

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Fifty-First Parliament  
(2008)

Parliament, which adjourned on 29 July 2008, was prorogued by proclamation dated 14 August 2008. By proclamation dated 14 August 2008, it was summoned to meet on Wednesday 10 September 2008, and the Third Session began on that date.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY****Wednesday 10 September 2008**

The house met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. J.J. Snelling) presiding.

The Clerk (Mr M.J. Lehman) read the proclamation summoning parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.13pm to the Legislative Council chamber to hear the speech of His Excellency the Governor. They returned to the assembly chamber at 12:45pm and the Speaker resumed the chair.

*[Sitting suspended from 12:45 to 14:15]*

**NOARLUNGA RAILWAY LINE**

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Karna—Minister for Health, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts):** Presented a petition signed by 7,353 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to extend the Noarlunga train line from Noarlunga Centre to Seaford by 2013 and to Aldinga Beach by 2018.

**COUNTRY HEALTH CARE PLAN**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Presented a petition signed by 6,426 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to withdraw the Country Health Care Plan and to continue funding of Country Health SA services at existing hospitals and health facilities in rural South Australia.

**WAIKERIE DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD (Chaffey—Minister for the River Murray, Minister for Water Security):** Presented a petition signed by 2,686 residents of Waikerie and greater South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to fully maintain all services currently offered at the Waikerie District Hospital, now and in the future

**COUNTRY HEALTH CARE PLAN**

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport):** Presented a petition signed by 466 residents of South Australia and/or members of the South Australian Pensioners Association Incorporated requesting the house to urge the government to reconsider its intended changes and continue to maintain and improve hospital services in country areas.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Croydon—Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Veterans' Affairs):** Presented a petition signed by 62 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to reconsider the proposed new funding model for South Australian schools and to put in place a proper and appropriate agreement on public schoolteachers' pay and conditions within a binding enterprise agreement.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Ms FOX (Bright):** Presented a petition signed by 46 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to reconsider the proposed new funding model for South Australian schools and to put in place a proper and appropriate agreement on public schoolteachers' pay and conditions within a binding enterprise agreement.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart):** Presented a petition signed by 43 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to reconsider the proposed new funding model for South Australian schools and to put in place a proper and appropriate agreement on public schoolteachers' pay and conditions within a binding enterprise agreement.

### COUNTRY HEALTH CARE PLAN

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Presented a petition signed by 29 Mannum residents, patients of Mannum Hospital and visitors to Mannum requesting the house to urge the government to support the continued funding of Country Health SA services at the existing hospitals and health facilities in rural South Australia.

### BUS SERVICES

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher):** Presented a petition signed by 91 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to implement a comprehensive bus service to serve the Aberfoyle Park/Happy Valley/O'Halloran Hill area, reinstate bus service No. 618 to the Marion Shopping Centre and enter into consultation with residents regarding bus services.

### PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Reports of Public Works Committee which have been received and published pursuant to section 17(7) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991:  
 No. 302 Seaford Fire Station  
 No. 303 Port Lincoln Fire Station  
 No. 304 Murtho Salt Interception Scheme  
 No. 305 Techport Australia Commercial Campus  
 No. 306 Christies Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade  
 No. 307 Lower Lakes Pipelines

By the Premier (Hon. M.D. Rann)—

Government Boards and Committees Information as at 30 June 2008  
 Remuneration Tribunal—Report and Determination No. 3 of 2008—Ministers of the Crown and Officers and Members of Parliament

By the Treasurer (Hon. K.O. Foley)—

Variation of TAB Duty Agreement between the Treasurer of South Australia and SA TAB Pty Ltd dated 5 August 2008  
 Regulations under the following Act—  
 Taxation Administration—General

By the Minister for Transport (Hon. P.F. Conlon)—

Development Act—  
 City of Port Lincoln—Building Height and Design (City Centre Zone) Development Plan  
 New Facilities for the Local Country Fire Service and State Emergency Services—pursuant to Section 49(15)  
 Third Party Premiums Committee Determination—Motor Accident Commission Act 1992—Direction  
 Variation of Port Operating Agreement (Port Adelaide) between the Minister for Transport and Flinders Ports Pty Ltd dated 4 June 2008  
 Regulations under the following Acts—

Development—General  
Harbors and Navigation—Definition of Port Adelaide

By the Minister for Energy (Hon. P.F. Conlon)—

Regulations under the following Acts—  
Electricity—Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme  
Gas—Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme

By the Attorney-General (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)—

Listening and Surveillance Devices Act 1972—Report 2008  
Police Complaints Authority—pursuant to Section 57 of the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Act 2007—Report  
Summary Offences Act 1953—  
Authorisations Issued to Enter Premises Return pursuant to Section 83C(1) for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008  
Authorisations Issued to Enter Premises Return pursuant to Section 83C(3) for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008  
Dangerous Area Declarations Return pursuant to Section 83B for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008  
Road Block Establishment Authorisations Return pursuant to Section 74B for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008  
Regulations under the following Acts—  
Associations Incorporation—General  
Courts Administration—General  
Crown Proceedings—General  
Evidence—  
General  
Reproduction of Documents—Revocation  
Members of Parliament (Register of Interests)—General  
Serious and Organised Crime (Control)—General  
Subordinate Legislation—Postponement from Expiry  
Summary Procedure—Industrial Offences  
Young Offenders—General  
Rules of Court—  
Magistrates Court—  
Serious and Organised Crime  
Vulnerable Witnesses

By the Minister for Health (Hon. J.D. Hill)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Public and Environmental Health—Legionella

By the Minister for Police (Hon. M.J. Wright)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Firearms—General

By the Minister for Education (Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Teachers Registration and Standards—Fees

By the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Mental Health—Transfer of Patients

By the Minister for Environment and Conservation (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Environment Protection—Beverage Containers

By the Minister for Early Childhood Development (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Children's Services—Appeals

By the Minister Assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business and Public Sector Management (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Freedom of Information—Exempt Agency

By the Minister for Families and Communities (Hon. J.M. Rankine)—

Regulations under the following Acts—  
Liquor Licensing—

Ardrossan—Dry Areas  
Long Term Dry Areas  
Victor Harbor

Trade Measurement—

Measuring Instruments  
Miscellaneous  
Pre-packed Articles  
Weighbridges

Trade Measurement Administration—Fee Schedules

Trade Standards—Commonwealth Consumer Product Safety Standards

Local Council By-Laws—

City of Marion

No. 1—Permits and Penalties  
No. 2—Moveable Signs  
No. 3—Local Government Land  
No. 4—Dogs  
No. 5—Streets and Roads  
No. 6—Cats

City of Playford—No. 6—Bird Scaring Devices

City of Port Adelaide Enfield

No. 1—Permits, Offences, Penalties and Repeal  
No. 2—Moveable Signs  
No. 3—Local Government Land  
No. 4—Roads  
No. 5—Dogs  
No. 6—Lodging Houses

City of Onkaparinga—No. 7—Dogs

City of Salisbury

No. 1—Permits and Penalties  
No. 2—Moveable Signs  
No. 3—Roads  
No. 4—Local Government Land  
No. 5—Dogs  
No. 6—Waste Management

City of Tea Tree Gully

No. 1—Permits and Penalties  
No. 2—Roads  
No. 3—Local Government Land  
No. 5—Moveable Signs  
No. 6—Waste Management

City of Unley

No. 1—Permits and Penalties  
No. 2—Roads  
No. 3—Local Government Land  
No. 4—Dogs  
No. 5—Moveable Signs  
No. 6—Lodging Houses

District Council of Yorke Peninsula—Nos—A-J—General

By the Minister for Housing (Hon. J.M. Rankine)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
South Australian Housing Trust—Goods Left on Premises

By the Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. P. Caica)—

Variation of Approved Licensing Agreement between the Minister for Gambling and SA  
TAB Pty Ltd dated 22 July 2008  
Regulations under the following Acts—  
Daylight Saving—General  
Lottery and Gaming—Lottery Rules  
Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation—Claims and Registration  
Rules—  
Fair Work Act 1994—Referral of matters

By the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education (Hon. P. Caica)—

Regulations under the following Act—  
Training and Skills Development—General

### CHAMBER AUDIO SYSTEM

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (14:04):** Mr Speaker, could you please clarify, in relation to the new audio system, the fact that within the chamber we have other microphones, called ambient microphones, which, according to the technicians who installed them, will pick up the faintest private conversation between members? I am told it will only be relayed to Hansard but, if members look around, they will see hidden microphones. I am not suggesting anything devious—

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** Chris only says good things about me—but I think members should be aware that anything they say and even mumble may be recorded.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Yes; hands up! There are ambient microphones, as there were when the member for Fisher was Speaker; and, certainly for as long as I have been a member of this place, there have been ambient microphones. They are simply for the purpose of Hansard being able to pick up interjections. The member for Fisher does have a point in that technology has improved and they are probably more sensitive than the old ambient microphones, but they are not broadcast, they are not recorded; they are simply for Hansard to pick up interjections. You can trust—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members can trust Hansard. I think that the Clerk has circulated to honourable members some information about the new audio system, but any members who may not have received that information can approach the chair and we will make sure that it is made available to them.

### LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (14:29):** I bring up the first report of the committee.

Report received.

### STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy) (14:29):** I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable the restoration and introduction of government bills before the Address in Reply is adopted.

**The SPEAKER:** I have counted the house and, as an absolute majority of the whole number of members is present, I accept the motion.

Motion carried.

### MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AGREEMENT

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Ramsay—Premier, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change) (14:30):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Today, I have written to the Prime Minister advising him that the South Australian government has agreed to the mechanism to transfer its constitutional powers to the commonwealth for the long-term sustainable management of the River Murray. This will make South Australia one of the first states in the nation to refer powers to the commonwealth.

South Australia will refer powers through the new Commonwealth Water Amendment Bill 2008. This referral of powers represents a critical step in delivering essential reforms to the way the Murray-Darling Basin system is managed. These reforms will provide a basin-wide plan to implement sustainable diversion limits and address over-allocation issues that have plagued the River Murray for far too long.

The changes to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, the amendments to the commonwealth water act, the referral of powers in the new intergovernmental agreement and the model state referral bill will deliver the South Australian government commitments in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform which was signed off at the July COAG.

The South Australian government signed the IGA in July and will introduce legislation to refer our constitutional powers over the River Murray on 23 September 2008. Importantly, the new arrangements recognise critical human water needs as the highest priority water use. The basin plan will specify sharing arrangements between the basin states to ensure that there is enough 'conveyance' water available to distribute critical human needs.

The new arrangements will deliver the reforms that were committed to at COAG in July, including:

- Implementing South Australia's model for an independent expert based authority. The authority will have the autonomy to develop, implement and enforce a whole of basin plan, including setting a cap on the amount of water extracted from the system.
- The authority will also assume the river operations powers and functions of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, addressing the current overlap in roles between the MDB Authority and the MDB Commission. The Murray-Darling Basin Commission will be abolished.
- The authority will be accountable to a Ministerial Council and Basin Officials Committee for river operations it undertakes on behalf of the basin states.
- The basin plan will not only set long-term average sustainable diversion limits for the basin, which will address over-allocation, but will now also have a priority focus on management of water for critical human needs.

**Ms Chapman:** You sold us down the river.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Interestingly, the opposition of course asked us to sign an agreement that did not have an independent commission. That is how bankrupt they are, how absolutely dishonest they are on the River Murray.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Under the new arrangements, South Australia will be able to store water for human critical needs for the first time in the Hume and Dartmouth dams. To date, South Australia has had no ongoing access to storage capacity and has been forced to negotiate with other states to have access to storages on a case-by-case basis. This reliance on the other states' goodwill has made negotiations on the management of the river difficult.

South Australia will now have the ability to carry over water for future years and store this water in upper River Murray storages to meet its critical human needs during periods of low flow. I

am advised that our state will be able to store 150 per cent of its annual critical human needs, which is equivalent to around 300 gegalitres. The new agreement will also provide South Australia with the ability to store private irrigation carryover to help our irrigators in times of low flows.

It is important for South Australia that we continue to lead by example. The commonwealth has indicated that the legislative reform package needs to be in place by 1 November 2008 but, as I have indicated, we will introduce the bill this month. South Australia must be at the front, leading the way, so that the new governance arrangements for the medium and long-term sustainable management of the river can take effect.

In the meantime, the government is monitoring the situation closely at the Lower Lakes and the Coorong, especially with the threat of declining water levels and the resulting exposure of acid sulphate soils in the lakes, particularly in Lake Albert. The recent rains have provided a welcome relief to the Lower Lakes with an increase of more than 20 centimetres in the level of the lakes. Further inflows from the Finnis River, Angas River and Currency Creek are also welcome.

The federal government provided a frank assessment of the issues facing the Coorong and Lower Lakes to the Senate inquiry last week. The material prepared by the federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts provides eight options for the short-term management to improve the health of the lakes. A number of options have already been identified as impractical. None of the options are particularly palatable, all have some negative consequences for the environment, irrigator and agricultural communities, as well as risking the reserve water for critical human needs.

There are no easy solutions, but we must act in the best interests of South Australia and make decisions on the basis of the best scientific and environmental evidence and advice available to us. We will continue to work closely with the federal government, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and in consultation with local communities in developing measures to best manage the extremely difficult circumstances.

In the meantime, work has started on the \$610 million Murray Futures program for priority projects secured by the state government at the July COAG to help secure the future water needs of these communities. For the townships, communities and irrigators that currently draw water from the Lower Lakes, there will be a complete re-engineering of the water infrastructure so that there will be no need to use the water from the lakes. Murray Futures includes \$200 million for work to improve the environmental health of the Lower Lakes and the Coorong.

Last month, Prime Minister Rudd announced a set of new water initiatives to deal with the critical situation. The federal government has responded to South Australia's request and has agreed to undertake a comprehensive, externally reviewed water audit of both private and public storages in the system. Many commentators claimed there were large volumes of water in the system that could be diverted to the Lower Lakes and the Coorong. It appears unlikely, but we will finally have some independent figures to show what is available.

The Prime Minister also announced an accelerated buyback of water licences and has agreed to co-fund an expansion, if necessary, of the desalination plant at Port Stanvac up to between 80 gegalitres and 100 gegalitres for the future water security of Adelaide. The state government is continuing to work with the federal government and other basin states to get the best outcome for South Australia and the River Murray.

Today, I call on all basin states to join us in committing to the new Murray-Darling Basin Agreement and to introduce the required legislation to deliver on the reforms so that we can end the 100 years of mismanagement of the Murray-Darling system. Everyone can do so by joining South Australia in referring our constitutional powers.

#### **ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL RADIATION ONCOLOGY REVIEW**

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Karna—Minister for Health, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (14:41):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** On 16 July 2008, the Chief Executive of the Department of Health received a complaint about radiation oncology treatment provided at the Royal Adelaide Hospital from July 2004 to July 2006. The complaint alleged that one of five linear accelerators at the hospital delivered a radiation dose 5 per cent lower than prescribed during the two-year period.

Within days the government instigated an independent review to be led by Professor Geoff Delaney, a radiation oncologist from New South Wales. This report has now been completed, and I now table it and associated documents.

The panel was asked to consider whether this under-dosing had any clinical impact on the patients treated and whether the hospital implemented appropriate risk management strategies following the discovery of the under-dosing.

The review panel has concluded that the under-dose is unlikely to have had clinical significance for the vast majority of the 869 patients treated on the machine in question. However, the panel believes that for a small number of patients in three different tumour groups there may be a small but real clinical significance, and these patients should consult their oncologist.

The hospital has identified seven patients who fall into this group. The hospital has contacted the oncologists of these seven patients to ensure that they have ongoing checks on their future health, though the patients will not require additional treatment at this stage. The oncologists are contacting these patients today. The other patients have been sent a letter today assuring them that the report does not find that they have cause for concern regarding their treatment. However, any of those patients who have concerns can contact the Royal Adelaide Hospital for further information or assessment.

The review also makes 14 recommendations. I have asked the Department of Health to take immediate actions to implement all of those recommendations. One of the recommendations is that the report on the incident should be sent to the manufacturers of the treatment planning system to ensure that an extra alert is introduced into the system to help prevent such an error from occurring again. This notification will be happening today.

Another recommendation is to address issues relating to the experience and the medical physics workforce. The report notes that recruitment is difficult due to a national and an international shortage of radiation oncology medical physicists. SA Health has already taken immediate steps to address this and is working to recruit six additional physicists.

South Australians can be reassured that the report confirms that radiation oncology is a very safe form of treatment compared to other medical interventions. The report advises that, although the overall clinical impact might be small, an error such as this provides a significant warning for a potential more serious error in the future and therefore should be considered serious. That is why the government has initiated a further review, to be conducted by Mr Ian Kowalick, that will inquire into the actions taken by the hospital management in response to this incident. I will provide that report to the house after its completion.

I extend my sympathies to the patients and families who have endured stress and uncertainty during this process. I hope this report will be helpful to them and address many of their concerns.

### **STORMWATER INITIATIVES**

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD (Chaffey—Minister for the River Murray, Minister for Water Security) (14:50):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** The South Australian government is committed to the development of and investing in stormwater and wastewater reuse projects. The government's goal in its 2005 Water Proofing Adelaide strategy was to increase annual stormwater reuse to 20,000 megalitres, or about 10 per cent of Adelaide's mains water use. We are well and truly on track to exceed this target, with projects that are underway and in planning. We are on track to reuse an estimated 21,100 megalitres per year of stormwater in the Adelaide region in the medium term. But we are not resting here.

Adelaide is Australia's leading capital city in recycling water. We currently recycle 29 per cent of our treated effluent, more than double the average for metropolitan utilities around the nation at 13 per cent. With projects that are currently underway, our reuse will increase to nearly 45 per cent. The government has always said security of our water supplies will be achieved through a diverse range of projects and technologies. Our four ways to water security strategy reflects this. There is no one silver bullet solution to water security for Adelaide, and we are investing in a range of climate dependent strategies such as stormwater harvesting and climate independent strategies such as desalination.



Stormwater treatment can be costly because water is often polluted, particularly after the so-called 'first-flush' rains following a dry spell. This is a common scenario under Adelaide's weather patterns. Infrastructure is expensive and the volumes of water captured can be highly variable, plus we need to ensure the science is right to be able to store treated water in our aquifers. Despite these complexities, the state government is investing in stormwater harvesting projects in partnership with local government.

Last year, we established the Stormwater Management Authority to provide funding for local government stormwater projects. To date, \$5.5 million has been approved for 25 projects worth \$13.5 million. The government has committed ongoing funding of \$4 million per year for the authority. Major stormwater and wastewater reuse projects in which the state government is investing (in partnership) include:

- The Waterproofing Northern Adelaide project is led by the City of Salisbury, the City of Tea Tree Gully and the City of Playford. This project will provide infrastructure to integrate stormwater, groundwater, wastewater and mains systems in the Northern Adelaide Plains region; and 12,100 megalitres per year of drinking water currently used for industrial and urban irrigation will be replaced with treated stormwater. The project will also substitute 1,200 megalitres per year of water currently sourced from groundwater systems and recharge 5,000 megalitres per year to overused and over-allocated aquifers. The government has contributed \$16.5 million in land, funding and support for this project.
- The government is also working with stakeholders, including the City of Campbelltown, on a project to reuse stormwater at the Lochiel Park Green Village. Treated stormwater will be used for non-potable purposes, including open space irrigation by around 100 residential properties.
- Port Road catchment stormwater management plan, including stormwater reuse and water quality improvement is a partnership that we are working on with the City of Charles Sturt and the Port Adelaide Enfield council.
- The Brownhill and Keswick creeks catchment stormwater management plan encompasses a range of flood mitigation works that will incorporate (where practicable) stormwater reuse schemes and improvement in water quality and biodiversity. This is a partnership with the Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens councils.
- Up to six hectares at Cheltenham Park Racecourse will be set aside as a wetland system for the retention of stormwater.
- The Metropolitan Adelaide Stormwater Reuse Project will implement stormwater reuse on three metropolitan golf courses, saving up to 1,000 megalitres of water per year. The government is finalising negotiations for a stormwater reuse scheme at Barker Inlet. This scheme has the potential to supply 200 to 300 megalitres annually to industry, schools and open spaces, and this is a partnership with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.
- The government is also at the moment negotiating with the Adelaide Airport for a larger scale stormwater reuse scheme at the airport.

In addition to these stormwater reuse projects, the government is:

- investing \$45 million in the Glenelg to Adelaide Parklands Recycled Water Project that will bring 5,500 megalitres of treated wastewater for use in parklands, irrigation, industry and property developments to the city;
- extending the Virginia pipeline scheme to Angle Vale, where market gardens will use another 3,000 megalitres of recycled water;
- investing \$270 million in upgrading the quality and quantity of recycled water produced by the Christies Beach wastewater treatment plant; and
- investing in the Waterproofing the South project, in conjunction with the Onkaparinga council, which will reduce mains water use by 1,100 megalitres a year and see 16,000 new allotments connected to a dual reticulation system at Seaford Meadows.

A major workshop for key state government, local government and scientific groups will take place on 19 September to develop ways to further fast-track stormwater reuse projects.

In describing these achievements, I acknowledge the crucial role of local councils—particularly the Salisbury council—that are working with the Stormwater Management Authority and other state government agencies in creating opportunities for stormwater and effluent reuse.

In closing, I reiterate the government's support for harvesting and reusing stormwater, and this state's record in water reuse is one we can be proud of.

### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

**The SPEAKER:** I have to report that the house has this day, in compliance with a summons from His Excellency the Governor, attended in the Legislative Council chamber, where His Excellency has been pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament of which speech I, as Speaker, have obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be published.

### QUESTION TIME

#### ERNABELLA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (14:59):** My question is to the Premier. What was the reason for the transfer of \$500,000 from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on or around 28 June this year (on the eve of the end of the financial year) to the account of the Ernabella Early Childhood Centre, a non-audited account?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister Assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business and Public Sector Management) (15:00):** I will take the question on notice. What I do know, though, is that there has been a commitment and, indeed, an announcement to establish a children's centre at Ernabella, an incredibly important initiative designed to promote the early childhood development of some of our most vulnerable children within this state. I suspect (I will check on this) that it was directed at that very worthy initiative.

#### ERNABELLA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:00):** As a supplementary question—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** In light of the Premier's response, was the movement of the funds in accordance with Treasurer's Instructions regarding unspent moneys and the need to return such funds to Treasury?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister Assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business and Public Sector Management) (15:00):** As I said, I will check on the detail of the way in which the money was moved.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** As I understand it, the purpose of the funding of about that order of magnitude was directed at—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —something that I would have thought members on both sides of the house would support.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Attorney-General will come to order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** We have enjoyed a modicum of bipartisanship from time to time in relation to Aboriginal affairs, and I would have thought that this is a particular issue which also ought to be the subject of bipartisanship support. However, I will take on notice the question about the financial transactions. I am not aware of them.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY**

**Ms PORTOLESI (Hartley) (15:01):** Will the Minister for Industry and Trade please inform the house about the forecast for the South Australian economy?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:01):** The opposition has been briefing the media that it had some big financial scandal to hit us with, and what have we done? We have given money to an Aboriginal community to have a childcare centre. I mean, shock, horror!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** But we will have an answer on that very swiftly. That really is a very—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Thank you, sir.

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Sorry?

**Mr Pisoni:** Give us an A grade answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left will come to order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I am about to give an exceptionally powerful and good story to the house, which I am surprised has not been widely reported. However, it goes this way: in 2004 the Rann government released its population policy containing ambitious targets to increase the state's population into the future. These targets were incorporated into the State Strategic Plan released in the same year. The headline target was to increase the state's population to two million by 2050. Other targets on the population included increasing net overseas migration gains to 8,500 per annum by 2014, maintaining a rate of at least 1.7 births per woman (I cannot quite work out how that happens) and reducing interstate migration loss to zero by 2010.

As we know, South Australia's very poor population growth not only has an effect on the strength of our economy but it also has a deleterious impact on the state's finances as we attempt to fund an ageing population. Some members—I would suggest many members, if not most—may not be aware of a recent Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) release on population figures in South Australia. The ABS divides its population projections into three series: it has a high series called an A series, which is the optimistic outlook; a median series called the B series, which is the median outlook; and a low series which is called the C series and which is a conservative outlook.

In terms of previous projections (and this is the important point), I know that the scribes in this place are at this moment hanging off this because it is a very good news story. Previous projections by the ABS forecast—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No, please, Vic, you've got to listen to this, this is good.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Just listen, Vic, will you? For goodness sakes!

**Ms Chapman:** And he got it wrong then.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Just listen, please. Previous projections by the ABS forecast total population peaking at about 1.65 million before slowly declining. However, increased economic

activity and sound migration strategies fostered by the Rann Labor government since 2002 have resulted in significantly improved population projections. Wait for it, this is an incredible story.

Latest projections released on 4 September 2008 by the ABS show South Australia's Strategic Plan target of two million by 2050 will be exceeded under all three series. Wait for it—having said in previous reports that it would be 1.65 million topping out and declining, the ABS has now said that, due to economic activity and population migration programs by this government, population is projected to be just over two million by 2035 according to the median outlook—not even the optimistic outlook—and 2.2 million by just past 2050. What an incredible turnaround in our state's population forecast under our state's economic management.

Series B projects an annual population growth rate of 0.68 per cent for South Australia over the projection future. No projection shows a total population peaking and declining at any stage over the projection period. Previously 1.6 million, topping out, declining. Under no scenario do we see a peak. We are continuing a steady incline in the trend graph that tracks, and it could go anywhere.

South Australia's net overseas migration is assumed to remain at 11,700 international migrants settling in South Australia from 2011. That is 3,000 more than hoped for under the very tough target set by the Strategic Plan. Indeed, the fertility rate of our state has increased. It is now up to one point—

**Mr Koutsantonis:** Thank you.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Thank you, did you say, Tom?

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** What have you done? It is now 1.79 as against 1.7 being the target. The truth is that our economy in South Australia has never been in better shape, notwithstanding the critics opposite. Let us have a little look at the statistics.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The population is growing, but she is saying how many people are leaving the state. Hello!

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** It's growing.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** It's growing, but only the member for Bragg would be—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Nothing to brag about.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** —nothing to brag about—finding fault in that. Retail trade: South Australia's nominal retail trade turnover rose 0.6 per cent during July after a 0.7 per cent rise in June. South Australia's monthly growth of retail activity has exceeded the national average for the past 11 months. How's that? What about exports, you ask. Exports: in the 12 months to July 2008—and this is during the worst drought we have ever seen, so, as I have discussed previously, there has been a bad impact on the farm sector through drought—the value of South Australian—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** What about horticulture from the Riverland?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**An honourable member:** They are going broke.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Tell your mate that. In the 12 months to July 2008, the value of South Australian goods exported totalled \$10.3 billion, up 11 per cent compared to the previous 12 months.

Our state continues to record the second highest growth of all states over this period. The quality of our economic output and growth and strength—it is just statistic after statistic. South Australia's state final demand (commonly referred to by us in the industry as the SFD) rose 1 per cent. I do not expect all of you to follow that.

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** What was that again?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** State Final Demand. It rose 1 per cent during the June quarter 2008, following a rise of 1.2 per cent in the March quarter. South Australia's quarterly growth in the SFD was slightly above the national average growth for the nation of 0.9 per cent. But what happens when you see private new capital expenditure? Access Economics is hardly the most optimistic commentator about South Australia, but according to Access Economics, the nominal value of definite South Australian projects listed as either committed or under construction rose by 15 per cent in the June quarter '08 to \$7.5 billion.

The value of investment projects under consideration in South Australia rose by 3.4 per cent in the June quarter 2008 to its highest level since March 2001. Sales of new motor vehicles in South Australia fell (given that there has been an interest rate increase of 0.5 per cent) during July, following falls in the previous four months. Despite this, new motor vehicle sales remain 7.2 per cent higher than a year earlier and are at historically high levels. In fact, we are doing better than the nation.

In trend terms, the unemployment rate in this state remained at 4.8 per cent, the lowest this state has ever recorded and lower than at any time under any Liberal government in this state's history since recorded data was kept. How is that for a record! Labor, low unemployment; Liberals, high unemployment.

Some 90,357 new jobs have been created since the Rann Labor government came to power in March 2002. That is 90,357 more people working in this state than when you miserable lot were in office, and the participation rate remains at its highest level.

The number of trend dwelling approvals fell by 0.6 per cent. What did ours do? They rose by 0.4 per cent. Our housing market remains strong. The value of our houses remains strong while the rest of the nation is seeing a decline in housing activity. I could be here all day. Real business investment in new assets has grown 73 per cent from December 2001 to December 2007. It has risen 20 per cent over the past five financial years. I could go on. Econtech, in its state and industry outlook report, said:

South Australia's population has been boosted by net overseas migration, driven by the state government's initiative in attracting migrants to South Australia. South Australia's output is estimated to have increased by a healthy 4.5 per cent in 2007-08.

That is a pretty comprehensive list of data, a pretty comprehensive list of statistics, fully understood and comprehended and—

*The Hon. P.F. Conlon interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** By SFD. On any considered, objective measurement, this economy has never been stronger. Yes, we have challenges. Yes, we have issues to deal with. Yes, we have a lot of hard work to do, but the doomsdayers over there, those who would knock everything that this economy is about and that this government is about, cannot be supported by the truth, by the statistics, by the output, and, whilst we are prepared to accept that there are challenges, I will defend with every breath in my body that the strength of this economy is due to the work of the government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Just trying to hold myself together after that last remark, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

### MITSUBISHI MOTORS

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:14):** My question is to the Treasurer. Where is the \$35 million refunded to the government by Mitsubishi located? In budget estimates on 1 July, the Minister for the Southern Suburbs told the house that he had established a Southern Suburbs Coordination Group to provide advice on the expenditure of \$80 million, a package of funds which he said included the \$35 million repaid to the state government by Mitsubishi. But the budget papers released on 5 June 2008 reveal that the money has been placed off the government's balance sheet with the Land Management Corporation. The Land Management Corporation is a statutory authority over which the Minister for the Southern Suburbs has no control.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:15):** So, you know the answer. You are sort of suggesting that I stuck it in my back pocket or something and I was about to hop on a plane to Brazil. I will get a detailed answer, but what I—

**Ms Chapman:** \$35 million. Can't you find it?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer has the call.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We have a number of funding issues with the Mitsubishi issue.

**Mr Venning:** \$35 million.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the member for Schubert!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I can give either a verbal answer or a written one, but I am not going to fight with your interjections on this. We have a fund of money from the commonwealth with which we are establishing (and have established) an investment fund which we are overseeing with independent advice as to those parties that are eligible for grants based on innovation and jobs, primarily in the south of our state. The government money we received back from Mitsubishi, as the minister and I have said, will be used for infrastructure for the southern suburbs.

**Mr Venning:** Pork-barrelling.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Pork-barrelling now? So, we shouldn't put—

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We have a split in the opposition. The leader has just turned around to the whip and said, 'Shush', because the whip said, 'Pork-barrelling'. Absolutely, that money is going to the south. There is no way that money is not being used in the south, and the member for Schubert wants to use that money elsewhere and he wants to criticise this government for investing that money in infrastructure in the south. He should hang his head in shame.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Let's see. It's hidden. We kept it a secret by writing it in the budget papers. You are a goose.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members on both sides, come to order.

**Ms Chapman:** He doesn't know.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** As I said, I will get from Treasury the appropriate accounting response. But what happens when you receive an amount of money into government and you expend it, that money hits the bottom line. At this stage—

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Can you just listen? I am happy to get you a written response but, if you want to hear the answer, show me the courtesy and listen.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer has the call.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We are accused of hiding the money. We published in the budget—and I am being upfront now—that that money was transferred to the Land Management Corporation. Why was that money transferred to the Land Management Corporation? Because there is a significant—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Well, I understand the commercial realities of business. There is a reasonably significant chance that we will be a bidder for the Mitsubishi site, and the agency that will bid for that site and oversee its infrastructure development on that site will be the Land Management Corporation. We have put that money into the Land Management Corporation as the state's contribution to infrastructure development on that site, as we said we would do, and we put it in the right vehicle that manages land acquisition, land subdivision and infrastructure development for industrial premises.

That was my decision as Treasurer—an eminently sensible thing to do. So, how can we be criticised for putting the money into the vehicle for which it should be used? If, on the off chance, we are not a participant in the purchase of that site—and we may well not be; it may well be that Mitsubishi gets a superior offer to ours and a superior offer to anything else the government may do—that \$35 million will be returned to the general government sector and will be applied to infrastructure in the south in a different format. So, hello; I thought that was quite prudent, sensible, transparent and quite aboveboard. Honestly, you have to do a lot better if this is the financial mismanagement that you have been briefing the media about all week, saying you have some humdinger of a mismanagement issue with the government. I put the money into an entity of government, fully within the government; it is not some private sector entity.

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** It's not Catch Tim.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** It's not Catch Tim.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes; she knows that, because she is right across Catch Tim. It was an eminently sensible thing to do, and it was released on the budget in June. Hello! What more can I do? If it is not used to purchase and develop the property, it will be returned as an extra dividend to government. For goodness sake, understand financial management!

#### MITSUBISHI MOTORS

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:21):** As a supplementary question, in light of the Treasurer's reply, why was the \$35 million of unspent funding not declared by the Treasurer as part of the budget surplus?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:21):** It is not part of the budget surplus. You do not understand financial accounting.

**Mr Hamilton-Smith:** You've socked it away.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I've socked it away? Yes; I have put it into a company that will bid to buy the land at Tonsley Park.

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I just said that, if I bring it back because we do not, we will spend that money on other infrastructure in the south.

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will come to order!

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** It is not a surplus; we are spending it. We are going to spend it, Marty. Surplus is the money you do not spend.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr Hamilton-Smith:** The Auditor-General's going to have a field day.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The Auditor-General's going to have a field day. Yes, righty-oh; let's wait and see on that one.

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I will let you into a little secret: we actually gave Mitsubishi the \$35 million; that was an expense. We get \$35 million back, and until we allocate it—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The deputy leader!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We did disclose it; that is how you got the question.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** That's how you got the question.

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Am I really?

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will come to order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Honestly, that is a pathetic effort by the opposition, if that is the best you can do. I put it into an account because—

**Ms Chapman:** You don't know where it is.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** What do you mean, 'I don't know where it is'? I just told you where it is. I did it. It was my decision: guilty. On advice from Treasury, I might add. What is the issue? What else are we going to do with it? I guess we could not have transferred it to the Land Management Corporation. What would we have done then? Then, next financial year when you spend it—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Kate Lennon? Do you accept that the Land Management Corporation is the right entity to purchase the Mitsubishi site? I actually think it is the right entity. We have said that that money will be used for infrastructure provision and industrial capability on land in the south, so that money, quite appropriately, had to sit somewhere.

**Ms Chapman:** In a hollow log.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Hollow log? For goodness sake, its accounts are published. It gives an annual report; it is in the budget; it is audited.

**Ms Chapman:** A year later—

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** A year later? It is in the budget papers. They are getting me frustrated already, sir. I should not have to put up with this very poor questioning. After seven years you would expect that they would be a bit better at their questioning.

#### **BANKS, AMERICAN**

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:24):** My question is again to the Treasurer. What exposure does the government or its agencies (including Funds SA, the Motor Accident Commission and the WorkCover Corporation) have, if any, to US Banks Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:25):** I am just trying to think how we would. We may. I do not know whether through some hedge funds there are. I think Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have been bailed out by the American government. So, I think they are in pretty good shape—I think they are in very good shape. I do not know the specific answer to that. I will get—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I know. Freddie Mac is now Uncle Sam. Freddie and Fannie are now in bed with Uncle Sam.

**Mr O'Brien:** Thank God they are.



**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Thank God they are; exactly. The world economy would be in a poorer shape if dear old Uncle Freddie and Aunty Sam—Aunty Mac, or whatever—Fannie and Fred—had gone down the gurgler. I will check what, if any, exposure we have to those entities. I would be surprised, but I will certainly check that out.

When I came to office I was appalled not only by the fact that the Liberals were incapable of tough financial decisions to restore a AAA credit rating but also that they had an incredibly sloppy financial management approach. Let us have a look at what we as a government have put in place to improve the quality of financial management and financial reporting since we came into office.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes, WorkCover; fixed. Who fixed that? This government fixed WorkCover. Not only did you not have the courage to fix WorkCover, but your spokesman went out there and said that you would never ever do it. But you crumbled under the pressure from the business community. You folded like a pack of cards.

This is what we have done: monthly financial reporting. They did not have that. Do you know what used to happen? The government departments would get their budgets at the beginning of one financial year and they did not have to report their outcomes until the end of the financial year. What did we do?

*The Hon. J.D. Hill interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Hilly wants to go back to it, yes. Agencies report year to date budget outcomes on a monthly basis and their expected end of year outcomes. That information is reported to the ERBCC (Expenditure Review and Budget Cabinet Committee). It allows cabinet and me to monitor under-spending or over-spending by agencies. The carryover policy, about which former CEO Kate Lennon ran into difficulty with the government (I had better be careful what I say there), identifies under-expenditure by agencies and allows either carryover to a following year or redirection to a higher expenditure priority. It is claimed that this encourages end of year spend-ups, but it is monitored through monthly reporting. Categories of carryovers are deemed automatic and provide clarity to agencies to manage their budget—a new initiative.

What else have we done? The much-lauded, appreciated and highly respected cash alignment policy. Unspent cash is returned to the Consolidated Account, and this ensures that agencies do not build up excessive cash balances. And we have end of year reviews. Treasury and agencies review the agencies' financial performance. From 2008-09, chief executives of government will present this information to the Expenditure Review and Budget Cabinet Committee. This clearly helps to identify any deficiencies in the past year and possible improvements for the following year. What else have we done?

*The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes, that is right. Chief executive accountability. This requires chief executives to advise their ministers and the Treasurer when it appears that they cannot constrain expenditure within their annual budget. CEs are required to provide options on amendments to programs or other funding redistributions to avoid over-expenditure. But what else have we done, you ask.

**Ms Portolesi:** Tell us.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Oh, good. We are only now up to No. 6. We have what is called initiative monitoring: we monitor initiative—I get very worried when departments and ministers show initiative. Agencies report progress on implementing all new expenditure, revenue and savings initiatives. This ensures that new initiatives are implemented as approved and any issues are identified. But there is more. Never before has there been a proper regime, in my opinion, for monitoring agencies' capital expenditure. We have a capital monitoring program. Agencies report progress on implementing—

**The Hon. M.D. Rann:** CMP.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** That is correct. I am prepared to give you credit for that. The capital monitoring program will now be known, after the Premier's interjection, as the—wait for it—CMP. That is why you are Premier: you are just that level above us on that.

**The Hon. M.D. Rann:** Helicopter view.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Helicopter view. Under capital monitoring or, as the Premier now refers to it, the CMP, agencies report progress on implementing capital projects. This, of course, enables identification of delays and consideration of reprioritising. Finally—and I could go on—we have full-time equivalent monitoring, that is, the FTEMP. Agencies report FTE numbers against their cap. It enables early identification of potential overspending where agencies are recruiting more FTEs than they can support within their salaries and wages budget. We have a holistic, very involved, very complex, detailed, highly regarded system, and respected around the nation by other treasurers and—

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** Profound.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Profound.

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** Transcendental.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Transcendental. What has 'transcendental' got to do with it?

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Bathos and pathos.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Bathos and pathos. I probably should wind up at this point. However, I say that we have an exceptionally well run system of accountability financially. It is not without its mistakes: it is not without its errors. Once we in Treasury find out who has made the mistake, we are on to it. Maybe I even make the odd blue. I am worried about these other microphones. I get into enough strife when people can hear me, imagine how I am going to go when they can hear what I am saying quietly to people. For Mike Smithson's benefit—he has gone—I will start every day with a 'sorry', sorry for what has been said by me the day previous and sorry for what I will say throughout the course of the day. At that point I will sit down.

#### STORMWATER INITIATIVES

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:32):** My question is again to the Treasurer.

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the Attorney!

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens will come to order!

*The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Attorney, I have already called the house to order and called you to order.

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Does the Treasurer agree with the Minister for Water Security when she said on ABC Radio on 2 September 2008 (repeated a moment ago in her ministerial statement) that the government is 'committed to stormwater'? If so, how does he reconcile this with his comments on ABC news on 9 September (just yesterday)? When questioned on the proposal for capturing stormwater in wetlands and aquifers, the Treasurer said, 'We have discarded it for cost and practical reasons.' Who is telling the truth?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:33):** We both are.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No, I need to expand. That press conference was about a report prepared by the Greens on stormwater—and a bit dodgy, I might add, because one of the authors of the report was a Green himself. Anyway, I will let others determine the veracity or the quality of the report when a Greens candidate in the last two elections was one of the authors. It argued that we should not proceed with a desalination project. We should scrap that and we should have wholesale stormwater capture and reuse, and that we could get the same amount of water from stormwater capture and reuse as we could from a desalination plant; that is, 50 gigs. At that press conference I said that we already have extensive stormwater programs—we know that. What I said

was that capturing would not be the hard part. The hard part would be that it would be highly polluted; it would have a lot of heavy metals in it—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Gunny is nodding.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Gunny knows what I am talking about. You would flow it into the aquifer as that is the only place you could store it, unless you want to build—I do not know—a massive great big tank. I think that is what the report said: you would stick it into the aquifer. Then you have to get it out.

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** And then you've got to clean it up.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We are, and I said we have looked at a whole lot of things. We have looked at everything. One of them has been this question about how much water you can get out of the aquifer. The problem with getting water out of the aquifer—and I am sorry if I sound like a water expert; I am not and, if I say anything wrong, I am sorry, and the minister will correct it afterwards—but what I said—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Would you call it a B grade idea?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No, it was an A grade idea. I do not call anything B grade any more.

**An honourable member:** It's what the Crows are doing.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The chokers.

**An honourable member:** Mate, just leave it there now.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes, I will get into more trouble. Extracting it from the aquifer is the issue. The advice we have is that you have to have the bores so far apart, about a kilometre apart, and it has to be in a grid system and you can only pull a certain amount of water out of one bore—it might be a couple of gigalitres, but not many gigalitres—he is not even listening to my answer—you would have to have a grid across Adelaide about 200 kilometres in either direction (give or take 100 kilometres, I do not know).

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** With pipes running down every street?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Whatever—a long way. We would have pipes running up and down every damn street. It would be a financially silly thing to do and physically an impractical thing to do. That is not to say that stormwater reuse, to the extent that we can do it, is not a good thing, because it is—I acknowledge that—but I was responding to a question about wholesale replacement of the desalination project with stormwater.

Do you know who else was out there yesterday? The water spokesman, the member for MacKillop. Where is he? Where has Mitch gone? Mitch has gone. Gee, they are showing contempt of question time. Look at them: they are all out of place. Mr Speaker, even Mitch went on radio saying the Greens' idea was a silly idea, or words to that effect. I am probably not quite paraphrasing him, but he rejected it, and he said—

**Mr Hamilton-Smith:** No, he didn't. That is untrue.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** He did. He said desalination is the way to go.

**Mr Hamilton-Smith:** He said have both.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The Greens were not talking about both. They were saying get rid of the desalination project and have wholesale stormwater reuse as an alternative. I have ruled it out and the member for MacKillop ruled it out. We are on the same page. There is nothing inconsistent with what I and the minister for water have said about this issue. It is just that I was talking about a broader issue in my capacity as Acting Premier.

#### PROPERTY SALES FIGURES

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:37):** My question is to the Treasurer. What is the estimated impact on the government's 2008-09 budget from the decline in sales volumes in the SA property market?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:37):** I advise the member that he will have to wait until the Mid-Year Budget Review comes out, when we will do the update of

revenue forecasts as well as budget settings going forward. There is no doubt that, in a declining volume of sales, there will be a declining amount of revenue raised through stamp duty. We will wait until the midyear review to reveal that number. The property market is an incredibly sensitive market but, at this stage, it is holding up pretty well, as I mentioned earlier. That is not to say there is not some impact, but it is holding up pretty well at this stage. We have not, as yet (and, touch wood, we will not), seen any effects on any value decline, to the best of my understanding.

Bear in mind, of course, that our data is a bit historical, so the last data that I was advised of, a month ago, did not show value decline entering the market (the prices are still holding), but there is some activity decline. We will wait to see how that levels out for the Mid-Year Budget Review and release those figures at that point.

### SHARED SERVICES

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:39):** My question is to the Treasurer. What is the extent of the cost blow-outs on time delays associated with the government's shared services project? On 27 June 2008 the then minister for finance raised doubts about the program when he told Estimates Committee A:

The targeted savings will emerge over a longer time frame than originally estimated. We do not have any new estimates. The reason is because we are doing detailed discovery, and as a consequence of that detailed discovery we learn things all the time. As we go through each tranche we will learn more.

The opposition and the Public Service union have expressed grave concerns about the credibility of the shared services program.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:40):** The Liberals and the PSA (the Public Service union) together—lock step, arm in arm, what an unholy alliance! Anything this government does that is remotely reformist, remotely efficiency driven and in the public interest to keep finances spent where finances are needed to be spent, this lot over here has a whinge about. They are big spending, big taxing, sloppy financial managers. That is not this government. This government is recognised from Wall Street to Pitt Street as a very good manager of this state's finances—from Wall Street to Pitt Street.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We have. We have restored the state's AAA credit rating. Members opposite were incapable. Even after selling ETSA, it still could not get there. I mean, strike me pink! Now, shared services—

*The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Sorry?

**The Hon. I.F. Evans:** The only reason you got there was because of the ETSA sale.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Now, the member for Davenport, what is Jamie Briggs going to say about you in the next week? Is he going to dump on you?

**The Hon. I.F. Evans:** Probably.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Really?

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Of course he's not; he just said 'probably'. Well, I'm on your side, Iain. With respect to shared services, I am quite relaxed—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No, I did not hear the full content of what was said—and I am not going to react to interjections all day long. I will keep you here till 5 o'clock. The Leader of the House will find some way to shut me up pretty shortly. I am glad you picked on me today, because I was not feeling that well and it is good to have the old brain and mouth working one in one for a change. Shared services is going well. I have said publicly and before parliamentary committees that—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Quite easily, because it is. It is an ambitious target. The critical issue for me and for the government is that we get the end point, that is, that we get the savings. As the former minister for finance and I have said, there is likely to be some slippage in the time it takes to achieve that bottom-line saving we are looking for—perhaps a year or two. I am still confident that we will get there. In fact, we have already locked in for 2008-09 \$28.5 million of annual savings already achieved through shared services. The next \$30 million, or so, is getting towards the harder end of the exercise.

*Mr Griffiths interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Well, 2008-09 has not finished yet.

*Mr Griffiths interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** It is in the budget; it is locked in.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I have no reason to doubt that it will be achieved at the end of the financial year. Shared services is an efficiency that every major corporation globally is undertaking. Under the government of members opposite, BHP attracted to Adelaide BHP's Minerals Division, I think (its shared services back-office operation), here into South Australia. Tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money was spent getting BHP corporation's back-office function into Adelaide? Why? Because John Olsen saw it as the right sort of business model to have in this state.

We are doing that. We are putting in place a shared service entity for most of the state government structure. It is a sensible business reform to the operation of business. Most, if not all, major companies are either doing it, looking at it or wishing they could do it. Get into the real world. And do you know what else? I want to let the house into a little secret. What was the member for Goyder's previous occupation? A chief executive officer—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Deputy Premier will take his seat.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I rise on a point of order. That is clearly not anywhere near the subject of the question that has been asked. We ask the questions.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The Deputy Premier.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The member for Goyder was the CEO of a large regional council and by all accounts did a pretty good job. Do you know what I was informed a year or two ago? Do you know what the Local Government Association has had in place for some years now? Shared services operations. So I would say—

**Mr Griffiths:** Some councils.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Some councils. Did yours?

*Mr Griffiths interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** It didn't? Are you telling the truth?

*Mr Griffiths interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The understanding is that his council did not go into the LGA shared services model. I will endeavour over the next 24 hours to get some information to see whether the district council of Goyder did, in fact, participate in the shared services—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** It is not called Goyder.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** What is it called?

**An honourable member:** It is the Yorke Peninsula.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yorke Peninsula. We will find it and we will see whether or not the former CEO embraced that initiative and we will see, because local government got ahead of the game with the state government. That is a bit embarrassing, I have to tell you, but we are catching up. It is a good initiative; and do you know what? I know—

*Mr Griffiths interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I put my hand on my heart. Member for Goyder, if you won office at the next election, would you scrap the shared services? If you were finance minister would you scrap shared services?

**Mr Hamilton-Smith:** We ask the questions.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** They ask the questions. I tell you what, this is as good a lot of fun as I have had in this parliament for a long time. I thought I was going to be under the pump today because they had some sort of financial scandal. What they have done is allow me to highlight this government's superiority when it comes to financial management and the fact that this Treasurer and this ministry and this government are right across it when it comes to our state's finances. We are managing it well. Shared services are but a part of it, and I look forward to continuing the job with my colleagues of ensuring that we get every spare dollar we can from efficiency savings and put it into schools, hospitals, police stations, roads and any other decent community service.

### SHARED SERVICES

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:47):** Again my question is to the Treasurer. I am pleased that he is so interested in my history and my past life; we will see what happens from that. Can the Treasurer give a very definitive answer to the parliament as to whether or not he will guarantee that no taxpayer will suffer a net loss from the government's shared services reforms? Is there going to be any loss to the taxpayer as a result of this reform?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:47):** I do not understand the question.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I will read it out to the Treasurer again. Will the Treasurer guarantee that taxpayers will not suffer any net loss at all from the government's shared services program?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** How do you make a loss?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** If the savings are not what we have said they will be, it is a loss? So if I said savings will be \$60 million a year and we only get \$58 million, is that a \$2 million loss? Is that what you are saying? I do not understand the question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I do not understand the question. It is a dumb question. Shared services—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I am a dumb Treasurer. I have three letters of the alphabet that say I am not a dumb treasurer—AAA.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Kevin Foley: A, A, A!

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** There's a bit of hubris. For the benefit of the house, the Shared Services entity is not a trading vehicle; it is not a vehicle that is operating in the commercial market for which it either seeks an income or offers a charge other than internally within government. I have already said we have locked in savings of some \$28 million; so, whatever happens, the very minimum, going forward, is that we have got \$28 million locked in, infinitum.

After that I am confident we will get the next \$30 million, and we will know that in the next couple of years and we will lock in—if you ever one day become finance minister, you will walk into your weekly or two-daily meetings such as I have and you will see a savings line of \$60 million and you know what you will say? 'Thank God there was a Kevin Foley in this world.' That's what he will

say and he will be so thankful that I had the political courage to put in shared services. Now, the truth is—

**An honourable member:** You are very shy.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** You do not have to tell me that; I just know it.

#### **PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES**

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:50):** My question is again to the Treasurer. Was there a cost blow-out of over \$60 million for wage settlements above budget allowances in the 2007-08 financial year? The 2008-09 budget shows that the Treasurer's contingency provisions for employee entitlements in 2007-08 is estimated to be \$76 million, against a budget of \$15.8 million.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:50):** Can you say that again?

**Mr Griffiths:** Well, it's obvious. If you can't understand it, I'm not repeating it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Oh! All right, okay, I'll get it. You're saying that I had a contingency for \$15 million for wages or employee entitlements. I will find out exactly what that was. How is this coming from that lot? Every time a trade union goes out there saying that they want a wage rise from government, what does this mob of commos over here do? Give them what they want. Socialism! You embrace socialism. What the collective want, you give. That is not this government. We have taken a very strong position on public sector wages. But you cannot have any morality in the argument, any morality or credibility, if you are coming in here saying that we spent more on employee entitlements than we should have, because if you were up to it you would have caved in on the teachers.

The member for Unley is up there saying, 'Give the teachers what they want.' What does that give us? Where is Paul Caica? A couple of billion to the bottom line. 'Pay the teachers what they're asking for,' says Pisoni from Unley. 'Give them what they want.' When it came to doctors, the member for Bragg—what's her answer? 'Give the doctors what they want.' It is just lunacy. The wages policy of the Liberal Party harks back to the days of collective agreements of socialism where the government of the day simply said to the trade unions, 'Comrade, what do you want me to pay? You can have it.'

Not this modern Labor Party. Not this modern government. We have realised the error of our policies in the past. We have reformed our policies and we will pay a fair wage and a fair outcome. It took this government to stand up to trade union bullies in the public sector, trade unions that wanted to get big wage rises out of us. We have stood up to them and at some political pain but that is what good government is all about. We fixed WorkCover with a lot of political pain but that is what good government is all about.

For you to come in here and have a whack at me because we may have—and I will get it checked—spent more on wages than we budgeted is hypocrisy and an illegitimate line for a finance minister to run. You would be an appalling manager of finances if the quality of your questions today is indicative of your—

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I rise on a point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Point of order! The Deputy Premier will take his seat.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I am just wondering, Mr Speaker, if the Treasurer is actually going to answer the question.

**The SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### **QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:54):** My question is also to the Treasurer. Has the Treasurer approved the \$7 million budget increase that the Minister for Health announced this morning? In a media statement issued this morning the minister announced,

'The \$127 million second stage of the QEH redevelopment is continuing.' This year's budget, however, listed the total project cost for the development at \$120 million.

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for West Torrens!

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurua—Minister for Health, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (15:54):** To give the Treasurer's voice a bit of a break, I will take the question. I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition because it gives me an opportunity to put on the record what the government is doing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I heard the question, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The stage 2B redevelopment of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been expanded by \$7 million and that money is within the budget lines of the Department of Health. We have done that because we are putting in a different set of arrangements compared to what was originally planned—it is more services for the community of the western suburbs—so, stage 2 will now be worth \$127 million.

We were originally planning to convert the old maternity services building into office accommodation and teaching facilities but we decided that, rather than doing that, we would rather build facilities that will help patients directly. So, we are creating a new mental health unit and new treatment areas, particularly in the area of rehabilitation. Of course, those other needs (accommodation for doctors and other staff, and other teaching services) will be part of stage 3, which we have started planning. Stage 3 will include the upgrading of the emergency department, medical imaging area, outpatients area and operating theatres.

Contrary to what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said in the media today, we are committed to continuing with stage 3, and the decisions in relation to stage 2 advance some of the proposals, particularly those that are in line with the state Health Care Plan. That really means focusing on rehabilitation and mental health facilities—two areas, I think, members would agree are very much needed in the western suburbs.

#### **BABCOCK & BROWN**

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:56):** Can the Treasurer advise whether Babcock & Brown is still a partner in the shortlisted consortia bidding for the privatisation of schools, prisons and health facility projects in South Australia? Babcock & Brown was announced earlier this year as a partner in two bidding consortia. Since that time, the share price has collapsed and the parent company has been removed from the ASX Top 200.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:57):** I am glad the member has asked this question because it will reflect on his time in government, and I am happy to make some comments about another involvement of Babcock & Brown.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** That old left-wing socialist outfit over there, they do not involve themselves with PPPs. You don't like PPPs. You are the only political outfit in the nation, including every other Liberal around the country, who is not into it.

**Mrs Redmond:** It is not the only way to go.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** It is the only way to go.

**Mrs Redmond:** I said I think it is not the only way to go.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Whatever. Pinnacle Education SA is a consortium involving Babcock & Brown and Hansen and Yuncken, and Spotless as facilities manager. With the prisons, we have a partnership called Secure Partnerships SA which involves Babcock & Brown, Multiplex, Hansen and Yuncken—construction being Multiplex and Hansen and Yuncken; facilities management, Transfield Services; operations and security, Transfield Services and IPP consulting.

On a number of occasions, in discussion with my officers and consultants, I have raised the financial position of Babcock & Brown: is that material in relation to the PPPs? The advice I have at this stage is no, nor should it be, because they are a trading company and they are a solvent company. They are a company about which it would be irresponsible and reckless for me to say or do anything that would in any way impact adversely on that company.



What may not be known by some members is that the Liberal Party, when it privatised ETSA, sold off our power stations.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I liked it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** When the Liberal Party sold our power stations, the government was—

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The government was backed out of the business of running power stations. Members may recall that soon after I came into office a company called NRG Energy, which had bought the asset, experienced serious financial difficulties. Another deal done by the former Liberal government has a contingent liability on the state of South Australia of approximately \$150 million, which relates back to the arrangements for the Osborne Power Station entered into by the Liberal government in 1996.

*Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I think the finance minister might want to listen to this, because this is where the torch gets turned on the Liberal Party. People may remember that NRG had to sell—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I would actually suggest that members be silent for a moment and listen to this because this is quite serious.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** When NRG was put on the market, I took a very brave move, and the government did, where we made it clear to the creditors that we would be stapling to the asset the \$150 million of what are called FOT liabilities. They are the financial liabilities from the deal done in 1996 for the cogeneration plant. The banks went mad at me, but we did that, because I was not going to cop \$150 million loss on some dodgy deal done by the Libs. In the end, when the receiver of NRG sold the power station, from memory, there was but one bidder. And, do you know who that bidder was? Babcock & Brown Power.

Babcock & Brown Power is one of the spin-off vehicles from parent company Babcock & Brown. It has an infrastructure fund or a trust fund, or whatever, where the parent company charges upfront fees and very high management fees, and the vehicle, Babcock & Brown, sells its share to the general retail market. Babcock & Brown Power's price is down, I think, about 92 per cent. It is now being underpinned by, I think, either a parent guarantee or some form of covenant from the parent Babcock & Brown. I am concerned about the financial strength of Babcock & Brown Power. I am monitoring it on a regular basis. I am seeking a meeting with the CEO of Babcock & Brown to make sure that commitments given to government are honoured.

What I can say is that the Port Augusta Power Station remains a very profitable and a very good business. But Babcock & Brown Power is a vulnerable investment vehicle—the markets are all saying that—and that does cause me concern. That is as a direct result of your decision to sell that power station, because we cannot control who owns that power station; it is the market.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** So, your electricity nightmare sale still comes back to this day, a decade later, to haunt this government. Luckily, I am here to manage it. I would say that it is yet again because of the failed policies of the former Liberal government that the risks are now having to be managed by this Treasurer.

**NOARLUNGA RAILWAY LINE**

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurana—Minister for Health, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (16:04):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Today I presented a petition on behalf of the residents of the southern Adelaide area calling for the extension of the Noarlunga railway line. The petition was signed by 7,353 residents of the south, many of whom are in my own electorate. I would like to congratulate in particular the Seaford Residents Association and my local newspaper, *The Southern Times Messenger*, for organising the petition and for their ongoing support in raising public awareness in relation to this issue.

Particularly as a resident of Seaford, I agree that the railway line needs to be extended, and I have been standing up for the south on this issue for many years and have lobbied my colleagues in government about it. I repeat: this government is committed to extending the Noarlunga railway line.

We have already conducted a feasibility study into the extension, which was publicly released in December 2007. This study pointed out that a number of major things needed to occur before the extension could proceed, and we are now proceeding with these actions, which include:

- concrete re-sleepering of the Noarlunga line (and that is occurring now);
- implementation of high frequency and high speed rail services and other public transport priorities;
- the electrification of existing rail services; and
- the identification of a rail corridor to Aldinga.

The building work is part of the transport centrepiece of the 2008-09 budget, which funds the beginning of a 10-year, \$2 billion investment to upgrade, electrify and extend the metropolitan railway network. The 10-year program will deliver 50 new electric trains and 58 converted electric trains and electrification. The Noarlunga line will be the first to be electrified, and that is due to be completed by 2013-14. Some \$209.7 million begins being spent this year. Naturally enough, the railway line cannot be extended past Noarlunga until the government owns the land on which it can lay tracks. Significantly, the budget commits \$34.1 million to secure land for a rail corridor to Aldinga. We already own the land, of course, to Seaford.

One of the key concerns facing the extension is the complex engineering issues in extending the railway line across the Onkaparinga River and then, of course, further into the south. This engineering planning work is happening at the moment as part of a \$4 million joint South Australian and federal government transport sustainability study that was announced in July this year. I wish to assure the house that the voice of the people in the south of Adelaide has been heard and that the government of South Australia is responding vigorously to their concerns. I commend the petition to the house.

**BURTON, MRS M.**

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister Assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business and Public Sector Management) (16:06):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** My ministerial statement relates to the recent passing of Mrs Muyuru Burton. Mrs Burton was a senior and respected Anangu woman from the Amata Aboriginal community on the APY lands. She was born in Ernabella (also known as Pukatja) on 5 September 1958 and, sadly, passed away from heart failure on 7 July this year. She was just 49 years old. Mrs Burton was married to Leonard Burton for more than 30 years. They have four children: Melinda, aged 32; Glen, aged 25; Bruce, aged 16; and Katisha, aged 13. The Burtons also cared for and raised many other children from other families, giving them a secure and safe home when they needed it.

Mrs Burton was a tireless campaigner for women's and children's rights and for safer communities. She was seen by so many as a champion for change in improving living standards for all Anangu through the APY lands. The state government was saddened to learn of her passing. We extend our condolences to her family, to the Amata Community Council and to the NPY Women's Council for their loss of a valuable community member. She brought with her much inspiration, wisdom, compassion and guidance. Her achievements were many. Throughout her life she played a significant role in the APY community.

Mrs Burton was a community health and welfare worker; an Anangu teacher at the Amata school and an Anangu interpreter and translator; a senior officer of the NPY Women's Council; a member of the NPY Women's Council Governing Committee, also serving as its chairperson; a member of the Amata Community Council; a member of the AP Services Governing Committee; and a member of the Amata School Governing Committee.

Mrs Burton was an active and passionate campaigner, especially when it came to improving services for Anangu in the areas of child care, aged care and substance misuse, especially petrol sniffing and alcohol. She will be remembered as a positive role model and an inspirational and motivational community leader.

Those of us in government, as we look to give voice and meaning to Anangu concerns in the APY lands, are building on our working relationship with the Anangu people. We want to increase our level of support and commitment for Anangu so we can truly partner Anangu in a concerted effort to collectively deliver on Mrs Burton's vision for safer and more prosperous communities. Her vision for the lands and her legacy must remain as a guiding beacon to us all. On behalf of the Premier, the state government and all members in this place, I pass on my sincere condolences to Leonard, Melinda, Glen, Bruce, Katisha and the Anangu community for their loss.

#### **RANKINE, UNCLE HENRY**

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister Assisting the Premier in Cabinet Business and Public Sector Management) (16:10):** I seek leave to make further a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** My ministerial statement concerns the recent passing of Uncle Henry Rankine. I have the sad duty to inform the house of the recent passing of Ngarrindjeri elder, Uncle Henry Rankine. On behalf of the government of South Australia, I record my deep appreciation for his contribution to the lives of Aboriginal South Australians, especially the Ngarrindjeri over his lifetime. I would especially like to note his work over many decades for the state government in Aboriginal Affairs. Not only was Mr Rankine a leader of his community but he was also an outspoken advocate for the wider Aboriginal community. He held various positions, including chairperson of the Raukkan Aboriginal Council and the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, as well as serving on the board of the Aboriginal Housing Authority.

He was one of the first ATSIC commissioners and his involvement with the Aboriginal Lands Trust was truly remarkable. He was a board member for 30 years, including a period during the life of this government. In recognition of his significant contribution to public life, Mr Rankine was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1992. It was a fitting tribute. As a Ngarrindjeri man, Mr Rankine was widely regarded as a senior custodian of his culture. From the early 1980s, he was a major consultant to the South Australian Museum, helping it develop exhibitions on Aboriginal culture. He believed that indigenous people and European Australians needed to try harder to understand each other's culture and history. He was adamant that they must walk together in a spirit of cooperation and understanding.

Mr Rankine leaves a legacy in hope and inspiration for all of us involved in progressing reconciliation and improving the lives of Aboriginal South Australians. On behalf of the parliament, and in particular the Premier who worked with Mr Rankine when he was minister for Aboriginal Affairs, I present my most sincere condolences to his family, friends and community.

**Ms Breuer:** Hear, hear!

## GRIEVANCE DEBATE

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (16:12):** I commend the minister on his ministerial statements regarding the loss of those two Aboriginal elders. It is important that we in this place do acknowledge the fine commitment made by people over many years. I wish to take a few minutes to talk about some financial issues. I must admit, until today, I was hopeful that the Treasurer had reinvented himself, to some degree. There had been much publicity about the fact that he was presenting a softer image. He seemed to be apologising quite often, but we have got back to the loud voice in the parliament, the personal attacks and the criticisms again. However, I want to deal with facts; that is, not base any of my comments upon personalities but upon the facts.

There is no doubt that the finances of the state are an important issue. His Excellency the Governor in the address earlier today certainly mentioned very early in the speech the importance that is placed upon retaining the AAA credit rating. I agree entirely with that: it is absolutely critical. For a state, which, over the next four years, is projected to have a borrowings liability of \$1.983 billion, it is important for us to ensure that the AAA credit rating is retained because we borrow funds at a lower cost by having such a high credit rating. We have to ensure that that happens.

In highlighting that \$1.983 billion of debt liability by 2011-12, it is also important to point out that, as a percentage of the revenue of the state, it will be in the 75 per cent bracket, which is very much at the higher end of the market if we do comparisons with other states in Australia and, no doubt, that is a concern. I did hear an interview on one of the radio stations with (I think) a lady from Standard & Poors who commented on the credit rating of the state. I hope I am not misrepresenting her, but my recollection is that she said that, in relation to the state's financial position, it is in the outer range to retain a AAA credit rating. It is an important challenge for this Treasurer and, no doubt future treasurers—and we hope it will be a Liberal government from 2010.

Debt has been brought in: coming from an \$11 billion figure in 1993 down to a government direct debt of \$82 million as at 30 June this year was a good effort by both parties. Hard decisions were made by both Liberal and Labor, but it is important that we ensure that this does not blow-out. There has been a lot of concern expressed to me in recent months since the delivery of the budget by the Treasurer, because he is delivering surpluses in one of the three accounting measures but the debt figure is going to increase enormously.

Wage costs have gone up, also. In the Mid-Year Budget Review in December 2007 we noted that across the forward estimates period wages costs had been revised upwards by \$541 million over that 3½ year period. A question was asked today about the contingency sum for employee entitlements, because an extra \$60 million was spent on that. That is a legitimate question. If, six months before that, the budget had been revised to take into account additional wages costs, then suddenly, within six months, we find that an additional \$60 million has been spent, that is a concern. I know that wages entitlements across all the public sector are very close to \$5 billion. It is an enormous amount of money, and we have to ensure we get this right.

The public-private partnerships still are going to be on-balance sheet entries, especially, as I understand it, if the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Hospital actually does occur. That means that the lease liability that will be in place from 2016 for 30 years will become part of the state's balance sheet. That, in itself, creates uncertainty as to the state's financial position. There is no doubt that the Treasurer and the government, in presenting this year's budget, have put forward a budget that probably advances capital works far earlier than they would have liked, and it will restrict the capacity of not only them in the next 18 months but also future governments from March 2010 to undertake very important work in this state. There is a lot of important work that needs to be done. Metropolitan and regional areas need an enormous amount of work to occur.

The Treasurer has spoken today also about population projections. I am an unabashed supporter of an increase in population out to the two million figure, because I recognise very strongly the fact that transactions have to happen for state government revenues to flow. We need people buying homes and purchasing things, and being engaged in transactions with businesses so that businesses are paying payroll tax and stamp duties, and everything is occurring. We need to ensure that we have a buoyant economy to ensure that the state has a strong future—

**Mr Venning:** We?

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** We, the Liberal Party. When we form government in 2010 we have to ensure that we have a strong, buoyant economy, because we are going to need all the money that can be raised. People want a reduction in taxation but also an increase in services and infrastructure. It is part of the great challenge. New South Wales Labor has faced enormous challenges—we saw Michael Costa in his press statement last week. The Labor government here faces the same issues.

Time expired.

### **BRIGHTON RSL AND BRIGHTON BOWLING CLUB**

**Ms FOX (Bright) (16:17):** I rise to speak today about the RSL in South Australia and congratulate my local branch, the Brighton RSL, and its very close co-tenant, the Brighton Bowling Club. I recognise that in this house there are two returned servicemen, and they are the member for Waite and the member for Mount Gambier. The RSL has, of course, in recent years struggled to gain new members, and this is quite natural in that many of the elderly service men and women are passing on. However, there are many younger potential members from different theatres of conflict who at this point are not joining the RSL.

The RSL in this state has a very long and honourable history. It was established, I believe, in September 1916 and currently has about 14,000 members; that includes the Northern Territory as well as Broken Hill. Everyone who has had occasion to spend time with people from the local RSL will know that this is a group of very extraordinary people, and it is a group of people who have taught me quite a lot. I think the first thing I learnt from returned service people is that no soldier really ever wants to go to war. That is a very valuable lesson, especially for a politician.

The Brighton RSL recognised there were problems getting new members. They had a bowling green and a bowling club and, very nearby, was the Brighton Bowling Club (which, obviously, also has a bowling green), and the two clubs decided to get together and co-relocate, if you like, to become co-tenants. The Brighton Bowling Club went through a period when it built a big, new, very flash building, and it built that with the RSL. The RSL has moved into that building and they share it together now. It is a custom-built building. They share the bowling greens, and it seems to be an arrangement that is working out very well.

It has given new life, I think, to the RSL. I had the great privilege of being invited to attend the annual RSL dinner (the Dug Out Dinner) last Friday night. There were 160 people, the biggest dinner I have been to at the RSL in Brighton.

The feeling there was extremely positive. The members of the bowling club and the RSL were there. They were all getting along sharing really superb new facilities, and it seems to be working. The new premises has its official opening this Sunday. I have been going to the RSL now for nearly three years, and I saw things in the new building that I have never seen before. My local RSL had an astonishing collection of memorabilia that dated back to the First World War, including some extremely moving letters from local people which had never been displayed at all. I was able to stand and read them and to look at the various things there beautifully presented in astonishing new premises.

I really do wish them all the very best. I would like to congratulate the bowling club on being so welcoming to the RSL. I would like to congratulate the RSL for being very forward looking, for moving into a very new kind of situation, and to working very hard to make it happen. I would also like to point out that, to my knowledge, it is perhaps the only RSL/bowling club that has a massive disco ball, which I think can only be a very good harbinger for future activities in that place. Thank you very much.

### **MITCHAM HILLS ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE**

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (15:40):** For some years now I have been writing to the government raising the issue of the capacity of the Mitcham Hills district to evacuate in time of bushfire, and I do this because I represent the Mitcham Hills area. I have been a hills resident my whole life, and I was involved in fighting the two Ash Wednesday fires. The reason I have raised the capacity of the Mitcham Hills area to evacuate in times of fire is because there has been a significant increase in population in that area mainly due to the Blackwood Park redevelopment, which, when finished, will bring an extra 5,000 traffic movements a day to the Blackwood roundabout.

I have raised the issue with the government a number of times to be assured that the area does have the capacity to evacuate. There is then this rider, which is that the CFS policy is that

people should not evacuate. I just want to raise that, in my view, that is a good theory, but I question whether in reality that is what will happen if a bad fire does go through the Mitcham Hills area. In the last 50 years we have been very lucky in the Mitcham Hills because the CFS has done a magnificent job of putting out fires early, meaning that we have not really seen a bad fire.

What we have in the Mitcham Hills is a large population base that has never actually seen a bad fire. I just question the CFS policy of saying that people should not evacuate, and I question it in this sense: I accept the premise that, in a perfect world, people should either evacuate before the fire starts (which is the CFS policy) or stay home and fight. That is the CFS policy: either evacuate before the fire starts or stay home and fight. I accept that premise from the CFS because I know, the CFS knows and research around the world shows that people who evacuate late and leave in their vehicles get burnt and die.

I accept all that, but I am just wondering whether it is practical and whether the CFS really believes that, in reality if a bad fire hits the Mitcham Hills, 20,000 people who have never seen a bad fire will not try to evacuate? I suspect that a lot of people will try to evacuate against the CFS policy, and here is my concern. In my view, the road infrastructure in the Mitcham Hills will not sustain an evacuation of any substantial size. The reason I raise it is that the Mitcham Hills needs an investment in road infrastructure that is capable of allowing people to evacuate if that is what they decide to do, because I suspect that a lot of them will decide to do that late in the piece.

Against all the advice of the CFS and against all the safety procedures, I think that a lot of people will panic and try to leave. The road infrastructure will not support that. Then, after that fire, there will be a report and the report will say, 'Shock, horror, the road infrastructure was not good enough and people should have known about the CFS policy not to evacuate.'

I have written countless letters—I think it would be well over a dozen letters—to various ministers on this and I have had no success, so I raise it here again. There will be another letter going to the minister because I think the whole thing needs to be reviewed. The important thing to remember is that it is not the CFS that decides who evacuates, it is actually the Commissioner of Police, so it is a different agency altogether that decides whether there should be a formal evacuation.

The other issue I raise is how practical is the policy. As an example, last year in the Adelaide Hills—which includes the Mitcham Hills—there were 18 total fire ban days, days of extreme fire danger, including five or six in a row in March. If you were to take the CFS policy as it is written, on 18 days the Mitcham Hills would need to evacuate on the basis that there might be a bad fire. This is my point: I think that is a good theory but it is not practical. I think that what will happen is some will evacuate the first day and come back; fire did not occur—this is on last year's example. Some will evacuate the second day; fire did not occur. By the third and fourth day they are not going to do it. Put yourself in their position: would you actually evacuate your family on 18 different occasions over a summer on the basis that there might be a fire? The practical reality of that is that I do not think many people are going to do that.

What I am trying to bring to the attention of the minister and maybe one of the advisers who might read this speech is that, although I have no argument in theory about the policy as such, I think the road infrastructure needs to be designed for what is practically likely to happen. What is likely to happen when that bad fire comes up over the hill and when you have 20,000-plus people who have not seen a bad fire in 50 years, regardless of all the best advice in the world, regardless of all the best intentions of the CFS, despite the outstanding work of the CFS over 50 years, is that some people are going to try to evacuate. What I am saying is that the road infrastructure there will not cater for it.

I do not want to be the member of parliament doing the press release or the media statement saying, 'I told you so.' So, I have written my letters, I have made my speeches, I raise it here again and I will keep plugging away because eventually there will be a bad fire there. The authorities need to get out of their policy bookwork, drive up there and have a look and say what they really think is going to happen. You only have to look at the local press the week after the Belair fire last year to see what the local reaction was. They all complained about the siren not being turned on and they all complained about not being able to evacuate. The reality is that the warnings have been raised, the government has been warned and I will continue to try to raise it with the government to get some action.

## OLYMPIC GAMES

**Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood) (16:28):** We have just seen the conclusion of the Beijing Olympic Games and the magnificent performances of the athletes who represented this country and state so brilliantly. Like the rest of Australia, I was awestruck by the opening ceremony. It was a breathtaking spectacle that more than set the stage for a very well run and organised 16 days of competition. I am a fan of the Olympic Games because, for however brief a moment, they remain a unique opportunity for the world to unite, for billions of people to recognise and applaud the triumph of the human spirit, and the culmination of years of sacrifice and hard work.

I know that many of us may have issues with the domestic policies of the host countries, as we did with aspects of China and China's domestic policy this time, but one only had to look at the faces of the 204 flag bearers marching proudly into the Bird's Nest to know that this was not the time to take issue with them. That being said, I am sure that these issues will continue to be fought and I would encourage all administrations to continue their diplomatic efforts to address them.

Australia's performance at the games was fantastic. Our 434 athletes won a total of 46 medals: 14 gold, 15 silver and 17 bronze. This was Australia's third best total ever and our second-best at any away-from-home games. The result placed Australia at No. 6 on the gold medal tally and at No. 5 as ranked by medals overall. I am also delighted that my home country of Italy ranked No. 9 on the scoreboard with 28 medals.

There were many outstanding and breathtaking performances at the Beijing Olympic Games, feats that captured the public imagination and entered the record books. Internationally, I do not think we can go past the record-breaking eight gold medals of Michael Phelps or the two world records of Usain Bolt that won him the coveted title of the fastest man on earth. In Australia we pay homage to Stephanie Rice who won three gold medals and to Matthew Mitcham who achieved our first ever gold medal in diving which was an almost perfect performance but, in doing so, we should not forget all the Australian athletes who did their best and who trained long and hard to make their dreams of becoming an Olympian a reality.

I would like to briefly mention some of the athletes who have a connection with my electorate. A few weeks ago I spoke about Hayden Stoeckel, a member of the Norwood Swimming Club, who qualified to represent Australia in the 100 and 200 metres backstroke. In the 100 metres backstroke, Hayden won the semifinal in an Olympic record time to qualify fastest for the final. Hopes were high and, at our local hotel, I held my breath with hundreds of others including his coach, Peter Bishop, while we watched the final on the big screen. I, along with everyone else, was thrilled when Hayden achieved third place and the coveted bronze medal, and I hasten to add that it took a world record to beat him.

Hayden was also a member of the 4 x 100 medley relay team which achieved second place in the final and a silver medal. The Australian team broke the existing world record to finish second but the juggernaut of the American Phelps team pipped them by half a second to claim gold. These are fantastic results for Hayden and his coach, and I am sure that this success has put any doubts about a career in swimming firmly out of Hayden's mind. I look forward to catching up with Hayden and his coach at the Norwood Swimming Club sometime soon. I would also like to give a special mention to Claire Woods who competed in the 20 kilometre walk and is a fellow graduate of a former alma mater of mine, Mary MacKillop College. Claire did a great job and equalled her personal best time to finish 28<sup>th</sup>. You cannot ask for much more than that.

Now, as we turn our attention to the Paralympics, I have been watching with interest the performances of Matthew Cowdrey and Shelley Rogers who, like Hayden, are also members of the Norwood Swimming Club and are also trained by Peter Bishop. Matthew has already gained a silver and gold medal, not to mention a new world record, to add to his impressive collection, and I know that the federal Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, was thrilled to be part of his medal presentation. Congratulations to Shelley who just missed out on her first event coming fourth. To all athletes competing at the Paralympics, I wish you every success and I hope that all your personal dreams and goals can be realised.

## VICTOR HARBOR-ADELAIDE ROAD

**Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (16:33):** Today, I turn my attention to the matter of the Victor Harbor-Adelaide Road and, in particular, I speak about the intersection of Waterport Road, Welsh Road and Victor Harbor Road down near Urimbirra. The Fleurieu Road Safety Group, the City of Victor Harbor Council, numerous residents, itinerant and regular visitors, the Victor Harbor *Times*, local radio stations, the adjacent landholders and particularly emergency services and police: these

are just some of the people who have expressed their major concerns over that intersection and also over the Victor Harbor-Adelaide Road generally.

This road is travelled by tens of thousands, indeed hundreds of thousands, of vehicles per year and I can tell you that the fatalities, serious injuries and the ongoing accidents that have taken place on this road are starting to wear people down. That was exacerbated yesterday when there was another accident there, a rollover near the Goolwa turnoff. Last week there was an accident up near the alpaca farm—near Woodcone Road, I think it is—where once again there were serious injuries and then only a couple weeks ago down on the intersection of the Welsh Road, Waterport and Victor Harbor Road there was a fatality where a vehicle did not give way to the right and the death of a man from Mount Compass was recorded. It was a very sad incident, and it is just ongoing.

A few short months ago we had lights installed on the corner. They have aided that corner, which is a very bad corner, because it is a mishmash of roads, and it is a 100 km/h zone. I call on the government to get on top of this problem sooner rather than later, to listen to those names and those organisations that I listed before, and to do something about this corner as a priority before more lives are lost and more serious accidents and injuries occur.

Nothing short of a rural roundabout is needed and to slow down that section of road immediately to 80 km/h. Nothing is more important than doing that as soon as possible. These tragedies—fatalities and serious incidents—cannot go on. It is ludicrous that the department does not seem to want to listen to local people at all. They are disregarding the local authorities, the police and the emergency services and saying it is okay. I can tell you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that it is not okay. It is a disaster.

I go through that corner on countless occasions and every time I get near that intersection I get worried and somewhat 'derailed' about the driving conditions through there. It concerns locals greatly and, generally speaking, the whole road between Main South Road and Victor Harbor desperately needs more attention. I acknowledge that passing lanes have been added and I also acknowledge that you cannot do much about people's stupidity. There is much stupidity on the roads; we all know that.

You cannot do much about speeding. Regularly I report trucks that tailgate me. I am sick of them; I am absolutely fed up with them. When they think they are driving along a road in the city bumper-to-bumper doing 100 km/h, I just pull over, get their number and I ring the company and let them sort it out because I am fed up with them. The police are fed up with them. They have speed cameras there at various times, as they do the motorbike police and unmarked cars, yet it goes on.

So, I plead with the government to get serious about this road and to do something about it sooner rather than later but, more particularly, to do something about this terrible intersection which is still claiming lives. I recall two fatalities there in the recent past, including the one a fortnight ago. We have to do something everywhere on the roads but this particular intersection can be adjusted quickly by slowing down the traffic to 80 km/h. It could be different if it were totally redesigned and made a proper intersection with a rural roundabout. It would require money, of course; I acknowledge that. It would require dealing with landowners and getting the land so that the roads that lead into it could be reconfigured, but then it would be sorted out.

### **GAWLER HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mr PICCOLO (Light) (16:38):** Today I rise to speak on behalf of students of Gawler High School. I want to read into the record a statement I have received on behalf of the students of Gawler High School prepared by Shannon Trezise. Shannon is a year 11 student ambassador at Gawler High School. The statement relates to the media's treatment of an incident that occurred at the Evanston Railway Station some time ago and also the impact that the media have had on the school, particularly the students. He states:

As a reputable student of Gawler High School, I am writing to say that I am appalled by the negative media attention and disappointed by the response by TransAdelaide concerning the fight that happened a month ago at the Evanston Train Station between 2 Gawler High School Students after school had finished and beyond school jurisdiction and therefore not the responsibility of Yard Duty Teachers.

The media presented incorrect information to the public and as a result, misrepresented the true situation. Some of the information was completely wrong and they were not even willing to check that the information that they had was ever correct. I wish to stress that out of the 800 approx. students who attend the high school two students have brought the school into disrepute. I want to let you know of the good things that the students do for the school community and the wider community.



Last year we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> year of success at Gawler High School. We have many successful and notable alumni, such as Max Fatchen, Darren Lehmann and Lisa Martin-Ondieki. More recent success stories include Matthew Harmati, who represented the State on the Premier's Anzac School Prize Tour attended by Dr Jane Lomax-Smith...[and he] has also been recognised by the Gawler Town Council for the Gawler Rural Ambassadors' Youth Award.

Anthea Wright, a past student, won the Gawler Young Achievers Youth Award 2005 and again in 2007. She also won the Australian National Scholarship Vocation Award for her VET course in Printing and Graphic Art and Principal's Award for 2005 for artistic contributions to the school. She will be graduating from UniSA with the Bachelor of Visual Arts, specialising in New Media. At the moment, she freelances as a visual artist, having also won the Gawler Mayor's Award for 2007.

There are other students currently at Gawler High School who excel in a range of studies and programs. Another one is Blayze Williams, who has recently won the 36<sup>th</sup> National Appaloosa Horse Show in Dubbo this year. The students [at the school] are offered the most up-to-date programs in all subjects and get involved in many community-based opportunities such as the Qwestacon Science Program. Year 10 students attend the University of SA Mawson Lakes campus to learn about university life and there are many other opportunities from sport to IT; students run our dynamic school website, with a help of the IT staff.

We [that is, the students of Gawler High School] are proud to say that we are a 'Green' school, having Sustainability Committee.

In 2006, a group of students decided that they want to stop talking about how they could change the global warming problem, and started the Gawler High School Green Crew, who have developed ways to reduce, reuse and recycle resources that we use within our school...

Many of our students are proud to say that they come from Gawler High School.

The incident at the train station sparked blogging through the intranet and mobile phones which demonstrated that many students were horrified at the behaviour of principally two students who have given the school a 'bad' name.

In response many students who participated in writing forums to show positive reactions to what happens at Gawler High School, rather than the negative spiel of the media.

Here is an extract from one of the forums:

'I'm disgusted at the way the media are inflating this incident and giving our school a bad reputation...Incidents like this occur, but never as serious, at nearly all schools, including private...what about the positive things, like our fantastic rugby team, our successful recycling programs, and our great academic success...they don't focus on how much Gawler High supports its students in every field...

It goes on. The statement continues:

As a member of the student community, I would like you to consider the valuable learning which takes place at Gawler High School, and realise that the negative media coverage has caused a great deal of damage in the community to our school's reputation.

The students are very proud of their school and want to bring to the attention of the community that media does actually hurt not only the students but also the school.

On a personal note, I would like to wish Kim Budimin from the Minister for Health's office a very happy birthday. She is always very wonderful and helpful whenever need information and assistance from the minister's office.

#### **STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Mount Gambier—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development) (16:40):** I move:

That Mrs Geraghty, the Hon. G.M. Gunn, Mr O'Brien and Mr Pisoni be appointed to act with the Speaker as members of the committee.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLISHING COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Mount Gambier—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development) (16:41):** I move:

That a Publishing Committee be appointed consisting of Ms Ciccarello, Mr Koutsantonis, Mr Pederick, Mr Pengilly and Ms Thomson.

Motion carried.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Mount Gambier—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development) (16:42):** I nominate the member for Morialta to move an Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech and move:

That consideration of the Address in Reply be made an order of the day for tomorrow.

Motion carried.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

**LANDLORD AND TENANT (DISTRESS FOR RENT—HEALTH RECORDS EXEMPTION) AMENDMENT BILL**

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

**ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I move:

That the house do now adjourn.

**BAROSSA VALLEY**

**Mr VENNING (Schubert) (16:45):** I rise with pleasure for the first time in this session, and I look forward to the 18 months ahead of us. Many in the house would be aware that I believe I have the best electorate not only in the state but also in Australia. With great wine, beautiful food and friendly people, the Barossa Valley is definitely an asset to this state—and I note that the minister visited and addressed a meeting there not very long ago.

The Barossa Valley strengthens the state's economy and provides South Australia with a world-renowned tourism destination thanks to the fantastic wine produced in the region. It is also a great place in which to do business. This was reflected earlier this year when one of the many wineries, Barossa Valley Estate Ltd, was selected as a venue for the South Australian stage of the *Australian Idol* auditions to take place, ahead of several Adelaide metropolitan venues.

It is obviously not only me who believes that the Barossa is special: so does the company responsible for the production of *Australian Idol*, Fremantle Media. In a letter written to me, the General Manager of Barossa Valley Estate Ltd, Ms Christine Hahn, said:

The staff of the production company Fremantle Media commented on how much they enjoyed their time in the Barossa Valley and that they would like to use the facilities of Barossa Valley Estate again.

This is an example of how the Barossa can attract national and even international standard business by providing high quality facilities and service. As I said, the minister visited the region and we opened a new business precinct, a first for the Barossa; a business incubator all within itself. I think the minister certainly paid credit to the region as well.

That is not the only example of the Barossa Valley's attracting big business. The producer of *McLeod's Daughters*, Millennium Television, filmed many of the episodes in the Barossa Valley region. In fact, one of the main cast members, Simone Jade McKinnon, highlighted her love for the region by purchasing a 32-hectare working stud farm on the outskirts of Williamstown, which is a beautiful place.

Simone first moved to the Barossa Valley region five years ago, when she started working on *McLeod's Daughters*, and she has not left. 'Why would I want to?' she said in an article that appeared in the *Herald Sun* in March this year, stating further:

I'm surrounded by rolling hills, boutique wineries and pubs with such incredible character and history. Plus I get to enjoy some of the state's best food and wine festivals. But despite that feeling of seclusion I'm only an hour from the city. The Valley is one of the most beautiful places in Australia.

And one could not say it better than that.

The ABC, which produces the show *The Cook and the Chef*, which we all watch with great interest, features our renowned Barossa chef Maggie Beer and the executive chef of the Hilton Hotel, Simon Bryant, has described the setting of the Barossa Valley as 'magnificent'.

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, *Barossa Under the Stars* is a leading, world-class musical event, which puts the Barossa Valley in South Australia in the international spotlight.

Adrian Bohm Promotions is a concert promotion company that has been working in partnership with the Barossa Wine and Tourism Association since 1997 to bring national and international performers to the Barossa Valley for the annual concert. The promotion company has aided in bringing Sir Cliff Richard, Rod Stewart and Shirley Bassey to the region to perform concerts, along with many other big names. During Sir Cliff Richard's performance he paid tribute to the Barossa and its picturesque scenery, and said that his own vineyard patch in Portugal paled into insignificance when he toured the Barossa.

It seems that, although many people say that I am biased when it comes to the Barossa Valley, there are many who back me up, and the fact that large businesses are choosing to go and work there is a testament to our region. We have to be very careful that we do not destroy the wonderful ambience of our region.

However, it is not only businesses conducting their work in the Barossa that has aided the reputation of the Barossa but also the service provided by businesses to tourists and visitors to the area. The service provided by local businesses in the Barossa also in turn helps to lure more big business to the area. In December last year, the retired Liberal whip from Western Australia and his wife enjoyed a holiday in the Barossa and highly commended the region.

Mr Bradshaw made particular note of the service he and his wife received when they visited the Barossa Wine and Tourism Association, saying:

The staff were very helpful and we came away with a stack of brochures on sites to see, where to stay and where to eat in the area. The whole experience was extremely enjoyable. We found the accommodation good; the food excellent; and the staff at all the shops, the tourism bureau, wineries, restaurants and accommodation venues very friendly and helpful.

This comes from a person who frequents Margaret River in Western Australia. It was certainly praise, indeed. He said that, above all, it was the people of the Barossa who impressed him most. Wonderful.

People might say that I am parochial and biased toward the Barossa—and I unashamedly am, I am very proud to represent this area, particularly as an outsider coming from the north. The electoral redistribution has done me a favour, as I would never have had the honour of representing it otherwise. The evidence speaks for itself: not only do we make some of the world's best wine and have great food and beautiful scenery but we can also attract big business, look after them and leave them hanging for a return visit.

Not a day goes by when I do not marvel at the wonderful region which I am honoured to represent, and none more so than last week. A Chilean film crew contacted my office and asked me to help with the arrangements to film a 'Steve Irwin' style documentary on Australian culture and wildlife. They wanted to film obviously in a vineyard—well, that was easy. They also wanted a bushland setting. That made it a little more difficult. To make it even harder, they wanted some kangaroos. I thought, hang on, I do not know anyone who has pet kangaroos. I did not know what we were going to do about that but we would do the best we could—come, we will fix it.

Thanks to Yalumba, which chose Heggies Vineyard—and if the minister has not been there, it is a beautiful place, right on top of the range—and which is right alongside the Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park. But kangaroos, well we might have to fluke a distant look. What happened? The film crew arrived at my office on time and they did the interview with mayor Hurn. We then went to Heggies Vineyard. It was an overcast and dull day, but what met us blew me away. It was a rather dull day when we arrived, but then the sun came out and the beautiful wattle and the trees in the adjoining conservation park created a beautiful scene, almost as if the sun was spotlighting the trees and the golden wattle. When I turned around, I saw a dozen kangaroos in the vineyard. I thought, wow, you can be lucky—and not only that but they sat there very contented—and it was a large group of kangaroos.

The film crew almost walked right up to them and they did not move. The film crew were beside themselves. They thought they might have seen one. We were even considering putting a stand-up picture of a kangaroo in the vineyard, but here they were, the real thing. The footage they shot was fantastic. They intended to shoot for 15 minutes but they shot 45 minutes of film in this vineyard, with the sun beating on the wattle, the bushland, the vineyard and the kangaroos. I say, 'How lucky can you be?' For anyone wanting to visit Heggies Vineyard not only does it produce good wine (especially the Heggies riesling which is beautiful) but it is in a beautiful setting. I pay tribute to Yalumba for allowing us to go there. It is very picturesque. I am sure, if you asked them, they would allow you to have a picnic there: it is absolutely a magnificent place.

Before sitting down, I make one comment because the minister is present. As the minister has been around the state, he knows that many of the crops in some parts of our state look pretty good, which is amazing on eight inches of rain in my area, particularly in the northern areas. The problem is that we are now coming to the longer, warmer days and the crops are not far enough advanced to finish. All I can say is that we hope for a rain. Not only my property but all properties in the north have prospects. With the high cost to farmers now for fuel, chemicals, fertiliser and everything else that goes with it, many of these farmers cannot take another year of zero or negative incomes.

**Ms Breuer:** He is only a minister, not God: he cannot make it rain!

**Mr VENNING:** You can be like me, you can hope. All we can do is hope. We do need another reasonable rain, say, 25 millimetres (the old one inch) across the state to get any sort of finish, otherwise many of these crops will die or will be cut for hay. We have not had a rain now north of Clare for the past five or six weeks. When we do, all we get is four or five points at the most. We are at crisis point. I hope for all farmers, not only this side but also on the West Coast, the Mallee and right across the state that we get a decent rain within a week. I know the minister would hope that, too—and that is not political. If ever we need a rain, it is now. Please God, 25 millimetres would be just great.

#### **CARR, MR W.**

**Mr PICCOLO (Light) (16:55):** I rise to bring to the attention of the house the case of Wes Carr. Some members may know that Wes Carr is a finalist in the *Australian Idol* competition on television. I am one of the first people to admit that I often do not watch *Australian Idol* and other reality shows, but I call on members of this house and also members of the community in this state to support Wes Carr, because he is a northern boy, having spent his early years growing up at One Tree Hill and attending Trinity College. Wes is now 25 years of age and lives in Sydney. However, Wes's dad is the CEO of Light Regional Council, one of the constituent councils in my electorate.

His father Brian Carr is an extremely proud dad, given that his son has reached the final 12, I understand, of *Australian Idol*. As Brian says, every parent's desire is to see their children do very well in their chosen field. We often do not pick the field our children go into, but we want to see them excel and do well, and Wes has been doing well. Like I said, he has been living in Sydney for some time. He is a self-taught singer and musician. His father noticed at an early age that he had an interest in music and an ability to play a musical instrument. Wes moved with his father to Sydney when he was 14 years and has pursued a music career since that time, spending a lot of his time writing songs and 'gigging' around various venues.

According to his dad, music has been Wes's life and he has put everything into it. So the *Australian Idol* competition provides Wes a chance to break into the big time, and the reports to date are that he has certainly captured the imagination of the judges, both with his singing and guitar playing, and he has certainly captured the hearts of many fans, having been voted into the last 12 from many hundreds of competitors.

I am aware that his family and friends fully support and encourage him, because when he entered the competition he thought he had very little chance of making the first cut. Not only did he make the first cut, but he has also gone on to make the final 12. Because he is a former northern boy, I will be dialling to ensure he gets the votes he needs to win, but also I call on members of this house and members of the South Australian community to back one of our own. I think it is important to take this opportunity to promote, where we can, Wes's achievements and, hopefully, he will be an *Idol* winner. So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to say: let's back Wes all the way.

Motion carried.

At 16:59 the house adjourned until Thursday 11 September 2008 at 10:30.