitting in this place. We put in hours and hours looking after the interests of all our constituents—in fact, all South Australians.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be in this place, and I am only in this place thanks to a number of people. I would like to thank Scott Cadzow who worked very hard on my campaign for me. We had a 5 per cent swing in Morphett against a bloke that had \$40 in his campaign account. There were more Mike Rann posters than his put up, and it was a Rannslide. As the member for West Torrens quite rightly said, I was particularly disappointed in that swing because I can't work any harder, I can't put any more hours in, I can't do any more letters, make more phone calls, attend more public appointments. Yet, as the member for West Torrens also said, the swing is on. When the swing is on, it is there.

So I just say, okay, that is it; you just knuckle down and get on with it again, but I guarantee the pendulum has gone one way and it is coming back the other way for everybody on this side. In 1977 it was a 6 per cent swing to Labor and in 1979 it was a 10 per cent swing back to the Liberals. It happens and, as I said, this government will not be able to hide behind the fact that they are there thanks to a lot of media spin.

I want to personally thank my staff who have really worked above and beyond the last four years in my office: Kate Cunningham, Heidi Harris, Julia Mourant and certainly two dedicated volunteers, Tony Weinglass and Shirley Whoston, who have been fantastic in the support they have given me. A young fellow, Hamish Dunsford, turned up at my office a few weeks before the election campaign looking for some work experience. Hamish worked his backside off helping my office to organise some electorate matters whilst I was otherwise occupied with electioneering. I have many other family and friends to thank, but I particularly thank my wife Johanna. When I filled out my nomination form for this election, I said to my wife, 'Jo, do you want me to do this?' She said, 'No, I want my husband back.' She knows, as everyone in this place does, how hard we work. We know the effect it has on your family. For instance, we know of a number of members of parliament who have had unfortunate marriage break-ups and other issues in their lives because of the pressures put on them. Nowadays it is 24/7/365, as the saying goes.

I feel sorry for the new people coming into this place. We heard about AWAs from the member for Morialta. In this place we have one workplace but three workplace agreements. I am on the mark 2 superannuation scheme. Do not ask me about the details of that, I do not know and, quite honestly, I do not really care. If someone said that I came into this place for the money, then they would have to be joking. The 'poor' people—and I use that word as in victims not as in monetary value—that is, the new members who have come in on this new EB, this new South Australian parliamentary agreement, need to be compensated for the work that they will put in. I do not give a damn what the media says about my comments in here today about the paltry sums that politicians are paid. You cannot entice people into this place

unless you pay them good wages. We have former chiefs of staff working in this place who have to take a drop in wages. Why would you do it? You must be mad. You read in *The Advertiser* about 'part-time politicians'—give me a break.

Anyway, on to more specific matters. I must correct the member for Unley. I think that Morphett is the smallest seat geographically. Morphett covers an area of 12.8 kilometres. I am 1 500 people over the quota. The Premier asked yesterday where my southern boundary was and I explained it to him. I wonder whether he is looking at a redistribution because a redistribution will be great fun for the Labor Party. We will cause them all sorts of issues. Morphett is paradise on the end of the tramline. Let me talk about the trams. I really do love trams. I think it was a private member's motion in 2002 in which I talked about extending the tramline.

I have never backed away from extending the light rail system in South Australia. However, what I really am cross about is the way in which it has been mishandled by a totally incompetent government. We could have had a fabulous light rail network. We have the flattest capital city in Australia. It is perfect for the most efficient way of moving people, that is, new modern light rail—trams. What do we get? We get a Premier hanging off a tram strap in Oregon saying that we will extend the tramline here and there. No plans, no looking at the infrastructure involved but hooking it around to North Terrace. I think that there is an opportunity if you do it right, but it has not been done right. The costings will be interesting. It had better come in on time and on budget is all I have to say to this government.

I would love to see electric rail continue to Port Adelaide, out to the northern suburbs and down south. It is the perfect way. We do have to replace the old rattlers. I love those rattlers, even though you cannot squeeze your legs in between the seats, but the seats are soft. The new trams cost \$5 million each. Two and a half years ago I warned members about the air-conditioning, the large windows and the overheating problem. It was not something new which happened when the trams arrived. I saw them on the bogies at Port Adelaide when they were being off-loaded from the ship. Fantastic. I was over the moon—new trams. They are much narrower than the older trams. A few years ago, the member for Taylor explained these narrow-gutted trams to me. She is a very good member and I thank her for her wisdom on that matter.

We did not want these trams. These trams run in Frankfurt and a few other places in Germany and South Australia. We could have waited and obtained some wider bodied trams from the Eastern States which could have been piggy-backed onto a tender. They have a reserve of trams. Then, if one was damaged, we would be not waiting for more trams to arrive from Germany. The new trams are very good and very well engineered but they are not the best tram for Adelaide. It could have been a better tram. I have visited the factories of Bombardier and I know the people. They make very good trams but why did we have to have this tram? I will tell members why we had to have this tram. It was because of a political time line. They wanted to have them on the tracks before the election.

I saw a picture of these trams 2½ years ago. Despite the colouring-in competition we had to have, I saw this colour scheme in La Rochelle in France. I could see the Premier travelling on one of the new trams and cutting the ribbon at Brighton Road as part of an election stunt. I was going to be there like the fellow on Sydney Harbour Bridge waiting to cut the ribbon with a sword beforehand. It did not happen because the Premier backed right away from these trams. He

did not want to know about them. Anyway, I look forward to the government's looking at light rail as a real way of mass transporting the public around South Australia. There is an opportunity. Many of my colleagues vocally disagree with me. I will not back away from that. I think there is an opportunity but it has to be done right. I say to members of the government, please do not neglect the \$400 million for roads and, as the member for Unley said, the stormwater.

One of my first big issues in Morphett was the Glenelg North floods. I am still dealing with people who were traumatised from it. It is a traumatic experience for people, as we saw even last year. The Governor's speech mentions a new chair for climate change. We have the new Thinker in Residence in South Australia, Stephen Schneider. Stephen Schneider has done as big a U-turn on climate change as the Premier has done on uranium. In the 1970s, Stephen Schneider was predicting the next ice age. It is in science magazines and I have a video at home if members are interested. He was being asked about the next ice age and predicting that a little ice age is coming. In some of the literature which I have read he admits that he is more of a politician than a climatologist now. I look forward to seeing a balanced approach. It is not global warming any more because we know there are too many improbabilities and difficulties with the computer programs. It could be this many degrees or that many degrees. I should go on to the precautionary principle, but I will do that later.

We have got climate change now. We are getting more hurricanes, more earthquakes and more hot weather than we have had for 100 years. One hundred years ago it was hotter; 100 years ago we had more earthquakes and hurricanes. One hundred years is not even a blink of the eye in the age of this planet. They talk about greenhouse gasses. If CO₂ (which is 0.035 per cent of the atmosphere) was increased 10 times you would not know about it. I would not know about it. You would see all the plants growing a lot faster. What would the plants do? They would respire CO₂ and produce oxygen.

What would happen if the planet did heat up a little? You would get increased evaporation. What happens with increased evaporation? You get increased cloud. What happens with clouds? They form a layer, the top layer of which contains a lot of sulphur oxides and other chemicals which actually reflect heat. You could actually get cooling of parts of the planet. Climate change is a very pseudo science. There are so many ifs and buts in that respect.

I will mention the precautionary principle very quickly. It is a principle in science where, if there is any doubt whatsoever, you exercise the ultimate precaution and you do not do it. The problem is that, if you apply that principle to itself, the precautionary principle falls over. In the precautionary principle you never hear, 'This will happen.' You will hear, 'it might', 'it may', 'it possibly' and 'it could'. Beware the precautionary principle, not only in social policy but also, and more importantly, in scientific policy.

Let us look at the economic development of this state. The air warfare destroyers are fantastic. It is a \$6 billion federal project, but it is not happening until 2010 after the next election. The battalion is coming, the army is on the way, fantastic. When is it happening? In 2011, after the next election. Roxby Downs is fantastic, and I will read some more about Roxby Downs in a minute. Roxby Downs is a fantastic development for South Australia. It is a brilliant development. It was started way back. Radium Hill was our first in the Flinders, but now we have Roxby Downs. It will be brilliant. According to BHP Billiton's press releases, it

will start between 2012 and 2016, after the next election. A two-year feasibility study will be undertaken to see whether it will go ahead first. Nothing is certain.

Even in its own literature, Roxby is talking about 6 000 to 8 000 jobs. If one extrapolates that out, I suppose, with some multiplying factor, you might get to 23 000 jobs, but I am not sure where. The economic development of this state will depend a lot on those projects. Certainly, it is good to see that the government will reduce red tape by 25 per cent by 2010—mind you, I think that it has announced it ten times over the last four or five years, like everything else it does. One member opposite said to me, ‘We won’t do that yet, we have announced it only three times,’ and that is true about this government.

Economic development is great and it is moving forward. With respect to social policy and mental health, members heard my grievance speech today. If they did not they can read *Hansard*—read all about it! Mental health is a huge issue for this state. One of my campaign workers was walking down the street letterboxing for me. He was doing a great job. He is an elderly gentleman. He was pushed over by a fellow who, obviously, had a mental illness. To add insult to injury this fellow sat on top of my friend and wet his pants. It added indignity to some slight injury. It was absolutely disgusting.

Obviously, the fellow who assaulted my campaign worker was not being looked after. When we submitted a report, the police said, ‘Well, the government is just dumping these people all around the community.’ If members read my grievance speech they will realise that it is happening at Glenelg North, Brighton and, I understand, other places. With respect to homelessness, Commissioner Cappo had better do a good job. I was in Salisbury during the campaign, and I met a family—mum, dad and two kids aged 13 and 14 months—who were living in this car. It took me two weeks to make some progress through the system.

I spoke to the Premier’s department and FAYS. Minister Weatherill, your department was very helpful, thank you. It did everything it possibly could, working against a system that is in disarray. It was obvious. We took these people to a caravan park. I will not name the caravan park yet, that is for a later time. The caravan park owner said, ‘I don’t want those ferals here. Get them out.’ The bloke did have a few tats and a few earrings—big deal, he is a decent bloke with two kids, looking for a house. I will be introducing changes to the Equal Opportunity Act to make sure that never happens again in South Australia. There is no federal legislation. I understand that there is legislation in Victoria to stop being discriminated against on appearance. It is an absolute shame.

Commissioner Cappo has a lot to answer for, and not a lot has happened so far. As a little aside on that, in question time today the member for Goyder mentioned an issue occurring on the Yorke Peninsula. It would have been nice if Commissioner Cappo had answered the original letters from November. I do not think that there has been an answer to those. Commissioner Cappo, incommunicado!

Let us talk a little about uranium mining. The Premier likes to look after good old Don Dunstan. Greg Kelton must have been a cub reporter when he wrote this article back in 1979. On 17 January 1979, Greg Kelton wrote:

Premier Dunstan will make a special trip to Europe to look at uranium technology. Mr Dunstan has told parliament on several occasions that, despite the government ban on mining and treatment of uranium in South Australia, the government will keep up with the latest developments in the field.

That is in 1979. The newspaper’s editorial the next day states:

It is unfortunate, but apparently inevitable, that even demonstrated facts will not convince everybody on this issue, but the Premier’s trip is a welcome and hopeful sign that the political obstacles to the development of a vital energy source may be in the process of being removed.

That is amazing. Members should read that editorial. A no confidence motion was moved in this place on 6 February 1979 by the late David Tonkin. He was talking about the enormous loss to South Australia of the potential investment at Roxby; it was just absolutely terrible. Premier Rann has done a huge U-turn on the ban on uranium. It is just an amazing thing, it really is. Let us see what Don Dunstan said about Mike Rann back on 6 February 1979. Dunstan had been overseas, and he had taken some advisers with him. Don Dunstan said:

My press secretary, Mr Rann, who, incidentally, has been a leading anti-nuclear campaigner for years and a leader of the Green Peace movement in New Zealand when he was there and one of the organisers of New Zealand’s intervention in the French atomic tests in the Pacific. . .

Well, good on the second; the first one, though, is very doubtful. We have seen the change of heart. This Premier is a born-again miner. It is good to see, and I hope that he keeps it up.

The Premier, unfortunately, does not realise what Don Dunstan did, and that is recognise that South Australia has the potential to store nuclear waste. He recognised we have the oldest granitic rocks in the world. In France, two years ago, the French told me that South Australia is the safest place in the world to store nuclear waste. If, as the new member for Newland says, we should have nuclear power here, what is going to happen to the high-level nuclear waste? Where are we going to store it? Fortunately, in South Australia we have a very safe place to store it.

I want to leave time for new members to speak. It is interesting that this government is going to be born again on so many issues. I want to see how the hard left are going to move right to the right, because we have this progressive government that is a right-wing Labor government. Any more to the right and they would be over here with us. We would not have many of them but there are one or two we might have. The member for Ashford is a nice lady. But I do not want to get her in trouble, because I have already said nice things about people on that side and got them into trouble and I do not want to do it again.

It has been my privilege to be elected once again as the member for Morphett and certainly I will do my very best here. I am sorry for Hansard staff because I did not speak slowly, but I tried. I did try. It has been my pleasure to stand in this place with my fine group of Liberal members of parliament, and I can say that there are some people on the other side I am very proud to be in this place with. But, thank you to the electors of Morphett, and thank you to family and staff.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mawson, I remind the house that it is his maiden speech and ask the house to extend to him the usual courtesies. The member for Mawson.

Mr BIGNELL (Mawson): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and congratulations on your appointment. I also offer my congratulations to all new members, and to those candidates who fought the good fight and lost on 18 March I offer my condolences. I would like to begin by thanking the former member for Mawson (Mr Robert Brokenshire) for his contribution to our local area during the past 12 years.

Robert, his wife Mandy and their three children made many sacrifices so that the people of Mawson could be well represented in this place. I am pleased to inform the house that I am no stranger to hard work, and I plan to do everything I can for the people of Woodcroft, Hackham, Hackham West, Huntfield Heights, Noarlunga Downs, McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat and Willunga. It is a great honour to stand here today as the representative for the people of Mawson. I thank them for putting their faith in me. Like the Hon. Bernie Finnigan, who yesterday was sworn in to the upper house, I also come from good Irish Catholic stock and was born and bred on a dairy farm in the South-East. It just goes to show that the Australian Labor Party is a party for all South Australians, and we now have more connections to the dairy industry than the Liberal Party.

My earliest political memory is of asking dad what he had been up to one day and he told me he had been out canvassing for the Country Party. Dad was a huge Liberal Party fan. He used to bore family friends to death with his conservative values and arguments. We got on pretty well, but we could always sledge him as well, as I did in his eulogy. We were not well off, but I think he used to think that if he fell into line behind the capitalist party then richness would somehow be thrust upon him. He was basically an early day aspirational voter who, after moving us to Adelaide in the mid 1970s, worked incredibly hard for a meagre wage as a stock agent with Elders. Mum worked too so they could send my sisters and me to Catholic schools—in my case, St Michael's and Blackfriars—after I spent my primary school years at excellent public schools at Glencoe, Pennington and West Beach.

In 2001, the same week dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer, I accepted a job with the Australian Labor Party as a media adviser. Dad had probably had better weeks. But it was then he admitted he had always voted for Des Corcoran, including in the famous election when Des beat Martin Cameron by one vote. He said Des was a good bloke and the measure of the person was greater than that of the party.

As a little kid, I was always interested in current affairs, politics and journalism. It may have stemmed from hanging out with my grandparents, who always had the car radio tuned to the ABC, and I was able to name many of the state and federal government ministers of the day. One lot of grandparents, the Bignells, were bakers. They were small business people who had general stores in the thriving metropolises of both Glencoe East and Glencoe West. They supported the local sporting clubs and schools. My other grandparents, Molly and Henry Kennedy, were farmers. Henry was on the local council for almost 50 years, as well as being on many other local committees and boards. My two sets of grandparents are the people who instilled in me a sense of helping others in the community. I am fortunate to still have my grandmothers alive at 93 and 94 years. They are strong women who have been great role models for me. They do not come much tougher than Nan Bignell. She survived a tiger snake bite at the age of 73 years. At 89 years she was run over by a ute, but a broken hip and leg were not going to slow her down and she is still going strong. I spent the weekend with her in Millicent.

In many other societies, either of those incidents would have killed her, but we have an excellent health system in South Australia. It is a system that, despite its faults, we should be immensely proud of. I would like to pay tribute to the men and women who work gruelling, unsociable hours to be there for when we, or those we love the most, turn up

to be made better. Doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and volunteers, we salute your great work.

Another crucial area of our society is our education system, and we need to pay tribute there, not only to our great teachers but also to the mums and dads who come in and listen to kids read out loud, and to the many support workers in our schools. I was fortunate to have some great teachers who, term after term, year after year, would tell my parents that I would do much better if I tried. The Speaker's mother, Cathie Snelling, was not only my economics teacher at Blackfriars but she helped me get back into the school after I had quit at the end of year 11 to be a trainee supermarket manager under Roger Drake's excellent tutelage. Renee Shinkle was my politics teacher and an out-and-out lefty. I remember many a debate that put the rest of the class to sleep. Sadly, I was so fascinated by politics that I used to come into this place as a 15 and 16 year old and sit over there in the gallery and watch endless debates. Poor child! And no-one even made me do it!

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Your nose used to be bigger. I think your head grew into it.

Mr BIGNELL: You have seen the family photos at my grandmother's place. In February 1983 Bob Hawke was elected Labor leader, and I snuck into his Adelaide election address at the Festival Centre. I still have an autographed green No Dam sticker as a memento of that night. It was to be a life-changing experience because at age 17 I started to develop my own political views and started seeing the world from a largely impartial perspective, which was to be of great use as a journalist where I was able to attack both sides. That night in 1983, Bob Hawke spoke of consensus, of bringing Australians together at various levels. Following his election the following month, Prime Minister Hawke started implementing that vision. Part of it was the introduction of the Accord. Negotiations for wages and conditions were taken away from the picket line and into the boardroom. It was a smoother process, with far less open animosity and industrial action.

Bob Hawke, the great union leader turned Prime Minister, had helped to deliver an industrial relations system that seemed to benefit both the employer and the employee. But perhaps he was too successful for our party's good. People, it seemed, started to forget where their annual pay rises and improved conditions were coming from. It took 22 years for them to regain their focus, and it took John Howard to do it. While successive Australian Prime Ministers had come to the job with a vision to take Australia forward, John Howard's ideal Australia was to return the country to the way it was in the 1950s, when his hero, Bob Menzies, ran the place.

The 2004 federal election gave the Liberal Party control of the Senate, and Howard was finally free to implement all those dreams that had gone unfulfilled during his time as Treasurer in the 1970s. What he failed to realise was that Australia had moved on since the 1950s. It had jumped even further ahead under the Hawke-Keating reforms from 1983 to 1996, and his blueprint for industrial relations was a relic that he should have been content to leave in the discard bin.

During the past 18 months I have doorknocked thousands of homes in Mawson. The biggest single issue for that entire time was John Howard's unfair industrial relations changes. It is not just the workers who do not want them: small business operators to whom I spoke were opposed to the changes because, in most cases, their employees are their greatest asset. If a competitor down the road starts paying its workers less, then these small business operators fear that

they will have to follow suit, in a downward spiral of wages and conditions. Pensioners are another group who know that their pensions are tied to the basic wage. John Howard has form for not wanting to increase the basic wage, and pensioners know that they will struggle even more to pay the ever increasing costs for goods and services.

The crazy thing is that South Australia has the best industrial relations record in the country, and John Howard is forcing us to move to a system which not only delivers lower wages and worse conditions but which also leads to more days lost through disputes. People have fought for decades to make our workplaces safer, to earn the right to a fair day's pay for a fair day's work and to have a sense of security about our jobs. John Howard wants to undo that, and I hope that he can be beaten by our state's High Court challenge that begins tomorrow. We took on and defeated the Howard government when it wanted to dump the nation's nuclear waste in our state, and we are taking it on again. If we win, there will be some very happy people in the seat of Mawson. If we lose, I am sure they will be using their vote at the next federal election to unseat the Liberals' Kym Richardson, who supported John Howard all the way in stripping away the rights of the workers and pensioners of Kingston.

Mawson is a diverse electorate, named after a truly great South Australian, Sir Douglas Mawson. While famous for being one of the world's great explorers, Sir Douglas has many more claims to fame. Australia's pre-eminent Antarctic explorer is also credited with mapping the geology of most of South Australia. Much of the mineral wealth identified by Sir Douglas nearly 100 years ago is still out there in the state's Outback, and it holds the key to our prosperity. During the past four years, the Rann government has actively encouraged mining companies to search for minerals. There have been some very encouraging results and, if the huge economic growth continues in China and the subcontinent, South Australia may well be on the verge of a mineral led boom that could last for decades. Those taking minerals out of the ground in South Australia pay the state government a royalty of 3.5 per cent on the value of that commodity, whether it is gold, silver, copper or uranium.

I believe it is time to change the Labor Party's stance on uranium mining, which was put in place under the cloud of the Cold War and the threat of nuclear attack. Today, the prospect of a big black cloud looming large over the world's developing industrial giants seems a much greater and more realistic threat than the potential for nuclear war. I am not advocating the use of nuclear power in Australia, but in places such as China, where each year they are adding the equivalent of Australia's total generating output, it is certainly preferable to the building of further coal-fired power stations. The money collected from our minerals boom should ease the tax burden on South Australians and be ploughed into our hospitals, schools, roads and other infrastructure. For two decades infrastructure spending has been neglected by federal and state governments, which have been keen to balance budgets and reluctant to debt finance major projects.

One of the achievements of the Rann government's first term was to develop a strategic plan which contained some pretty tough goals to be met across a variety of areas. Last year the government also released a state infrastructure plan that outlined and ranked projects to be built by the various levels of government and the private sector. Among the initiatives is a commitment to improve the flow of traffic along our major north-south corridor, South Road. Tunnels

under Grange Road and Port Road and the Outer Harbor railway line underpasses under Anzac Highway and Sturt Road will cut about 15 minutes off the north-south journey across Adelaide. For people living in the south in seats such as Mawson, it suddenly cuts half an hour off their daily travelling time if they want to go for a job on the other side of town or in the city. For our manufacturers, wine makers and other industries, it smooths the way to get products to market or down the Port River Expressway and onto ships. Some of the best wines in the world come from the seat of Mawson, and good wine should be accompanied by good food—and there is plenty of that grown locally as well. Almonds, olives, cheese and fruit and vegetables are in ample supply and on sale at the famous Willunga Farmers Market every Saturday morning.

While Mawson is a seat with an abundance of natural beauty and goodness, it is also home to some of the most disadvantaged people in our state. Poverty, dysfunctional families, mental health issues and domestic violence are a grim reality and part of everyday life for too many people in Mawson. I would like to congratulate the Minister for Families and Communities, Housing, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Ageing and Disability for his work during the past four years. It is quite a handful of crucial portfolio responsibilities, and the minister (in the first term of the Rann government) has done an outstanding job of providing for the most disadvantaged members of our society. These are the people John Howard and the Liberals have left behind. These are the people the federal government has discarded to the scrap heap of society. Our society cannot afford that. If we are to have any sense of community, we need to pick up those who are struggling and give them a hand.

There are many outstanding individuals and organisations in Mawson who are doing just that, and I would briefly like to mention and thank a few. Jack Ellis at The Shed at Hackham West is 76 years old, with a huge heart and good old-fashioned values, as one would expect from a bloke who still cannot shake the unmistakable lilt of the port. For the past 10 years Jack and the volunteers of the Southern Community Project Group have been performing minor miracles at The Shed. They take in primary and secondary students who might be having difficulties at school and mentor them by getting them to use their hands to design and manufacture timber and metal toys and furniture. Jack is passionate about getting people back on track. Recently, he has been engaged by agencies to help prepare injured workers to return to the work force. The Shed now also caters for work for the dole clients, who learn new skills and manufacture about 700 toys a year, which are donated to 10 charities for children's Christmas presents.

Thanks must also go to the management, staff and volunteers at the Hackham West Community Centre. It is at the centre that we had the declaration of the poll for Mawson. It was great to be declared the winner of the seat in front of a group of 10 to 12-year-olds from the local area who had been following the election and learning about politics. Tim Deslandes and his team know how to bring the best out in people, and they do it with relatively small grants from various government agencies and the support of the Onkaparinga council. Last year, I was glad to be able to help arrange extra funding for adult education at the centre, and I remain committed to doing whatever I can to help the Hackham West Community Centre continue its outstanding work in the area.

The Southern Junction Community Services organisation is another body helping the most marginalised people in our community. To sit and talk with the people from Southern Junction and to listen to the stories of what they go through each day is like opening a window on the most depressing aspects of our society. But, while there are organisations like these and governments like ours, there is hope that things can be turned around, slowly but surely.

The Howard government should also play its role in building communities. What the federal government is doing is outsourcing its responsibilities and shifting the costs to state and local governments. Three years ago, in the lead-up to the 2003-04 federal election, the Howard government, desperate to do whatever it could to win the marginal southern seat of Kingston, committed \$600 000 to the Pathways for Families project at Hackham East. The Onkaparinga council donated the centre and the federal funding supported the establishment of several outstanding programs for people of all ages.

Pathways for Families provides a comprehensive and integrated early childhood and family support program to vulnerable families with at least one child aged zero to five years who live in the Onkaparinga region. Over 200 families accessed the Pathways Family Centre in its first 15 months of operation. The current funding for the Pathways for Families project ends next month. One of the first events I attended as the member for Mawson was a rally aimed at saving the centre. These people, whom the federal government had deemed worthy of funding to the tune of \$600 000, suddenly found themselves going cap in hand, begging for funding from the state government and non-government organisations. Federal government bureaucrats at the function told me that the Howard government had outsourced funding decisions to local welfare agencies. They also said that these people were told at the beginning that they were being funded for only three years and that after that they would have to organise their own finance. How absurd! I would like John Howard, or even the local Liberal federal member Kym Richardson, to turn up there to listen to some of the people who have been through the Pathways program.

I met one man who, thanks to the fatherhood support network at the centre, does not yell any more at his kids or his partner. This bloke told me that he did not know any better. He was brought up in a family where kids and wives were there to be yelled at, and that it was acceptable behaviour to be passed on from generation to generation. The fatherhood support network gets fathers together to talk candidly about the many aspects of fatherhood. In a society where the family unit is not what it once was, in an age where fathers are not always setting the best example for their sons, this resource is valuable to those involved and to those around them. It is about breaking the cycle, and it is about making people better parents. Yet John Howard wants to undo this by cutting what is not a huge amount of money by federal government standards.

There are many churches in Mawson and neighbouring suburbs, and they draw large congregations and play a very important role in our community. I want to offer my thanks and continuing support for the good work carried out by these churches in delivering services and support that governments sometimes simply cannot deliver. For many, the churches offer support, a sense of community and a solution for the isolation and loneliness that many suffer in our modern society. However, there is a need to be cautious about some sections of South Australia's Christian community and their

links with the Family First Party. I strongly believe that churches should not be running political parties. Family First, despite its posturing, does not have a monopoly on Christian values. Our party, the ALP, has a long and proud record of upholding and fighting for what is morally right and for what is good for the family.

During the past election, Family First proved that it was willing to twist and turn to try to work its way out of agreements. We in the Labor Party do not like or respect people who rat on deals. Churchgoers should ask whether the money they put in the collection plate each week is being used to fund Family First. If it is, they may be better keeping it in their pockets and protesting to the church that they should stay out of backing political parties. Instead, churches should work with the government and the opposition of the day and, when the politicians are getting it wrong, they should protest from the pulpit and through the media.

On election night in 1993, when I was working for Channel 10, I interviewed the former premier Don Dunstan. It was an hour or so after the polls had closed on the State Bank election, and the wipe-out that everyone had predicted was being played out across the state. Mr Dunstan told me that it was the darkest moment in the history of the Labor movement in South Australia. The greatest Labor premier in the state's history despaired that South Australia would not see a Labor government for a generation and lamented that perhaps Labor would never again be in power in South Australia.

He overestimated the ability of the Liberal government and grossly underestimated the tactical brilliance and the tenacity of his former staffer Mike Rann. For 8½ years, Mike Rann and what was initially a very small opposition team worked hard and smart. They engaged the public of South Australia, listened to what people wanted, and developed policies that would put South Australia back in the hunt on the national and international stage. Compare that to what was happening with the Liberal government. All they did was whinge that Victoria had stolen the Grand Prix. They fought amongst themselves and tore themselves and the state apart.

After the Pyramid and Tricontinental crashes in Victoria, Jeff Kennett swept to power and turned his state around. He was tough and ruthless. What he did was lead his state from the front. Compare that with what was happening here. Dean Brown was knifed by John Olsen; they broke an election promise and sold off ETSA; they sold the TAB for less than it made the state each year; and they built a wine centre on no other premise than that they were scared Jeff Kennett would build one. They oversaw huge budget blow-outs on the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium, and they had no feel for the priorities of the people of South Australia.

It was against this backdrop that I went from an impartial political observer to someone who wanted to join the Rann team and help turn this state around.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: It's all your fault, Ivan.

Mr BIGNELL: It's good to get heckled by your own team! The Rann government's elevation to power in 2002 came in the nick of time. We were staring down the barrel of high unemployment, an under-performing economy and a lack of self-confidence within the state. The chip on the shoulder mentality built up during the Brown, Olsen and Kerin years needed to be removed once and for all, and replaced with optimism and a genuine belief in our great state. Mike Rann is the hardest worker I have ever had the pleasure of being involved with. He has a tremendous rapport with the people of South Australia and is a man of great

vision. His establishment of the Economic Development Board, and the appointment of people such as Robert Champion de Crespigny to it was a master stroke that set the Rann government apart from traditional Labor governments, and set South Australia on a course of economic prosperity.

The air warfare destroyer contract was a pet project of the Premier's over several years and he gathered the best, most experienced people from various walks of life to take on all other mainland states and defeat them. The Howard government argues that it was responsible for South Australia winning the contract. If that is the case, why did it make the states engage in a lengthy and expensive tendering process? If the federal Liberal government did determine South Australia as the winner, does that mean that it interfered in the tendering process?

The Howard government also wants to take credit for the low unemployment rate in South Australia. When South Australia has the lowest unemployment in the nation, as we did last year, how can they argue that? We are up against every other state and, at times, we are outperforming all of them. Surely some credit must go to those leading the state. It is all part of the dishonest misinformation spread by the mean and tricky Howard government. They cannot be happy for South Australia that during the past four years we have dragged ourselves up off the mat and we are competing above our weight in so many areas. Our unemployment rate might be even lower had the Howard government not let the country down by failing to provide the resources for people to be trained and to develop skills.

I was pleased to hear in the Governor's speech that this government will establish 10 new trade schools and that a further 2 000 apprenticeships will be created. It was also good to see the commitment to reduce red tape. Last January, after the devastating Eyre Peninsula bushfires, the Premier and then minister for emergency services asked me to stay in Port Lincoln for six weeks. I was instructed to cut through any red tape getting in the way of delivering funds and other support to the victims of the fires. Working with public servants such as Vince Monterola, Helen Lamont, Martin Breuker, Martin Charman, Jim Hallion, Sue Vardon and so many others was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. To work side by side with these people from so many agencies showed just how good a public service could be. Unfortunately, it does not always work like that. Some public servants feel trapped by the decision-making process and do not seem to have the confidence to do what is right. Instead, they do it the way the system deems they should do it.

If people think that MPs are immune from the bureaucracy then I will tell the house about when we moved into our electorate office. There was no stationery and the government department had removed the computers. We were told the computers would be a week away, and then when we tried to order a few pens and some paper, we were told that we had to do it online. That is pretty hard when you do not have a computer, but we have them now and I would personally like to thank Parliament House's very own computer guru Danny Wallace for all his help.

I would like to thank all those people who helped me win Mawson: from financial backers to friends and family who handed out how to vote cards on election day, I extend my deepest gratitude. In particular, I would like to thank Mark Butler and the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union. The campaign team, which included Vicki Osland, Tim Murray, Dave Gray, Steve May, Don Frater, Jared Bowen, Mel Bailey, Rob and Jenny Thomas, Lilia Bednarek, Nadia

Lai, Michelle Bertossa, John Platt and John Naylor were simply outstanding. Some were on board for 18 months, others were there for the early stages, or for the final run home to 18 March. I will always remember those who helped.

To everyone at party headquarters—Joanne, Cathy, David, Scott, Nick and John—thanks for a brilliant statewide campaign, and for the support you showed out there at the grassroots level. To the Minister for Transport, thank you for your support, and for picking me to join the Rann team in 2002, and for putting me forward as someone you believed would do a good job representing the people of my area. It has been a pleasure working with you for the past four years. Your wit, your incisiveness and your ability to make the right decision, and make it quickly, meant that there were few dull moments. Thank you for the mentoring.

The Minister for Transport, Cathie King, who is here today, former senator Nick Bolkus, and my old dear mate, John Ferguson, were always there when I needed someone to talk to, and I want to thank them for their time, their understanding and their wise counsel. Cathie King was responsible for plucking me from the obscurity of the ABC television news desk and signing me up to the Labor Party in 2001. Cathie is one of the great people of the Labor movement. She has an amazing political instinct and her opinions are sought by Labor leaders and rookies alike all around Australia.

I must also thank the great Mick Young, his wife Mary, and my dear friend, their daughter, Janine. Mick was not always treated well by the media but he used to put me up at their family home in Sydney. I was always proud of the fact that he would tell his parliamentary colleagues that I was the only bloody journalist that he would let stay at his house. Mick taught me a lot about compassion for people. On top of his ministerial duties, he was a tireless fundraiser for the people of the port, whom he represented so brilliantly for so many years. A former immigration minister, Mick also taught me about Australia's place in the world, and how we should continue to build links with Asia. I caught up with Janine and Mary last week and they said that, if Mick were still alive, he would be on the phone pestering me every few minutes saying, 'Biggles you should be doing this, or Biggles you should be doing that.' Mick, thanks for the guidance and I hope I do you proud.

There are some quaint traditions in this place, and one is that we cannot refer to each other by name. So, to the member for Bright, thank you for all your support and for making the road to 18 March a lot more fun than it could have been.

I am looking forward to our spending more time together when commitments in our respective electorates allow. To Susie Rusalen, my former wife of 10 years and the mother of our eight-year old son Conor, thank you. Susie was the first person I rang when asked to run for the seat of Mawson. She knows me well and said that I was mad, because I liked being popular and politics was the wrong place for someone with that ambition. Despite that, she also knew that I wanted to get in and make a difference. So, to Susie and her parents, Margaret and Nillo, I thank you for picking up extra responsibilities during the particularly busy periods of the campaign. Conor is a great kid and was there every step of the way, and was always coming up with helpful campaigning tips. One day in Willunga he suggested that we swap the roof sign on my car for that of Robert Brokenshire, who was parked in front of us. He thought it would be a good idea to drive around doing burnouts, so that Robert would get the blame.

My aim is to spend my time here working to make South Australia a better place for all of us, and in particular to leave it in great shape for Conor and those of his generation. That normally would be a good place to end a maiden speech, but first I have a confession for the record. Yes, there is a twist. In 1992 Dean Brown replaced Dale Baker as opposition leader in South Australia. South Australia was suffering the terrible effects of the State Bank disaster and there was a pressing need to turn the fortunes of the state around. What we needed was strong leadership. I put in a job application to Dean Brown, because he was looking to replace a mate of mine, Ian Smith, as media adviser. Dean Brown was not exactly a charismatic character and, in my usual direct way, I told him that he needed a bit of a make-over and to have some media training.

People like strong leaders, not blokes skulking around in beige suits, fumbling their lines and getting funny smirks on their faces at inappropriate moments. I scored an interview and went to Dean's house at Netherby on a Saturday morning. It was fairly foreign territory for a boy from west of West Terrace. What really struck me that morning, for some reason, was the fact that this bloke still had a top-loading beta video recorder. Even in 1992 that was so 1979, but it kind of summed the bloke up. Dean told me it was not important what my political affiliations were. They are a strange mob on that side of the house. After several months of procrastinating, Dean appointed Kevin Donnellan as his media adviser.

Talk about a lucky escape for a young fellow who, even back then, was just trying to do his civic duty and play a role in turning the state around. I take some solace in the fact that I know of at least one other person rejected by the Liberal Party who ended up with the Labor Party. That man was one of our greatest—Donald Allan Dunstan.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

[Sitting suspended from 5.56 to 7.30 p.m.]

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Goyder, I remind the house that it is his maiden speech and I ask members to extend to him the usual courtesies.

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to Her Excellency's speech when opening this session of the 51st parliament. I extend my congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to this high office. I also join with other members who have addressed the house today in congratulating the new members on both sides of the house and who join me in being given the opportunity to represent their communities. Whilst congratulating all new members on their election and respective maiden speeches, I express my appreciation to the member for Bright and the member for Stuart for their contributions yesterday. While very different in style, they were both quite interesting and reflective of their personalities.

The opportunity to be elected as the member for Goyder is an honour that I did not have any intention of seeking until two years ago. Unlike many in this house, I am not someone who has been a member of a political party since their teenage years, or someone who has worked for a union, or in the offices of various state and federal members before being preselected. In fact, I have been a member of the Liberal Party for only three years. I am someone who has lived in and been involved at every level in regional communities for all

of my adult life. That said, I have always supported the Liberal Party at the ballot box and have believed in the principles and policies that the Liberal Party has brought to federal and state governments and in opposition. Mr Speaker, I stand before you today as someone who is extremely proud to be elected as a representative of the good people of Goyder.

Succeeding John Meier, a man I respect above most others and someone who gave everything he had to the people of Goyder and the South Australian parliament for nearly 24 years, is a challenge, but it is one that I intend to rise to. One thing that has become obvious to me in the 6½ weeks since the election is that John Meier was respected by all who worked with him at Parliament House. John is a man who always shows respect to others by acknowledging them and taking an interest in their lives. He works hard and, when he makes a commitment, he keeps his word. I hope to be remembered for the same qualities.

While travelling with John several weeks before the election, I commented to him that one of the many things I had learnt during my doorknocking efforts—which amounted to nearly 7 000 homes—was that the people of Goyder acknowledged him as their friend. Without any suggestion of exaggeration, several thousand people commented to me that John had done something for them, or that they had met John many times, or that they knew John well. The level of respect in which John Meier was held across the electorate has been expressed by many people, but I would like to repeat a comment I made to him while we were travelling together recently. I said that he could walk down the main street of any community within the Goyder electorate holding his head high, as everyone he met would acknowledge that he had worked hard on their behalf for each of his nearly 24 years in parliament. I wish John and Ruth, who has always provided John with wonderful support, the best for the future.

While never anointing me as his chosen replacement—as this would not have been appropriate—John did offer me his support and encouraged me to become involved in the activities of the Liberal Party. I have enjoyed becoming involved at branch, electoral college, regional convention and state council level. This involvement has been a privilege that has allowed me to become involved with people who are dedicated to making a difference; people who are prepared to express an opinion about what their community and region needs from government; and people who are prepared to work hard to make that vision become a reality.

The assistance I received from members and supporters of the Liberal Party during the election period was outstanding. To all those who helped with fundraising, pamphlet folding, envelope filling, the placing and removing of posters and, importantly, ensuring that all of the polling booths had at least one person giving out how-to-vote cards, I say thank you. Any time I asked someone for assistance it was given willingly and beyond my expectations. I will find the debt I owe these people very difficult to ever repay.

The trust that the people of Goyder have placed in me is quite humbling. By virtue of hard work and commitment I intend to repay that trust. Goyder is a region with many opportunities and potentially has a very bright future, but making those dreams become a reality will require a united approach between government, business and the community.

At the Goyder preselection college in April 2005, my opening comment was, 'Tonight provides the opportunity to elect a person challenged with ensuring that Goyder receives all the services and infrastructure required to continue to be

one of the best places in Australia to live, work, invest in, raise a family, retire to, and holiday in.' I stand by that comment today. I firmly believe that the key to economic growth in Goyder, growth which will provide the opportunity for our children and grandchildren to get jobs in the region and have worthwhile futures, is for significant investment in infrastructure to occur. While we think of infrastructure as being the obvious things such as roads (and goodness knows that is an extremely important point), critical areas for Goyder also include its electricity, water supply, telecommunications, community transport services (there is only one small one), accommodation options for the physically and intellectually disabled (there are none at all), aged care facilities (and, given the age profile of the electorate, the importance of continued investment in aged care facilities cannot be overstated), effluent disposal infrastructure, and hospitals (and attached to this is the difficulty in recruiting health professionals, which must be noted).

While the relative financial security of my region has been built upon the traditional industries of agriculture and small business, there is also the diversity of past and current activities such as copper mining, fishing and salt works, and we are now finding that intensive land uses such as chicken farms (and there has been millions of dollars worth of investment in this area occurring on the Adelaide Plains over the last few years), pig sheds and hay processing are also attracting significant investment.

Large-scale developments in Goyder are also being developed, including:

- the marinas—Walleroo and Port Vincent are now operating and an exciting proposal for Port Wakefield was announced recently;
- wind farms—the only one in existence at this stage, the 55-turbine \$165 million Wattle Point wind farm, can generate 2 per cent of the power needs of South Australia, and others have been approved or are being considered;
- abattoirs—such as Primo at Port Wakefield, which is looking to expand its work force from 300 to 450 but which is having difficulty attracting and accommodating workers; and
- the amazing transformation of the small hamlet of Bowmans, where much of the physical operations of Balco (a business owned by Mr Malcolm May, the Chair of the South Australian Export Council) exists.

With these diverse industries comes the need to grow our communities, to provide options for people to live. Frustratingly, a lack of basic infrastructure investment in electricity and water is making it very difficult for the communities of Goyder to grow. Agriculture and small businesses are facing challenging times. Farm returns are suffering with increasing import costs for things such as fuel, fertiliser, chemicals and machinery while the high Australian dollar is having a substantial impact on reducing income from grain sales.

South Australian and interstate companies have recognised the Goyder region as being an ideal location in which to invest. Preventing these opportunities, which will employ hundreds of people locally, from becoming a reality is the fact that the required infrastructure is not in place. On reviewing the maiden speech of John Meier, made on 14 December 1982, I noted the following comments:

A major problem in parts of Goyder, especially in early years and still today in selected areas, is that of water. Besides rivers, creeks and dams, the Aboriginal waterholes often provided a major source of water. Over time, bores were sunk, at times on the site of these waterholes. In most areas however, it was the piped reticulated water

supply that brought certainty of supply to the people. Unfortunately the reticulated water supply does not extend to all areas of the electorate.

Remember, this is 1982. His speech continued:

This in turn limits the development potential of many farms, it limits the amount of stock that can be carried and it means an uncertain water supply for many households, especially during our current drought. Although I strongly believe that the reticulated water supply must be extended to all parts of Goyder with all haste, at the same time, because of the limited water sources to which South Australia has access, I am very concerned about the availability of water for the next generation's usage. Hopefully, priority will be given to examining alternative methods to supplement the water supply for rural areas generally.

I find it rather amazing and considerably frustrating that exactly the same concerns still exist 23½ years later. I know of at least 16 communities across Goyder that do not have access to a basic commodity such as a reticulated water supply, while very little investment in desalination technology for the production of potable water is operating in regional South Australia. Given that we all acknowledge that the pressures on the River Murray are greater than ever before, I find this lack of investment in desalination technology very surprising, and I encourage the government to do all that it can in this area—as does the member for Flinders.

I take this opportunity to quote examples of the augmentation costs being demanded of property developers in providing a potable, reticulated water supply. Within the Copper Coast area, which is experiencing exponential growth by virtue of people making lifestyle choices, the cost to developers in contributions to SA Water is in the vicinity of \$4 631 per allotment. This sounds a reasonable figure when compared to the SA Water connection fee of approximately \$2 700, but it is subject to CPI adjustment every year and will be reviewed in 2009.

Developers have also asked me the question of when this augmentation work which they are funding will be undertaken. However, in the case of communities such as Stansbury and Ardrossan—both of which are on the eastern coast of Yorke Peninsula where the proximity to Adelaide is a decided marketing advantage—the costs of doing business are much more restrictive. In the case of Stansbury, for the development of 50 allotments, the augmentation price per allotment was set at \$10 900. Given the consistent upward movement of prices for coastal land, in this case the developers chose to proceed when most others would have withdrawn from the project. I am aware that this cost has delayed the development of another larger staged subdivision.

However, for Ardrossan the situation is far more difficult, and I wish to discuss two examples. The District Council of Yorke Peninsula has always viewed Ardrossan as a key community. While only having a population of 1 100 people, it has increased in size considerably over the past 20 years and it is the home of the successful OneSteel dolomite quarry. As a community, the need to provide light industry business location opportunities was recognised and, through the vision of a local land-holder, a 25 allotment light industrial subdivision was approved. It is hoped that this development, which is designed to be the home of 25 small business operations, will provide employment for up to 100 people. However, SA Water has previously decreed that the water supply to Ardrossan (and other numerous towns are similarly suffering) was at maximum capacity. So, no subdivisions, be they residential or light industrial allotments, could take place

unless substantial augmentation charges, which were initially estimated at \$25 000 per allotment, were paid up-front.

Council and the property owner recognised that this condition was a deal breaker and sought the support of minister Wright in allowing the development to proceed as a dry allotment without a reticulated water supply and for rainwater to be the sole water provision option. Luckily, common sense prevailed and the minister agreed to this request, but frustratingly the delays incurred have resulted in interested potential businesses going elsewhere. In the case of the development of surrounding lands for residential purposes, the demand of SA Water was that a minimum of 100 allotments commit to be created, with \$14 000 per allotment being required as an up-front payment—\$14 000, Mr Speaker. Developments of this scale may occur in metropolitan areas or very large regional centres, but for Ardrossan—a community of only 1 100 people, remember—this condition is impossible to meet.

Discussions were held with land-holders about future opportunities, but these have predictably failed. As such, the future growth of a community is being held to ransom because infrastructure investment has not occurred in previous years. The unfortunate fact is that governments from both sides of the political spectrum have been at fault in this area. Frustratingly, I have no doubt that similar examples can be quoted in many other areas. The Labor government must demonstrate to regional South Australians that it cares for the 300 000 people who do not live in metropolitan Adelaide. Sadly, the example set in 2005, in launching the metropolitan component of the state infrastructure plan a month before the regional component, did nothing to encourage people who live in rural and regional South Australia to believe that the Labor government was working on their behalf.

For those who were desperately waiting to find out about the plans of the state government in relation to future infrastructure investment, the announcement of what we thought was a state infrastructure plan—and I enforce the word 'state'—but which we soon discovered was only the metropolitan component offered no hope. We in regional South Australia had to wait until approximately a month later—the week parliament sat in Mount Gambier—to find out what was planned for us. It was obvious to the people to whom I spoke that this was purely a media stunt. Regional South Australia does not want media stunts. What regional South Australia does require is action. The question that I ask today is: why was it necessary to release the state infrastructure plan in two components?

Many in this house may not be aware of the fact that, of the five private hospitals in regional South Australia, four are located in Goyder: Ardrossan, Hamley Bridge, Mallala and Moonta. All these facilities (which have been financially supported by generations of residents) face funding difficulties and have found it necessary to develop an aged-care focus to remain financially viable. In the case of Ardrossan, after a battle with government and the health department bureaucracy over many years, the commitment made by the government last year to provide \$120 000 per year in recurrent funding partially to offset the costs associated with providing an accident and emergency service was a welcome decision. Sadly, however, this commitment was only half the amount that a Liberal government would have provided. That said, this \$120 000 commitment is appreciated, as is the exceptional support provided by the Australian government over the last three years in funding a significant portion of

infrastructure required for high and low care aged bed licences that had been granted.

Work already undertaken by the Ardrossan Community Hospital has, however, only been possible through the board of management, an entirely volunteer group whose only desire is to ensure that their hospital remains open, showing the courage to take out a \$1 million loan. I find this level of commitment amazing and commend them for their vision. The challenge to ensure that the ability exists to repay this debt will be a focus for the board of directors and the Ardrossan community for many years. No doubt similar challenges have also been met in Hamley Bridge, Mallala and Moonta.

As recognised in the Ardrossan situation, however, the state government must understand that regional private hospitals need additional funding. The continued generosity of communities over many years has played a big part in their remaining open. As an example, I attended a function last Saturday night at Moonta where dedicated volunteers hosted approximately 140 people for a meal and entertainment and an auction of donated goods and services. While a good night was had by all, the important part was that \$8 000 was raised, with these funds to be used to assist in the purchase of a bus for the use of the aged care residents. As a further example of the vision of our regional communities, last Sunday I attended the official opening of the Hayfield Plains Retirement Village at Balaklava. This development, made up of 33 independent living homes, is a project of the Life Care Churches of Christ. It is an outstanding example of the confidence being shown in the Goyder electorate.

For those of you who are not aware, I come to the parliament following a 27-year career in local government on Yorke Peninsula, having also served at Orroroo, Carrieton and Peterborough in the Mid North and the northern Hunter Valley of New South Wales. My parents divorced when I was four and my brother was two. In my mother, Jenny, I was lucky to have a strong-willed, hardworking person, a lady who instilled in her sons the attitude that you must contribute to your community and achieve all that you can in life that you are capable of. Mum, thank you for your support and guidance.

Starting in local government straight out of school on the front counter doing general reception duties, I accepted challenges, was given opportunities and proved to people that I could take on difficult roles. Importantly, I earned the trust of the communities I served. The greatest compliment ever paid to me was when leaving Orroroo in early 1999 to move to New South Wales. As a parting comment, a chap known as being very hard but fair and supportive when you earned his respect said to me that I would be missed, as the difference between me and many other people was that I truly cared for the people and did my best for them at all times. For me, that was a very humbling comment, but I hope that it is indicative of my attitude to life and the way in which I will conduct myself as a member of parliament.

Until resigning in January this year, I had the privilege of being Chief Executive Officer of the District Council of Yorke Peninsula. Since been created in February 1997, this council has been acknowledged as being at the forefront of regional local government. It has shown vision in:

- accepting responsibility from Transport SA for the maintenance of 11 recreational jetties within the area. If a similar attitude had been shown now, the Rapid Bay jetty may have been repaired some time ago;

- establishing a restricted reticulated water supply to the communities of Balgowan, at a cost of \$400 000, and Hardwicke Bay, at a cost of \$650 000, when SA Water was not interested in doing the job;
- attracting \$1 million in federal and state government grants to construct the backbone of a broadband network, which it is hoped will soon be expanded to service all of Yorke Peninsula;
- granting development approval for the construction of the 55 turbine \$165 million Wattle Point wind farm;
- facilitating agreements that allowed the construction of a \$10 million Port Vincent marina, when Crown Law advice to the state government was not to be involved;
- constructing a 5.5 million litre water storage facility at Port Vincent, which allowed for the construction of the highly successful Port Vincent marina. An interesting point is that this facility, which cost over half a million dollars to build and for which SA Water put in only \$117 000, was transferred to the ownership of SA Water upon completion;
- the recent decision to construct a reverse osmosis seawater desalination plant at Marion Bay at a cost of over \$300 000 capable of producing 60 000 litres of water per day. This is only a small plant, but it will allow this expanding community to have access to a guaranteed water supply; and
- taking a lead role in the development of the Narungga Indigenous Land Use Agreement—a wide-ranging document that recognises the heritage and culture of the Narungga people while also providing security to developers.

While proud of the contribution that I made to all these decisions and projects, I pay tribute to the elected members (one of whom is present today) who showed real courage in allowing these visions to become realities. It would be remiss of me not to mention the support and friendship that my family and I have received from all elected members and staff. In particular, I mention Mayor Robert Schulze and Mrs Sharon Schulze during my 5½ years with council.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: True. Robert and I did not always agree on things, but we respected each other's opinion and were focused on making the communities of Yorke Peninsula a better place in which to live. No doubt within the Liberal Party parliamentary team there will be instances when we may also disagree, but I can assure the house that our efforts are focused solely on returning to government in 2010. Tourism is a vitally important industry to the Adelaide Plains and the Yorke Peninsula regions that make up the electorate of Goyder.

Excellent marketing support has been received from the South Australian Tourism Commission for many years, with tourism operators now acknowledging that if they want to grow their business and create a climate to stimulate further tourism investment to get a greater financial return to the region from tourism and to grow job opportunities they must work together. For those in this house who are not aware, in 2004 some 530 000 people visited Yorke Peninsula, spending approximately 1.7 million nights in the area. These are truly amazing figures, and obviously indicative of a vibrant industry and the fact that people are attracted to the Yorke Peninsula and want to return as often as possible.

However, significant components of this industry could be at risk if the situation that occurred near Port Wakefield on the recent Easter long weekend is allowed to continue. The

television news footage and *The Advertiser* coverage of traffic delays, which meant that a normal two-hour trip suddenly turned into a four or five hour nightmare of moving along at a snail's pace, or not moving at all because of the inability of a road network to handle the number of vehicles, must not be allowed to continue.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: I am coming to that. Minister Conlon may say that it is only holiday traffic and (when asked a question in the parliament about this matter) that he knows the area well and has spent many days at Port Vincent, but does he and the government truly recognise the potential impact that no action on improving this situation could result? I can imagine the scene in early 2007 when families are sitting down and talking about what their options are over the Easter period. The option of going to the Yorke Peninsula is considered, but then someone remembers a story about Easter in 2006 and people being delayed for two hours and, guess what, they decide to go somewhere else for their four-day break.

On behalf of my constituents, I tell members that the above scenario must be avoided. As a new member of parliament, I am particularly proud to have been provided with the opportunity to serve as the shadow minister for employment training and further education, the shadow minister for youth and the shadow minister for gambling. I acknowledge that these shadow portfolios will be challenging, but they are also exciting opportunities for me to be representative of all South Australians and to be involved in influencing the decision-making process of parliament.

In the area of employment, I am reminded of a figure often quoted by the member for Frome and other Liberal members during the recent election campaign, that if the rate of employment growth in South Australia had matched that experienced across the nation over the last four years some 11 000 more people would have been in work than is currently the situation—11 000 more people! Imagine the multiplying effect the wages from these jobs would do for our economy. As our state faces many threats to its future prosperity, now is the time for action to ensure that all risks are managed and all opportunities accessed.

The upskilling and training of our community will be an important factor in the future prosperity of our state. Employment opportunities do abound for people who have skills, but appropriate resources must be provided to ensure that training is accessible and not cost prohibitive. I commit to doing all that I can to assist in this area. I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to work in the area of youth. While many in South Australia see only the bad things that a minority of our youth do and judge all young people on these actions, I focus on the positives of our young people.

Our youth must be encouraged; our youth must be mentored; and our youth must be supported and given every opportunity to demonstrate what they are capable of and allowed to succeed. Simply put, our youth are our future. We in this house must ensure that it is a positive one. The decisions that we make today will impact on what our youth do tomorrow. We must ensure that they are engaged and asked for opinions. Gambling is an interesting shadow portfolio for me as, by nature, I am not a gambler. That said, I respect the actions of others who do like to gamble.

I give an assurance that my focus will be on working with the various industry groups to ensure that responsible management which is compliant with the legislation occurs at all times. I can assure minister Caica that I will be noting

every statement, every promise, every act and every omission of this government in these portfolios, as they are too important an area to the future of this state to be not diligent. To my leader, Iain Evans, and my deputy leader, Vickie Chapman, I say thank you for the faith you have placed in me. To my fellow Liberal Party parliamentary colleagues, I say thank you for the support and friendship you have given me.

One of my frustrations as a local government officer for the term of the 50th parliament was the apparent unwillingness of some Labor ministers to become involved in the decisions of their departments. We are put in this place to express opinions (hopefully informed ones) and to make decisions. Certainly, I respect the fact that we are required to seek the absolute best advice possible, but examples I witnessed of presentations being made to ministers and the ministers then indicating that they had no knowledge of the issue and would rely solely upon the opinion of the bureaucracy running their departments disappointed me.

In closing, it would be remiss of me to not thank my family for all their support. Donna and I have been together for nearly 20 years. Donna has always supported and encouraged me to strive for my dreams. Being elected to parliament is one of those dreams. We have brought Tyler and Kelsey into the world and seen them grow into great kids—young adults we can be extremely proud of. As a family, we have laughed, argued and cried, and we have made a lot of great friends. I hope, even with the experience of parliament, that this continues for many years.

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: True.

Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: I know.

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: Life goes beyond; I can see that. I intend to be the voice of all who live in Goyder, be they young or old, rich or poor, working, unemployed or retired.

Mrs Redmond: Liberal or Labor.

Mr GRIFFITHS: True, Liberal or Labor. I intend to be the voice of the needs of the Goyder electorate, as I believe in Goyder. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate the Governor on her address and also, in his absence, to commend the new Speaker for his elevation to that post. I agree with other speakers that he will be an excellent Speaker, and I look forward to things getting back to some semblance of normality after a fairly turgid four years, which probably do not need going over, in the hands of a previous Speaker back in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

It was a privilege to be re-elected in Waite. As with everyone here, we were all caught up in a swing. On this occasion it was to the benefit of the Labor Party, unlike previous occasions when it has very firmly gone against them. There was a message in all of that for the Liberal Party, and it is a message that we will take to heart. In the seat of Waite, I am not sure I would take too much comfort if I was the Labor Party. Yes, we were caught up in the swing. It was not as great as the state-wide swing and was held back significantly, and it was certainly well under some other seats in the metropolitan and inner metropolitan area. Labor was assisted very strongly by the collapse of the Democrat vote

and the preferences flowing from the Greens, which saw it achieve a much better than usual result.

Having said that, the constituents of Waite have sent a message, as have all constituents across the state, and that message is that they expect better from the opposition. They expect us to do a better job. That message has been very clearly heard in the seat of Waite, and I am sure it has been very clearly heard across the state. Perhaps, if it had been heard a little earlier, some members opposite might not be sitting here tonight and the swing might not have been anywhere near as strong as it was. However, that is another story.

Mr Pengilly: Oncers!

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: As my good colleague the member for Finnis interjects, the term ‘oncer’ is one with which some members opposite may become intimately familiar. One thing I would say about politics is that the tide comes in and the tide goes out. I would say that after this election the tide has gone out a little for the Liberal Party, but history sends us a message: just watch this space.

I heard contributions from other members, particularly the member for West Torrens, whose contributions I always enjoy in this place. I heard the honourable member talking about the seat of Mitchell. Our candidate in the seat of Mitchell, Jack Gaffey, a dentist, happens to be a member of one of my branches and he was a very good candidate. He had a job to do and he did it rather well, and I am very pleased to see the member for Mitchell sitting in this house. Having been fed up with the Labor Party and having run as an Independent, I am pleased to see that, with the preferences flowing from the Liberal Party, he has been returned as a reminder for the next four years that all has not been well in Camelot on the Torrens—courtesy of Sir Arthur Rann.

I also say that we had some other good candidates, who got caught up in the swing but who would have made very good members. I am thinking, in particular, of Heidi Greaves in the seat of Elder, Tim Blackmore in the seat of Colton and Anna Baric in the seat of Chaffey. I mention only a few, but there were many others who were very capable, competent and able candidates. But when there is a swing on, there is a swing on. No matter how good we think we are at holding back a swing the harsh reality is that, when it is on, it is on. There is little you can do, as King Canute learned, to turn back the tide. All members, particularly members opposite, should remember that over the next four years.

I want to make particular mention of some departed colleagues. There are many and I will not go through them individually, other than to say that I will miss them. We lost a good group and I regret their moving on. They all are very capable people and they will do well. I make specific mention of our candidate in the seat of Bright, the Hon. Angus Redford MLC. Although Angus lost his seat, I commend him for the courage he showed in taking the courageous decision to move before his time was up from the other place to run as a candidate in the lower house. That speaks volumes of the character of the man in terms of both his courage and conviction to his party and this state. He was prepared to make that decision. On this occasion, he was not successful, but I wish Angus and Fina, and their young baby Ridho, all the best in the future. I am sure he will do very well. I think Angus set an example that many of us could follow.

I welcome my new colleagues, including the very affable new member for Hammond. I join the Minister for Infrastructure in saying how overjoyed I personally am to see him representing the seat of Hammond, and to say that he is a

10 000 per cent improvement on his predecessor is an understatement! But for his predecessor history in this parliament and this state might have taken a different course. Thank God you are with us, welcome. I look forward to a long period of serving with you. I welcome the members for Finnis, Unley and Goyder and I look forward to working with them all. I think they have enriched our side of the house enormously, and there is a lot to be said for that renewal. I think the new members opposite have done their party well by arriving here. I say to those new members that I also arrived at a time when my party was in government in 1997. It had been a colourful year or two prior to my arrival, and arriving in a party in government perhaps is not the ideal timing.

Depending on how the tide is flowing, you may either find yourself in government for a long time, hoping anxiously to become a minister but finding yourself blocked at the top by a whole lot of things stuck in the pipe or, alternatively, quickly into opposition and spending two or three terms there. From my experience, nothing is worse than being a back-bencher in government. You cannot really cause much trouble, because the ministers have stitched you up in caucus and you pretty well have to toe the party line. So, you cannot question the government too intensely. Fortunately for us, and regrettably for government members, they cannot question the opposition. So, it is a pretty frustrating old business. However, there are pursuits that you can engage in to entertain yourselves. It is much more interesting to be in opposition, where you can sit at home on Sundays making Molotov cocktails and deciding who to throw them at on Monday. But, welcome aboard: it is a pleasure to have you all here. From a quick glance around, I think the average age in the chamber has probably dropped by about five years as a consequence of the new arrivals, and that is probably not a bad thing.

I congratulate the Labor Party on a good win, as I have said to several ministers prior to parliament's resuming. I think it ran a good campaign. I think it was very well resourced, as one would expect, and that it was well thought through. As someone who knows a little about military history, I would say that it was probably well planned and well executed. By comparison, I think that we were left wanting, to say the least—and I am being generous. However, as is the case with all good defeated armies, we will regroup and we will be back. So, members opposite should not get too comfortable.

I think this is a little like a major Australian Open: I am not quite sure whether the Labor Party has won such a convincing victory or whether we double faulted that many times during the course of the match that we handed the game over. I am not quite convinced that South Australians are in love with this Labor government. In fact, from what I heard at the Clipsal motor race, the reception from the 200 000 (or whatever it was) people present when the Premier stood up and had a few words to say may have reflected a certain undertone or mood in the community that might not have been reflected in the ballot outcome. I would not take a great deal of comfort from the win, to be frank. It was a resounding win and, as I said, I commend members opposite for that. The score is on the board. It is plain and simple: they are over there and we are over here. However, we will do better over the next four years. If we had done better in the last four years, I think that the result would be quite different from what it is today.

This Labor government will need to be more courageous than it was in the first four years. Speaking not only as a member but also as the shadow minister for infrastructure, energy, transport and a few other things, I do not think that the government made any bold state building decisions in the last four years. We were criticised after we inherited the shipwreck of the HMAS State Bank. I note that the captain of the ship was the Hon. John Bannon, I think the chief engineer was the Hon. Mike Rann and my recollection is that the Hon. Kevin Foley was a cabin boy running about on the bridge issuing briefing notes to various officers on the watch as an adviser, I think, to senior echelons. And, of course, we know that the HMAS State Bank ran us aground to the tune of \$11 billion, and a current account deficit of \$300 million—

An honourable member: It wasn't 11.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: The total amount of state debt left to South Australians on the Labor Party's departure was about \$11 billion, and there was a \$300 million per annum deficit. That is how far beyond our means we were living when the Premier and the Deputy Premier were last flying around on the bridge sipping cups of tea. When times are good you can look very, very good as a government. The State Bank affair showed that, when times go bad, a government's mettle is really tested. I do not think that this government has been tested in four years.

I think it is a good time to be in government, and I think that has reflected positively for the Howard Liberal government, as indeed it has for the Rann Labor government. We have enjoyed buoyant economic times. There is low unemployment; people's property values have been going up; interest rates have been low; generally, the business environment has been positive; we have had some good seasons; and, I think, generally, farmers have been happy. There have been a few little bumps along the way, but, generally, it has not been too bad. As a consequence, the accounts are looking absolutely splendid.

You are awash with cash. You have been able to increase taxation revenue by 30.5 per cent. Overall, government revenue in the four years from 2001-02 to 2005-06 was 25.5 per cent. Interestingly, that enabled you to maximise spending with a 22.46 per cent increase in expenditure. In fact, when we handed over government to you, the budget, in terms of expenditure in this state, was \$8.7 billion. It took from 1857 to 2002 to get to that level. The budget in 2005-06 for expenditure was \$10.6 billion—a whopping 23 per cent higher.

You are awash with cash, and anyone who knows anything about running a business knows that, when the money is collapsing across the counter at you, you look great, you look fantastic. People think you are running a fantastic business. You can over-hire—and haven't we done that. How many thousands of extra public servants have we hired? You can grow the size of government. You can get the gold-plated taps instead of the aluminium ones. You can do whatever you like. I see the former CEO of Yorke Peninsula council nodding and thinking, 'Yes, if only I had that much money.' You have been awash with cash, and yet, what have you really done with it? I say: not much.

We were criticised for doing things. We built the South Eastern Freeway, the southern distributor. We built things such as the Wine Centre, the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium and the Convention Centre. We spent millions on these things, and all of them were very successful, although some of them were criticised. At a time when we had no money, we rebuilt the cultural institutions on North Terrace. The easiest way to

avoid criticism is to do nothing; the easiest way to avoid making a mistake is not to commence a venture, not to commence a journey. We were prepared to make those decisions, but I do not know whether the government really has in the past four years. You will have to in the next four years. I think your honeymoon period is over, and in the next four years you will have to deliver on some major projects. It will be interesting to see how you will go with that.

I am sure that my colleague the member for Finnis and I will take great interest in that progress in the Public Works Committee, as will members of other committees. I wish you well. South Australians, I think, are fairly savvy, and not to be underestimated. I think they will look for some results. Similarly, it will be interesting to see whether there are potholes in the road ahead, politically, challenges and shock waves that may arrive (either internally or externally driven) that will challenge the government. Let us wait and see. I will come back to that at the end of my contribution.

I now want to talk about my electorate of Waite. It is a wonderful electorate, and I commend to everybody that they come and visit. It is a wonderful place to be. We have a lot of things going on in our electorate. As someone who grew up there, who went to school there, who was raised there, who went away from there at the age of 17 to join the army for 23 years and then came home and settled there again, I am pretty fond of it, I have to say. The foothills of Mitcham are a pretty nice place to be. We have a few things going on. We are rebuilding the Mitcham Shopping Centre, which was tragically burnt down in a vicious and scurrilous attack. It is a \$60 million development; it is a pretty major bit of infrastructure being built there. It will be finished, hopefully, by Christmas. I hope everyone will come and shop at the best shopping centre in town. It will put Burnside to shame, I am sorry to tell my colleague, the member for Bragg; no-one will want to shop there any more. No-one will want to shop at Unley after the Mitcham Shopping Centre is completed; they will all want to come down to Mitcham, and I commend it to everyone.

We have a few issues. I would like the government to tell us what is the future of the Malvern police station. Many of my constituents are concerned. It was closed after a minor fire, which did only \$30 000 worth of damage. The member for Unley may be able to correct me, but I believe that we are still waiting for news on the Malvern police station. He and I share that service area. The government is telling us that there will be more police, which we would really like to see in Mitcham and Unley, particularly through the Malvern police station.

Drugs and crime are as much a problem in Mitcham as they are in most electorates. Tragically, around 40 000 South Australians reported using amphetamines, 12 000 using ecstasy and designer drugs and 6 000 using heroin. We have 2 500 people on methadone. I chaired a select committee on this subject in the first parliament of which I was a member in 1999. We heard from the Police Commissioner that 70 per cent of street crime is drug related and 70 per cent of house break-ins and car thefts can be related back to drug abuse. It is a problem in Mitcham from the point of view of abuse. Some of the kids have money. They are young people, vulnerable, as are all these young people in all electorates. We are a target for the criminal aspects of the crime world, the house break-ins, the bag snatchers, the bashings and car thefts. It is a problem that I would urge the government to focus on in the coming four years. I welcome the arrival of the Hon. Anne Bressington in the other place, with whom I

have had dealings previously, and I look forward to continuing to champion the cause of drug abuse in the four years ahead.

There are other issues. I was sorry the government was not able to buy the western portion of the Garrett land in the Springwood Park Estate to preserve it for the hills face zone. The protection of the valued hills face zone is a challenge for the whole of South Australia. It is a valued environmental asset. We need to look at ways of improving, enhancing and growing it, and similarly I would hope to see the government invest more in the Brownhill Creek Recreational Reserve. A lot of work needs to be done there and more is required from the government by way of investment. I will be interested to follow the government's proposed changes to the Development Act and the impact that may have on the preservation of heritage homes—a matter of considerable importance to the people of Waite.

The issue of power cuts reaches across the whole city and is equally important to Mitcham. It is causing a lot of grief. Connected to that is the problem of the erection of telecommunication towers on the top of ETSA infrastructure, and I will talk more of that later. A number of road traffic issues in my electorate need attention. I have written to ministers about that and will pursue those issues. An amount of \$2.4 million is required to upgrade Belair Road. There are problems at the junctions of Taylors Road and Old Belair Road and Springbank Road and Eliza Place. They are details, but details that matter to people, as are the condition and serviceability of our hospitals, particularly the Repatriation Hospital and Flinders, which service my constituents. I will be following closely government investment in those hospitals.

Other local issues of importance to people in my electorate is the burnt down Belair railway station that requires refurbishment. Volunteers got out there and raised \$30 000 while the government sat on its hands for two years. I refer to the safety of the Belair line. There has been a derailment, a collision, grease on the tracks, and a series of major safety problems on that line that need attention. I commend Mitcham council for organising the public meeting to do with freight train concerns on 12 April which I attended at the Young Street Blackwood Senior Citizens Club. It was a very informative meeting. A lot needs to be done to improve the safety and amenity for people living along the line.

I mentioned earlier the Hutchison High Court decision that has reinforced the right for telecommunications infrastructure to be put on top of ETSA power poles. I note a grievance from the member for Norwood (which I assume was given to her by the minister) which, as usual, tried to blame all of that on the federal government. I remind the state government that it has given ETSA a special exemption to erect power pole infrastructure of any size without development approval, and ETSA may be—and I think is—abusing that freedom it has been given so as to enable Hutchison to erect telecommunications infrastructure atop towers that are probably far bigger than are required for the purpose of power transmission but which are put there simply for the purpose of providing a platform for telecommunications infrastructure.

To see some of the photographs of this is pretty unpleasant, let me tell you. There may be a need for an amendment to the Development Act, and I urge the government to show some leadership on this. Under pressure from the opposition, the government at least participated in the High Court case. However, I would now like to know what the government

plans to do from here. Is the government now just going to drop the issue, or is it going to try to do something about it?

Other members have talked about flooding and the need for mitigation works and investment in preventing damage to people's property and, in fact, threat to life, as a consequence of one in 20 years, one in 50 years and one in 100 years floods. I think the government's approach is haphazard and an attempt to flog the matter off to local government, whilst minimising the government's financial liability. I foreshadow that the opposition will seek to hold the government to account on its responsibility to provide for flood mitigation works and to plan and show leadership on flood infrastructure. That leadership is not there at present, and it needs to be provided, along with the dollars.

I turn now to the subject of hoon driving, which is a real worry for people in Mitcham. We are victims of it, everywhere from Windy Point, through McElligot's Quarry to the back streets of Mitcham. I commend Melinda Zacharchuk from Fife Avenue, Torrens Park, who, along with others, is involved in organising petitions and taking action on behalf of her community to get something done about hoon driving. We had a very tragic fatality on 5 March, where a driver careered into a telephone pole in this part of Mitcham. It is a tragic problem, that is, young people speeding up streets and doing wheelies. I will look to see that the hoon legislation originally proposed by the opposition, picked up and introduced by the government is working. We really want to see some results.

I commend the Mitcham Village Arts and Crafts as an example of an organisation in the community that is doing good work. I thank the outgoing president and full-time worker—Murray Evans and Raelene Evans respectively—for the commendable work they have done, and I welcome the new leadership group to the Mitcham Village Arts and Crafts—Cassandra Rundle in particular—and I look forward to an ongoing working relationship with that group.

The Westbourne Park Senior Citizens, like the Colonel Light Gardens Senior Citizens, are the thread that goes through the fabric of society in Mitcham. They do brilliant work in bringing people together and getting them out of their homes. I commend Pat Hannigan (the President) and Ivan Baillie (the Secretary) for their great work, as well as Meals on Wheels in both Mitcham and Belair—the chair of Mitcham (Lorna Mackie), the Secretary (Margaret Rowe) and the Belair Branch of Meals on Wheels chair (Cheryl Gray) and the Secretary (Barbara Kapon). I have done deliveries with both groups, and they are fantastic examples of the community at work. Again, these sort of community groups continue to remind you why you are a member of parliament and why you enjoy it.

To Mitcham Lions, Mitcham Rotary, Brownhill Creek Rotary—all of these groups have fabulous people doing fantastic work for our community. It is that community work, and your involvement and engagement with it, frankly, that is the rewarding part of being a member. I say this to new members: if you get caught up in everything that goes on at North Terrace and think that this is what it is really about, think again. It is not. It is the individual constituent that you can help; it is the person for whom you can find that Housing Trust home; it is the mum with a disabled child not getting their full entitlements whom you can help. They are the things that make this job worthwhile, not the highfalutin wheeling and dealing that some people think that they are engaged in here at Parliament House, most of which is hoo-ha as far as the average constituent is concerned. It is about

making yourself relevant and making yourself useful to people.

To the Mitcham Air Force Association, and Ralph Aston, and others in that clubroom, to Mitcham and Colonel Light Gardens RSL (I am a member of the latter), they are important parts of the fabric of society, and outstanding examples of community groups. I am so looking forward to working with them over the coming four years.

As for each of the schools in my electorate—and I have some beauties—Colonel Light Gardens Primary School is going through an upgrade that was commissioned by the former government, and gracefully not scrapped by the current government. What a fantastic school that is. I went there, I loved the place, and I am delighted that it is being rebuilt. I also attended Clapham Primary School. I was not actually expelled from Colonel Light Gardens: they regrouped us. I managed to go to two primary schools and two high schools in one fell swoop because of regrouping. When they opened Clapham, they said, 'Look, if you live closer to Clapham, would you like to shift?' so I shifted in grade 3. I had the joy of going to three schools in my electorate. Clapham Primary School is another fantastic school. There is a new principal—not so new now—Richard Baxter, and deputy principal, Rod Sutherland, doing a great job.

I will not go on. I could mention far more of my local community's hardworking groups, and they are absolutely fantastic. I am really looking forward to the next four years as a local member working my patch. It is a terrific place to live. Now with an 18-month old baby I am even more excited about making sure the place thrives and survives, and I will be doing that, but I equally look forward to doing a better job on behalf of Waite in opposition so that we can get the Liberal Party back into government.

Time expired.

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I congratulate our gracious Governor on the wonderful job that she does for the people of our state. She is an inspiration to us all with her hard work and dedication to her job. I particularly appreciate her visits out to the country regions of the state where her visits are a highlight. I thank the people in my electorate for the ongoing support for the Liberal team, and I note that the Labor Party reduced its vote in my electorate by 3.3 per cent. I also thank those people who helped out during the election in any way, and I welcome our new members to this parliament.

The lease of ETSA by the former Liberal government helped to pay off about \$6 billion of the previous Labor government's \$9 billion debt, and has enabled the state to regain a AAA credit rating by Standard and Poor's in 2004. Together with the GST funding from the federal Liberal government, and high and increased state taxes, the present Labor government has a unique opportunity to begin building, upgrading and replacing the infrastructure that our state so desperately needs if we are ever to take our place, where I believe we should be, as a natural hub between east and west.

The lifeblood of South Australia is the 96 per cent of businesses that are classified as small. These businesses will never alone be able to pay for the upgrade of infrastructure that is needed if they are to remain viable and to expand, particularly in the regions where infrastructure is so often either old or non-existent. The user-pays policy and the excuse that it is the job of private enterprise are not excuses the government can hide behind. Already Adelaide is bursting

at the seams with urban sprawl while the remainder of the state is under-utilised because of lack of infrastructure.

The government is the biggest business in the state and must take responsibility for ensuring that the whole of its asset—our state—is utilised properly. The income from regions has helped to pay for the city infrastructure and now the city must invest in country infrastructure to fulfil the exciting development potential of the whole of the state. Partnerships with private enterprise must be formed and, as suggested by Business SA, could be coordinated by an independent planning body to jointly tackle this massive infrastructure problem. The first two principles under Business SA's *A Blueprint for South Australia's Future*, under the heading of infrastructure, state:

The relationship between physical infrastructure and economic development is critical to community prosperity.

and:

Physical infrastructure is a key element contributing to economic development, not a consequence of it.

Both these principles seem to have been lost on current and past Labor governments, as is the fact that people are happiest and healthiest when they have worthwhile employment and that most employment is provided by people who have taken the risks and responsibilities of being self-employed and employers.

The state needs road, rail, air, sea, power and water infrastructure if it is to provide the economic boost and the jobs that would see our own children returning and others coming from across Australia and around the world. The previous government invested, if you could call it that, in projects such as 333 Collins Street in Melbourne, which did not even leave the benefit within our state. These investments brought our state to its knees, with the State Bank collapse.

So far, the current Labor government has shown no better business sense, providing nothing but gimmicks, creating no long-term jobs and very little benefit for the general population. Clear examples include expensive imported trams at \$55 million and proposed extended tramlines; retrofitting solar panels to government buildings that already have less expensive power; tanks for government buildings that already have less expensive water; a proposed opening bridge for an extra \$100 million; and in my electorate providing a miserable 1.4 gigalitres of water piped from an already over-exploited River Murray at a cost of \$48.5 million to Eyre Peninsula when private desalination is available at a lower cost per kilolitre. Also to be considered are a series of tenders for infrastructure that are cutting out local tenderers and favouring interstate and overseas tenderers.

From small businesses large businesses grow. They employ more local people, take up larger buildings and pay more state taxes, but they have to be given a chance. Eventually, once again, a Liberal government will be brought in to clean up the Labor mess. If the funds that have already been wasted on gimmicks had been put into supplying real infrastructure where businesses are without adequate power, water, transport to expand and employ, we would have seen significant growth in employment and exports, when the opposite is the case. For example, the 40-year old single 132 kilovolt powerline that services the whole of Eyre Peninsula, a region as big as Tasmania, could have been duplicated along the west coast, providing security of power to this huge region and enabling 1 000 megawatts, about a billion dollars worth, of wind turbines to be built there, putting their power into the grid, reducing tonnes of greenhouse gases and

creating hundreds of jobs in industries. This power could be used for desalination, mining and exports, particularly if combined with the graphite block energy storage technology. Instead, this state continues to import power.

The development of South Australia's minerals, particularly those in the Gawler Craton, which was recently recognised at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the largest trade fair in the world, as being of world-class significance, will be an important part of South Australia's economic future. However, infrastructure—power, water, roads and trained people—will be the key to their successful development. Of the minerals found in the Gawler Craton and the Curnamona Craton in South Australia, uranium can be expected to form a significant part. Australia holds about 30 per cent of the world's known uranium resources, and South Australia in particular has the potential to be the largest supplier of uranium in the world.

One of the major mines in the world is at Olympic Dam (previously called a mirage in the desert by our Premier). Beverley is already a world class in situ leach mine, and Honeymoon is soon to begin mining with, hopefully, the support of the governments—state and federal. With the increase in commodities prices, companies are clamouring to get into South Australia. All the prospective land in the Gawler and Curnamona cratons has been taken up and the price for overseas companies wanting to participate has increased greatly.

South Australia will always find it difficult to compete with low cost, overseas countries in manufacturing. However, there are a number of exciting opportunities currently available that could really make a difference. The one that would have the most impact on our state, creating significant opportunities for business and jobs growth, is mining. Mining will create the wealth to pay for much needed infrastructure, while making South Australia a significant player in Australia and on the world scene.

As well as iron ore and other minerals, the government should facilitate the mining and safe use of our uranium. Many countries are expanding their economies rapidly and, without non-polluting alternatives, will contribute to the expansion of greenhouse gases and global warming on a massive scale with the expansion of coal and oil-fired power.

According to the Editor of *COSMOS*, Wilson da Silva, just mining coal kills 10 000 people per year worldwide and accounts for about 14 000 deaths from air pollution in the USA alone. There are better ways of using hydrocarbons, including safer, more efficient methods of combustion and safer work practices that would, of course, reduce these figures. However, uranium would still compare very favourably on health risks and produces few of the greenhouse gases.

Bruno Comby, the founder and president of Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy, in an article entitled 'The Nuclear Greenies', which appeared in *The Adelaide Review* on 15 April 2006, stated that burning of oil throws out into the atmosphere 23 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year (725 tonnes per second), which is seriously affecting the climate.

We have the uranium in the ground and the state Labor government is happy to dig it out and send it overseas. What continues to amaze me is that they take no responsibility for what happens to it, so long as it is not disposed of in South Australia. The Woomera nuclear dump that was put there without discussion by a former Labor federal government, would seem to me to be a good place to store waste until a

safer and better method of disposal is found. At the very least, Woomera could be used to store waste, particularly the low-level waste from South Australia, if only because it is the responsible thing to do.

Government and independent assessment have shown that South Australia has some of the best geological terrain in the world suitable for the storage of nuclear waste. If we want the benefits of mining and utilising uranium, then we must take the responsibility. That is particularly the case when some of the countries where we may send it, or where it may end up, may not have stable governments, nor the funding or the will to store it responsibly.

Hannum, Marsh and Stanford in an article entitled 'Smarter Use of Nuclear Waste', published in the *Scientific American* of December 2005, state:

Several nations, including Brazil, China, Egypt, Finland, India, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea and Vietnam are building or planning nuclear plants.

We can now add Iran to that list. Perhaps returning waste to South Australia would overcome one of the strongest objections to the use of uranium, that the waste might be reprocessed to make nuclear weapons. Even Bob Hawke, the Premier's mentor, could see the benefits—including economic—of taking back uranium waste for reprocessing and storage. The environmental hazard is a lot less than it could be if we do not take responsibility for it.

Technology to improve the use and disposal of uranium is exciting. For instance, Wilson da Silva spoke recently on the ABC *Science Show* of an accelerator-driven thorium system, generating nuclear power that could never blow up, adding:

... with a reactor that would never suffer a meltdown, produce no weapons-grade by-products, and even burn up old radioactive waste as part of the process.

The *UIC Nuclear Issues Briefing Paper No. 67* of November 2004 states that thorium is a naturally occurring, slightly radioactive metal discovered in 1828 and found in small amounts in most rocks and soils 'that has found applications in light bulb elements, lantern mantles, arc-light lamps, welding electrodes and heat-resistant ceramics', with thorium oxide used in glass for 'high quality lenses for cameras and scientific instruments'.

Obviously, a relatively benign metal that can be used to provide power and, in so doing, dispose of radioactive waste without creating plutonium that could be used in weapons would be welcomed. However, Da Silva laments that there is no full-scale prototype yet in operation and that:

Despite the promise of thorium—and the fact that Australia has the world's largest reserves of thorium—there is only one scientist in the whole country involved in researching the technology—and he is funded by the Germans!

To work on a product that could supersede uranium and dispose of the wastes currently produced by nuclear power stations, while at the same time providing a high quality green power supply, would be a project worthy of a state that has the potential to supply the world with uranium. I feel quite sure that partnerships could be developed with the federal Liberal government and also with state and possibly overseas governments to build a trial plant and then, if proven, to build a full scale plant in South Australia—preferably accessible from north, south, east and west by rail. I feel sure that other states and countries would pay to safely dispose of their waste and we could benefit by using it in a thorium system. A feasibility study would soon indicate whether this proposal was possible.

Let us do something significant and, as our Premier so often tells us, be innovative. Let us start leading the world in this new, accelerator-driven thorium system and perhaps help the people of the world to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and help turn around global warming and environmental degradation before it is too late. We have nothing to lose and we, and the world, have much to gain.

South Australia already has large resources of uranium in the ground in various forms that have not hurt anyone. We could develop a properly managed, deep storage system with dedicated road/rail for waste and charge for storage. We could then put conditions on the user on how they generate waste and manage their power generation facilities.

Current known supplies of uranium will only last several decades. It will take many years for new technology to develop and for the subsequent power stations to be constructed. During this period very large quantities of waste will be generated. This waste should be seen as an immensely valuable resource, as only 1/100th of its potential energy is actually used. The balance could potentially be extracted—possibly using the accelerator-driven thorium system or the high temperature reprocessing and fast neutron reactors. Storage for decades and subsequent re-use would create great wealth for South Australia. Again, this is well into the future. It needs foresight, imagination and the squashing of some Labor members' anachronistic aversion to anything nuclear.

In the meantime I support renewables. South Australia, and in particular Eyre Peninsula, is ideally suited for this purpose. I understand that, on the day Australia signed up to supply China with possibly \$400 million worth of uranium, Hydro Tasmania signed up to supply about \$300 million in a wind power deal with China. Hydro Tasmania, Pacific Hydro, Babcock and Brown and Ausker Energy, among others, would spend more than \$1 billion on wind farms on Eyre Peninsula and much more in South Australia if the power could be put into the grid. Again, it is a matter of priorities, and this Labor government prefers wasting money on media attention and trivia rather than infrastructure that would really make a difference.

All options for the generation of power need to be examined, including the renewables, fast neutron reactors and thorium. However, whatever we do, it remains that nuclear power generation is a significant means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will be used around the world, much of it using Australia's uranium. The last word on infrastructure goes to Business SA, which states in its blueprint:

Currently, each of these infrastructures is planned separately according to their different ownership structures and according to their individual business plans. While this situation is likely to continue, there is a clear financial case for coordinating planning to enable the sharing of installation costs. Government should form an Infrastructure Planning Council that incorporates existing bodies, such as the Electricity Supply Industry Planning Council, into one group to coordinate the infrastructure planning needs of South Australia. The benefit of this approach is that it removes political considerations from infrastructure spending and allows the decision making process to occur in a bipartisan way.

Then we may see the 'community prosperity' alluded to by Business SA in its 'Blueprint for South Australia's Future' first principle that states the need for 'critical' infrastructure for this to be achieved. I support the motion.

Ms BREUER (Giles): First, I acknowledge the wonderful work of the Governor of South Australia, Marjorie Jackson. She is an inspiration to the people of South Australia. I was particularly grateful last year when she was able to attend a

fundraising dinner in Whyalla which I hold annually to raise funds for breast cancer research. I invited her, expecting that, with her busy schedule, she would not be able to attend. She also has experience in fundraising for cancer research and was delighted to attend, and the women of Whyalla were delighted to have her there. She was wonderful. It was then I realised how much of a common touch she has with people. She is able to put people at ease and she enjoys being with people. She really is a wonderful asset to this state. I certainly acknowledge her role and the wonderful work that she does for us in South Australia. We are very lucky to have her, and I hope that we keep her for some time.

I thank the people of my electorate, that is, the electorate of Giles, for the support that they gave me in the recent state election. I was absolutely delighted with the results I received. Certainly, we had some phenomenal swings in Giles, and I reaped the benefits. If members look at the results of the previous federal election for the City of Whyalla, I would have probably lost Whyalla, which would have been unheard of in the history of Whyalla. However, I am very pleased to say that they all returned to the Labor Party in the recent state election. In some booths I was polling over 80 per cent of the first preference votes on the night, and I was very pleased with that. They showed great confidence in the Labor government, in Mike Rann as our Premier and I hope also in me as their local member. I was very pleased.

So many other areas also had a swing to the Labor Party. For example, we won the town of Roxby Downs which had never been won by the Labor Party before. I think that this is indicative of the trust that the people of Roxby Downs now have in the Labor government. They understand that we support them and the expansion of the Roxby Downs mine and that we will provide the infrastructure necessary to ensure the people of Roxby Downs have a great future. I was very pleased that we were able to win Roxby Downs. I think we can forget all the comments made today by members opposite who keep harping back to the 1970s. That is the past.

We as a party have certainly demonstrated that we are committed to Roxby Downs, and we believe that there is a great future in Roxby Downs. The money coming from the Roxby Downs area into our state budget is a great asset for us all. I certainly will be doing my best to support the people of Roxby Downs. At the moment there are some issues with power, and the minister spoke about them today. There is certainly much concern about their power bills and water bills. There is no reason for it, apart from perhaps increased usage. There must certainly be increased usage in power, because there has been no jacking up of prices in the area. I will certainly investigate that further. There are a lot of other issues in Roxby Downs that I will be looking at over the next few years.

Certainly, the swing I had and the support I received in the electorate gave me a feeling not only of great satisfaction but also one of great responsibility for looking after the people in my electorate which, of course, is the biggest electorate in the state. It is over 500 000 square kilometres—an area far bigger than any European country—and the people there are diverse. We have the industrial town of Whyalla, the mining towns of Coober Pedy and Andamooka, the uranium and copper mining town of Roxby Downs, and the APY lands in the north and the Maralinga Tjarutja lands to the west. We have huge pastoral areas and, of course, at the recent state election we also acquired the farming areas of Kimba and Cowell, as well as the areas of Hawker and Quorn in the

Flinders Ranges. I am delighted to have those areas in my electorate, and they certainly demonstrate its versatility.

When people ask me what the big issue is in my electorate, I have to say that, because of its size and diversity, there is no main big issue because we have so many issues and so many communities which all have individual issues. It is up to me to keep track of them, and I certainly travel considerably. I do something like 120 000 kilometres a year going from place to place, but I am happy to do it. Indeed, at the weekend I went to Roxby Downs for the first football match of the season. It is a 3½ hour trip to get there from Whyalla. I watched a football match for two hours and then travelled home again for 3½ hours. At the time I thought, 'Why am I doing this?' but it is important. I had a great time there and supported my team.

It is very difficult to support a particular team in your electorate, but I supported my team: the Coober Pedy Saints. They formed last year—the first time in 15 years that Coober Pedy has had a football team—and they rose to great heights. The team consists mainly of indigenous players from Coober Pedy and the surrounding area and, although we have not won a match yet, we are well on our way. I was very proud of them on Saturday when they got way behind in the first half but came back at the end and, although they did not get close, they certainly made no fools of themselves. I believe that in a couple of more matches we might win. I was very happy.

It was great to be in Roxby Downs and to see the country teams playing against each other and the support they get from their communities. The Coober Pedy team travel an 800-kilometre round trip each weekend to go to their football matches, and I am very pleased that this year four matches will be played at Coober Pedy. The teams will come up from Roxby and the Woomera district and play at Coober Pedy. It is great to see them getting out there, joining in with the people and everybody having a lot of fun. It has certainly done wonders for the Coober Pedy indigenous players. I pay tribute particularly to Mark Bell, who certainly got the team off the ground. I also pay tribute to Chris Butler, the Treasurer, and to Geoff Sykes and Robin Walker, president, who have done a wonderful job. They have really pushed the team and got it going. The mayor, Steve Baines, has been one of their greatest supporters. We hope to get some new club-rooms at the Coober Pedy Oval, and I will be talking to the minister about funding for them. We hope that the example the players are setting for the young people in the community will help resolve some of the issues in Coober Pedy, such as vandalism and petty crime, etc., and inspire the young indigenous youth that they can achieve. I think this program is really working.

Regarding my election, I want to thank a number of people and organisations, but I particularly want to thank the union movement in Whyalla for its support. I was very pleased with the support it gave me. Campaigning in a country electorate is an isolated job. I guess any member of parliament feels very isolated, because there is nothing like being a candidate in an election. You have a lot of support, but you feel very alone, especially on election day; it does not matter where you are, you feel very alone. Certainly, I think that, because country members do not tend to be part of a big machine, we perhaps feel it a bit more than some of our city colleagues, so it is important to have support from your community, and the union movement in Whyalla certainly supported me very well. I very much appreciated their support, particularly that of the AWU.

Graham Hall, the organiser in Whyalla, has given me a lot of support along the way. In particular, Marty Hilton, a union member, was always there. He was always at meetings and campaign meetings. He was there on the day campaigning. He and his wife, Sandy, worked in Hawker for me on the day. It is very difficult in a community such as Hawker. It is difficult in a little country community to get anyone to work for the Labor Party on the day of an election. There are not too many Labor supporters in those little communities; and if you identify yourself you will probably lose your business, your job or your friends. The people in the communities are a little nervous about identifying themselves as a Labor supporter. I was very pleased that Marty and Sandy were able to work there for me. I do appreciate the support of the AWU, just knowing that it is there and that it is behind me. I was also very pleased with the support from the AMWU in Whyalla. Steve MacMillan, the organiser, does it all unpaid. He is a great worker and a great supporter of the Labor Party. We are very much united, of course, in the fight against the federal industrial laws. Certainly, I supported them as they have supported me on this issue, because we feel very strongly about workers' rights in our area.

We are very concerned about the future of our workers as a result of these new laws. It is: you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. Certainly, the AMWU supported me very well during the campaign, and I was thrilled to bits. As I said, Steve MacMillan is a great supporter, but I was very thrilled to get the support of three fellows who came over from Victoria to help me out on my campaign. I had never heard of them and never met them before, but they were like a breath of fresh air when they came into our community. They came with their uniforms on and went out and canvassed, coerced and pushed people.

They did some work in Whyalla for me, and then went to Roxby Downs. I think that some of the reason I won Roxby Downs was as a result of the work of the AMWU up there. It talked to the workers in Roxby Downs about their future under the new federal laws. I really appreciated that the AMWU sent those people to help me out. They were wonderful. We forged some great friendships, and I hope that I will be going over to visit them in the near future. The MUA supported me very well. Dan Wakeling was always at campaign meetings. The MUA members came out on the day and supported us very well. I really appreciated the support of the MUA.

We have some issues with the workers in the aquaculture industry and, certainly, the MUA is helping out in that respect. We are not out to get the industry, but we do want to make sure that the conditions for workers in the aquaculture industry in Whyalla are good, and we will certainly support each other in this regard. I thank the UTLC in Whyalla, which, I suppose, comprises mainly those unions, but others are involved. They were also very supportive and helped out on the day. I thank the SDA in Adelaide. I thank Don Farrell for his support and for listening to what I had to say about some of the issues in my electorate. Certainly, we were down on about a 4 per cent margin prior to the election. Don listened to what I had to say and threw in his resources to support and help me out as much as he could in Whyalla. I very much appreciate his support. Again, it is good to know that, when you need it, someone is at the end of the phone to talk to you.

Of course, Bernard Finnigan (now newly elected to the other place) was a great support to me. I do not think that I have ever produced material of the calibre that went out this

time, but that was thanks to the efforts of Bernard. You would send him something and, in five minutes (well, not five minutes, that is a bit of an exaggeration), we got back something that we would not have been able to produce in my office. I thank all those unions for the support they gave. Senator Annette Hurley also helped me out, and Nimfa Farrell was also a great supporter. I acknowledge the Whyalla sub-branch of the ALP. Of course, it is very important to have your sub-branch support you in a campaign. I know that sometimes candidates get a hard time from their sub-branches. Certainly, I did not have that from my sub-branch. I very much appreciate their support and the work they have done for me over the years.

Other individuals in Whyalla who are not members of the ALP still come out on the day. It is amazing, when an election is about to be held, how many people come out of the woodwork and offer help. They are people like Noel Wood in Whyalla, and Lou Galpin and Wendy Henry. Many others came out on the day and helped out.

In Woomera, John Raznacs was a great supporter. He has been there for a number of years, and he made sure on the day we had people there. Kym Edwards came out, as usual, and helped out. Once again, in Woomera, we were able to win that area, and these people were out putting up posters prior to the election and helping out on the day. Andamooka is a wonderful community, and I love the people there. They have had many kicks in the teeth in recent times with the fires at the school, but the community always rallies around. Graham and Pat Edwards in Andamooka and Bob Norton are long-time supporters of mine and the Labor Party, and on the day they once again did a wonderful job. They also helped out in Roxby Downs.

Ben Summerton, a young man from Roxby Downs, helped out on the day. Luckily, election day was not a hot day this year (it was quite a reasonable day), because I was very worried about the workers in my part of the state and had arranged hats and drinks and all sorts of things for them. Luckily, the weather held up very well, and Ben stood for a number of hours handing out how to vote cards. Elaine and Tom McSeveney, who are part-time Whyalla and part-time Cowell, worked very hard for me, and we had a swing in Cowell so I was very pleased. Other members from our local sub-branch went out and helped in different communities. As I said, in the country communities you often have to get people in to help, but we had people all over the state and were not short of helpers, and I was very pleased.

My brother Gary Raymond and his wife Sue are always great supporters of mine, as are my two nephews, Brad and Dale. The whole family gets involved when an election comes up, and they were out helping on the day. They provided me with many meals over the election campaign because I certainly had no time to cook for myself; but I knew if I dropped into my brother's place they would find me something. I thank them very much for that, and for the moral support they gave me. My two children, Kate and Tim, have been the rock of my life for many years. My life really has revolved around them and everything I do I guess is for their benefit. You love your children and would die for them, and my children certainly support me 100 per cent and I love them dearly. I did not see much of poor old mum during the election campaign but she understood, and I know she is very proud of me. I know my father would have been very proud of me if he had been around. It is sad, and mum brings it up every time after an election. She is very proud, and I love her dearly.

My grandparents certainly raised me in Labor-oriented households. We used to have family meals and talk politics—and it was always Labor politics, of course. They have been dead for many years but I pay great tribute to them. I have a wonderful auntie, who also rang me—my Auntie Edna Giesecke from Moonta. She rang me on a number of occasions prior to the election. She has always been something of a role model for me. She is a wonderful woman, an incredible woman, and a very strong woman, and I have certainly looked to her over the years for direction. I very much appreciate her input. Also, my darling Don in Whyalla, whom I love dearly, was always there on the end of a phone call or I could go and have a cup of coffee and a chat with him about what was going on, and it kept me sane.

Some of my colleagues were very supportive. All of us support each other, but I particularly appreciate the support that Tom Koutsantonis gives me and the few little laughs we have. It is hard to say: I heard Tom say he is looking for a wife. I think someone would be a very lucky woman if they were able to meet with Tom. I cannot understand why he has not been able to find a wife yet but, if he likes to come to Whyalla, I will find him someone. There are some good girls there. Mick Atkinson has always been supportive of me. My dear friend Vini Ciccarello and I regularly got on the phone to each other during the election campaign. We were a long way apart but we were able to talk to each other on the phone, and I appreciate the support Vini gave me during the election campaign. There are a number of others also, particularly Robyn Geraghty.

My staff are a great support to me. Your staff can make or break you as a member of parliament. If you do not have good staff, you can forget it, because they look after you and your office when you are not there. Certainly, Eddie Hughes has been part of my staff for many years. He is my political brain in the office. He is always there and he knows what is going on. Tracy Robinson runs the office. She works incredibly hard and does a wonderful job. Pat Toomer also does an incredible job in my office. She is a sounding board for me and I talk to Pat a lot about different issues. My young trainee Candice True did a good job. Sherie Lamb is also working there and helped out. Last year I also had a lot of support from Kylie Tonkin, who worked very hard in my office for the time she was there.

I have a number of priorities over the next few months and years. Certainly, I will be looking after my Aboriginal communities, as I have in the past. The expansion of mining in my electorate is important and, as I said, I am happy to dig up the whole of South Australia if it provides jobs in my electorate. We have moved on from the arguments of the opposition about what happened in the past with Roxby Downs—we have moved on since then. There are a lot of areas which are open for expansion in my part of the state, and I look forward to their expanding over the next few years.

Because we live in remote regional South Australia we have many disadvantages in education, health and employment. Our people have to work twice as hard; we have to try twice as hard. I will certainly be looking to reduce some of the inequality we have because of isolation. We love living there and we understand there are some disadvantages in living out there, but we are entitled to a fair go; and I know the Labor government will give a fair go to those people. The red dust at Whyalla is an issue for people who live in that area, and I would like to see NEPM standards introduced into the legislation. OneSteel is doing a wonderful job: management is trying very hard to alleviate the dust problems but we do need to get some standards in there also for the future.

Corellas in the Flinders Ranges is a favourite hobbyhorse of the member for Stuart, and I support him on that issue. I think the only way we will get rid of them is to poison them, and I will be talking at length about that in the future. We have to get rid of some of those corellas. They are ruining many things, including other wildlife in the area. The roads in the Outback are not as bad as people make them out to be, but we need our fair share of funding for roads. As the only country member in the lower house—in fact, the only country member in the Labor government—I feel great responsibility for my country colleagues and country people. I have to get the message across. I will certainly be trying to get the message across to all members in the Labor Party and this government that many country issues are different and we need to ensure that country communities get the support and help they need. It is up to me to get the message across so that my colleagues know that.

I was not sure whether I would get back into parliament. In fact, I started to think about what I would do if I did not get re-elected. Was there life after politics? I am sure there is, but I am very pleased and thrilled to be back here. I did not realise until I got back how much I wanted to be here. I enjoy the buzz and seeing the member for Stuart get up on his feet and take the bait every time. I look forward to many more sparring matches with the member for Stuart. While we spar a lot, we have a lot in common because we do serve similar sorts of electorates, although mine is much bigger than his—and size does count! We will continue to have sparring matches in the future, but I know that we will work towards the same aims. It is an honour and a responsibility to be a member of parliament. I am very proud to be a member of the Rann government, and I look forward to the next four years to achieve a lot of the things we need out there in our regions.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE secured adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.10 p.m. the house adjourned until 4 May at 10.30 a.m.