

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 28 April 2009

The **SPEAKER (Hon. J.J. Snelling)** took the chair at 11:00 and read prayers.

PAYROLL TAX BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 8 April 2009. Page 2327.)

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (11:03): It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to talk about this bill, which was introduced by the Hon. Mr Koutsantonis on behalf of the Treasurer on 8 April. I place on the record my appreciation for the briefing that was provided at very short notice by the office of the Treasurer which occurred on Monday of last week. As I would have expected, it was quite detailed in the areas on which we had some concerns and questions.

As I understand it, this bill is the result of an agreement that was reached between state and territory treasurers in March 2007 to progress towards the adoption of consistent arrangements announced by New South Wales and Victoria in February of that year regarding, amongst other things, the harmonisation of payroll tax.

There is no doubt that some level of consistency and consideration of taxation across the nation is important. We have changed considerably from the situation we had 50 to 75 years ago where activities occurred predominantly within a state to a situation now where, in many cases, businesses operate across all states. That is a good thing for the nation because it improves competitiveness and provides the ability to get jobs done and for expertise to be recruited, and for the best possible products to be developed as part of that.

So, there is no great philosophical point of difference between the Liberal Party and the Labor Party on this. In some way, it is predicated on the legislative amendments that were enacted as part of the Pay-roll Tax (Harmonisation Project) Amendment Act 2008, the bill for which was considered in this chamber last year and supported by the opposition.

The alignment between South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria will be a good one. Eight key points are referred to in this bill. The first relates to the timing of the lodgment, and I think that has been brought forward seven days from the 28th to the 21st of each month. The Treasurer nods in agreement. The others are motor vehicle allowances, accommodation allowances, fringe benefits, work performed outside of jurisdiction, employee share acquisition schemes, superannuation contributions for non-working directors and grouping provisions.

When I read the second reading explanation, I must admit that I thought that this was a progressive step forward in ensuring that the states actually work more cooperatively and there is an understanding for businesses that operate across state boundaries of what the circumstances (as they exist) will be for employees when they work outside their home jurisdiction. This is something that we should support, but this is also an opportunity to talk about some of the side issues that are associated with that, and payroll tax is a very important one.

The budget papers for this financial year identified that payroll tax revenues were to be in the range of \$888 million or thereabouts. An adjustment may have been made as part of the Mid-Year Budget Review, but I have not got that figure in my head. However, I do note that payroll tax is certainly a very major component of the taxation policy of this state, and the income that it brings in is very important to the efforts to ensure that we can provide infrastructure and services for the state.

However, if we look back a few budget periods and go back, in particular, to the 2001-02 period, which was the last year in which the Liberal Party formed government and actually set a budget in place, we find that at that time payroll tax revenue was \$601 million. There have been increases each year totalling, as it turns out, some 48 per cent. Even though I have only been in the chamber for three years, I have had the opportunity to review submissions that are proposed by business associations concerned about the level of payroll tax.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes, I understand that. I believe that the Motor Trade Association in its budget submission to the Treasurer is seeking an increase in the payroll tax threshold, which is

intended to be \$600,000 from 1 July, to \$1 million. I recognise that there have been some adjustments made to the payroll tax threshold and that the rate has been lowered from 5.2 per cent to 5 per cent and, from 1 July, down to 4.95 per cent. The threshold has increased fractionally in that same time as adjustments have been made to the rate applicable to it.

However, I know from the submissions that I have read that business associations talk about the fact that the possibility of an increase in the threshold would actually allow more South Australians to be employed and that, in turn, the budget would provide benefits in other ways. That is part of the balancing act that the Treasurer faces, as have all treasurers before him, and all treasurers in the future will face the dilemma of ensuring that the taxation policy actually reflects the opportunities that need to be created within the state.

During the debate that occurred on the Pay-roll Tax (Harmonisation Project) Amendment Act 2008, the Treasurer flagged his intention for the South Australian government to adopt the harmonised payroll tax legislative model operating in New South Wales and Victoria from 2009. Now that this bill has been introduced with the opportunity to consider it within both chambers and have it implemented, I, as the lead speaker for the opposition, can confirm that the opposition will not be proposing any amendments, but there are some points that it does wish to discuss.

The opposition is also aware that changes are occurring in other states at this time. Tasmania, I believe, has fully harmonised. Queensland has made the majority of the changes that are required. Western Australia is still considering its position—and I am not sure whether that is as a result of the change of government in the election last year or whether it has some greater concerns—while, as I understand it, the ACT is set to bring in those changes on 1 July 2009 and the Northern Territory is still considering some issues that it wants to pursue.

It is obvious to me that payroll tax and the quantum that it brings in—given that it represents probably some 25 per cent (maybe a little less) of the taxation revenue of the state—is a big determiner of the success of businesses within our state. It is challenging times out there, there is no doubt about that. Businesses are facing great difficulties in keeping their people employed. Expenditure is down across retail. The industrialised nations of the world are really feeling the pinch in many ways. Not only important are the decisions which have been made in the budget and as part of the Treasurer's and Premier's announcement on the extension and the commitment to capital works but also the need to ensure that the full picture is considered and includes taxation policy.

I know that, during Queensland's pre-election debates, announcements were made by both the LNP and the Labor Party about payroll tax and how they would treat that. I also believe the Liberal opposition in New South Wales made an announcement regarding its consideration, with a call for an immediate concession to apply for a one year period to ensure that its businesses have the greatest opportunity to weather the storm that faces us all. That is the attitude that needs to be taken within this state, too.

Businesses are struggling. I have been at forums in recent days at which a variety of people representing small to medium size enterprises have spoken about the fact that taxation is really making it very difficult. The widespread opinion amongst people is that payroll tax is a disincentive to employment. We know that, currently in South Australia, the latest figures show approximately 46,000 people unemployed. That in itself presents an enormous challenge for our state, but the projections that during 2010-11 unemployment will rise considerably above (I think) 5.6 per cent (as announced last month) potentially to the 9.5-9.6 per cent range will be a great challenge for all political parties to face in the lead-up to the next election.

Let us do some simple sums on this. We know that 5.6 per cent equates to 46,000 people (or thereabouts). If unemployment does reach 9.5 per cent—and I certainly hope that is not the case, but we know that, through an immense sense of loyalty, businesses have been keeping their staff on, but the difficult times will come for them—we face the real possibility of an increase of up to 30,000 people above that 46,000. It is important to look at the numbers behind that, too: 46,000 people—a terrible scenario, with people obviously wanting to work and to have a future for themselves.

Through a variety of global pressures which have been evident and which have been steamrolling across all nations—and very difficult for governments of any persuasion to manage—we are now faced with the scenario that, across the world, unemployment is going to increase. Payroll tax is a component of that. I do respect the fact that a payroll of 600,000 (which is where the threshold kicks in) equates to some \$2,400 in payroll tax liability. It is interesting that, as part of

the tax summit that the Liberal opposition held on 12 May last year, at one of the forums a chap was talking about payroll tax. It was a particular issue for him because he related it back to one very simple equation.

He remembers that to be responsible and liable for payroll tax within his industry probably 15 to 20 years ago you had to be employing about 20 people. Therefore, you have a business of a considerable size. Obviously you have had some history; you have some loyal customer bases; and you have some ability to weather storms that might arise within the industry in which you work. However, he told me that, as a result of wage increases at that time—and the fact that wage increases have occurred is also an important factor for our nation—the tax rates currently applicable for payroll tax meant that, within his industry, you only had to have about eight employees to be liable for payroll tax—a considerable difference between the 20 which was previously the case.

A firm with eight employees is not an overly large enterprise. The fact is that the South Australian economy is primarily based around small to medium size enterprises, a vast number of family businesses and a vast number of people who have employed people for lengthy periods and who show an immense loyalty to their employees and the employees, in return, show an immense loyalty, and suddenly you find that employing a relatively small number of people within a business starts to incur a payroll tax liability.

I know that some rebates are applicable to traineeships and apprenticeships—and they are a progressive thing because they encourage people to get into those fields—but the fact is that for eight people and some \$600,000 they are up for a liability of \$2,400. If they get to the \$800,000 barrier, on the figures that were produced for the last budget—if they have an \$800,000 payroll liability—all of a sudden their liability on the taxation component is \$12,400. In effect, that becomes half of a younger person's job, and that is the great challenge for us. On the last figures produced, I think youth unemployment was in the range of 25 to 26 per cent. I understand that it identifies only people between the ages of 15 and 19, but that is a key age group that we need to ensure is in the South Australian workplace.

The Economic Development Board submitted a report to the parliament—certainly to the government—in June last year which identified some of the labour force challenges our state will face over the next 10 to 15 years. From memory, within the baby boomer generation—of which many in this chamber are part—some 206,000 people are currently employed within South Australia, and they would be likely to retire within the next 10 to 12 years. Managing the transition from that loss of skill and experience and ensuring that we have an opportunity for our young people to come through—and I declare an interest because I have a 19 year old and a 17 year old; the 19 year old is working and, hopefully, the 17 year old will enter the workforce next year—will be a great challenge for our young people. If we lose these young people we might not get them back.

Good campaigns are being run to entice people back to South Australia. We need to ensure that those who have a connection and affiliation to our state are attracted back here. A lot of those people have wonderful levels of expertise. At a forum last night I was talking to a couple whose youngest child graduated from university in 1990. Their child has architectural qualifications and applied to just about every firm based in South Australia for an opportunity to start work and could not get any chances at all. They went overseas, applied for jobs in Singapore and had four job offers within a week. That person is now working in Melbourne—they have come back to the nation, at least.

Where is the certainty in order to give jobs to those young people? Payroll tax becomes part of the issue. I know it is hard to draw the connection, but it is an issue which is worthy of greater debate within the chamber. Martin Hamilton-Smith was elected Leader of the Opposition in April 2007 and in a major speech in June that year proposed a tax summit. We thought it was important to give South Australians a voice. A summit was held on 12 May last year and was successful. I think about 45 submissions were received and about 90 people attended within the parliamentary confines. They were involved in not only a major discussion that took place in this chamber but also discussions in break-out groups that occurred in other rooms. I hope that some of the ideas that came from the summit stimulate some attitudinal change about what our needs might be.

One point has not been lost on me. Certainly, this supports state by state competitiveness, and there is no doubt about that. The Liberal Party supports the intent of the bill, but it highlights an issue that was raised in the public sphere not long ago. The Northern Expressway is an immense project which will derive enormous benefit for the northern areas, opening up opportunities for

business growth. It is a \$564 million project, or thereabouts, of which the federal government is providing 80 per cent, but a concern which was seriously expressed to members of the opposition and which got some traction in the media is that we need to look at the opportunities the project created for South Australian companies. The Civil Contractors Federation expressed some concern that large tracts of that project had been given to interstate companies. I understand that decisions are often based on price competitiveness, but that is where the tax competitiveness of our state compared with that of other states creates an issue.

The Commonwealth Grants Commission has just released some interesting figures that look at nine key areas of tax policy across all states. In six of those areas, South Australia has the highest taxing effort for all areas. I think that, if we use 100 as being the average for all states, South Australia's overall tax effort is something like 111 per cent.

However, in this instance, if we look at the Northern Expressway project and the amount of work that interstate companies have been engaged to undertake and, indeed, the amount of machinery and vehicles with interstate registration that are working on that project, we have to consider whether it is the tax policies that have made it very hard for South Australian companies that have history, expertise, experience, the skilled employees and the capacity to undertake this work. Does the pricing regime, because they operate within a state where there are higher WorkCover levies, exceptionally high land tax rates and high payroll cost rates, make it difficult for our companies to operate within the state? That is something that none of us wants to even consider but, unfortunately, for some of these people it is becoming an increasing reality.

That is where harmonisation is important, because it puts some balance back into the argument. It is a key to understanding the fact that states retain the capacity to determine (as they should) individual thresholds, exemptions and tax rates. I suppose that is where our call has been at all times for taxation policies to be reviewed regularly to determine whether they are, indeed, the most appropriate.

The Treasurer has much work to do; there is no doubt about that, and the concerns that have been expressed around the world have made his job even harder. We will not know the true position with respect to the difficulties we will face in the 2009-10 financial year until 4 June. These are important issues that need to be addressed by all.

As part of the briefing, I asked some questions about the level of support from other areas. We certainly had contact with Business SA about its thoughts on this matter, and I am grateful that confirmation has been received in the last few days that Business SA supports the harmonisation that is intended to occur. We think that it is an important step forward to make this happen, but we again enforce the fact that, even though adjustments have been made to thresholds and, indeed, the tax rates, this bill does not look at that issue. So, I think we need to look at what some other opportunities might be.

I am grateful for the briefing that was provided. Certainly, it identified any issues of concern that I had, and my questions were answered very well. The second reading speech states:

Consequently it is not envisaged that there will be any significant revenue implications as a result of adopting the harmonised legislative model.

Given that payroll tax is a very significant income area for the state government, I asked the obvious question: 'What do you believe it was going to be? Was it \$1 million?' and they said, 'No, significantly less than that.' The Treasurer might take the opportunity to qualify what the actual—

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: The Treasurer—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: It's rats and mice; less than a million.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Certainly, the Treasurer has just confirmed that it is less than \$1 million. I think the indication to me when we spoke was more in the range of \$250,000, or \$200,000 or thereabouts. The Treasurer might wish to choose to put that on the public record when he responds to some of the comments made by the opposition.

Again, I confirm that the opposition supports the intent of the bill. It understands that collaboration between the states in many areas is a good thing.

Certainly, it does take some time to make these things a reality. Given that the agreement was reached two years ago, some effort must go into ensuring that everyone accepts things such

as this. It takes a while to draft the legislation and put it before the chamber, but let us hope that, with the debate and the input that will come from other members, we have steady passage of the bill.

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (11:25): I rise to support the shadow minister, the member for Goyder, and I congratulate him on his good work. Even though we are supporting the government on this bill, it does raise several issues that members on this side of the house want to put on the record. The bill will repeal the Pay-roll Tax Act 1971 and replace it with a new act, which will bring into line South Australia's payroll tax provisions and its regime as much as possible with equivalent payroll tax legislation in New South Wales and Victoria from 1 July 2009.

In March 2007 an agreement was made by all state and territory treasurers to progress the adoption of consistent arrangements announced by New South Wales and Victoria in February 2007, including the harmonisation of payroll tax provisions. The changes brought about by this bill will bring uniformity with our system and with the payroll tax regimes of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. At this time Tasmania has fully harmonised, Queensland has made the majority of changes, Western Australia is still considering its position (apparently the recent change of government has slowed the process), the ACT is set for 1 July 2009 and the Northern Territory is considering some changes.

Payroll tax rates, thresholds and exemptions were not part of this agreement between the states, and all remain under the control of each jurisdiction. In some ways this is unfortunate as South Australia has the lowest threshold of payroll tax in Australia.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Not true!

Mr VENNING: The Treasurer says, 'Not true!' Certainly, I will be interested to see what he—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Victoria has a lower one than us.

Mr VENNING: I will be interested to hear what the Treasurer has to say in his follow-up to the second reading on this bill. Similar to—

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: My information is that we have the lowest threshold of payroll tax in Australia. Anyway, if it is not true we must be the second, which is still not a great recommendation. It is similar to our uncompetitive land tax regime, which is by far the highest in Australia; and, in order to be competitive with our interstate counterparts, the state Rann Labor government needs to overhaul our system. Will this mean some relief for business with a reduction in payroll tax? I heard the Treasurer's comment a minute ago that this could be around \$1 million, give or take a few. I presume that will be on the positive side of the balance sheet for business here in South Australia.

We do not want to add any further imposts whatsoever to business at the moment because of the terrible situation we are going through as a result of the economic downturn. However, as I said earlier, this bill does not deal with rates, thresholds and exemptions, but harmonising payroll tax for business with other states. Why not? One could ask that question. I know that the states are fiercely independent of each other and that they do want the right to have their own rates, but, why not?

I believe that this bill could have gone a lot further if we had said, 'Well, okay; we will fully harmonise the lot.' If we have the same rates, thresholds and exemptions, companies cannot cherry pick between states. I have several large employers in my electorate, including companies such as Fosters and Orlando Wyndham. There is a great list of them, so I will not pick on those two. These companies can cherry pick between states. They are able to move employment—or at least the bookwork—to the state with the least impact and in this way rob our state of revenue.

It causes movement of jobs, so I cannot understand why state governments, particularly as they were all of one political flavour (they had been, but not now; Western Australia has seen the light), could not fix the rates to be the same right across Australia. I cannot understand why they are not doing it.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: Well, we did not have the crisis we have now, Treasurer, right at this very moment. You do not need to be Einstein to see what is happening, and on the very day that we hear that Holden is discontinuing the Pontiac and the Americans are not importing it.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: Well it just adds to the impost these companies are facing. You can imagine the payroll tax that General Motors pays here in South Australia. It would be huge, and what I suggest certainly would be a help and a move in the right direction, if nothing else.

The system really is suffering some sort of shock when big companies such as General Motors America and now General Motors Holden are discontinuing the Pontiac, which is fully built here in Adelaide. It does send shockwaves, and it is an issue which I do not believe should be politicised in any way, and I am not doing that. I just raise it here today to highlight that it is a difficult climate in which to operate, and the atmosphere of uncertainty right now must be causing the directors of these companies no end of headaches.

Here we are discussing payroll tax, but I believe that any relief we can give these companies we should give them. I question the bottom line again, and I will be interested to hear what the Treasurer has to say in a moment about the \$1 million. Is it a future impost, or is it going to be a handback or a relief to them? Business needs to be helped.

My last comment is this: in a debate like this we ought to be discussing whether payroll tax is a just tax and whether it achieves anything. I believe that it is a tax with all the disincentives it puts on employment, and that it should not be there at all. I cannot believe that any modern government puts a tax on employment today; it goes against any reality. I would love to hear the Treasurer saying in connection with this bill, 'We will do this but, hopefully, within the next 10 years (say, by 2014 or 2018) we would like to phase out payroll tax altogether, because we ought to.' I would support anyone who says it ought to be banned; but, in the short term, it ought to be phased out. That ought to be part of the political process, and I hope that both parties can stick it in their election manifest during the coming campaign. Certainly it would be great to have in the June budget of this government in a few weeks' time some indication from the Treasurer of payroll tax relief. After all, the abolition of this tax, of all taxes, would assist industry in this state—as would a reduction in land tax.

With those few words, I indicate that I support my shadow minister and commend him for his work on this issue. We support this bill, but with some caution. We would be interested to hear what the Treasurer has to say about whether this is a negative or a positive for business, and also what he believes is the future of payroll tax in this state.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (11:33): I also rise to indicate support for the bill, as indeed does the Liberal Party, but it is worth picking up on just a few points, many of which have been made this morning by the members for Schubert and Goyder. The reality is that this tax is killing business in South Australia. It is a disincentive to employ people.

It is making it difficult for contracting firms to get work in South Australia, and one example I give of this is the earthmoving works for the desalination plant south of Adelaide where a New South Wales firm, Abigroup, has the contract to undertake the vast majority, if not all, of the earthworks. They have put in place large earthmoving machinery which was brought from interstate, yet contractors here in South Australia have the same equipment sitting in their yards. They simply cannot compete because, when they put in a tender, they are stuck with the payroll and land tax implications in South Australia. I hear it regularly (and I am sure other members on my side as well as those on the government side of the house are getting it as well) that they are just being taxed out of existence in South Australia, and there is very little incentive to do anything at the moment. It is a matter concern. I hope the Treasurer will remedy some of this situation in the forthcoming state budget. We keep talking doom and gloom about where the world is, but the world will keep going and so will business in South Australia—it has to, we have far too much to lose.

It is a sensible move to harmonise the pay-roll tax provisions across the states. We have looked at that and, as the member for Goyder indicated, we will support it. The reduction of red tape alone that will occur by naming a dedicated group employer with the commissioner's approval to make payroll tax lodgments on behalf of specified members of the group is a step in the right direction. It is all a step in the right direction, but at the end of the day the issue is one of how inhibited businesses will be in South Australia by all these taxes, particularly payroll tax.

In my electorate I have very few large businesses, so there is a limit to the amount of payroll tax paid across my electorate. There are serious numbers of small businesses; for example, there are 600 small businesses in Victor Harbor alone. There are 3,500 ABNs in Victor Harbor, which is most interesting, but there are hundreds of businesses across the electorate of Finniss, many of which are small farm businesses and small tourism related businesses or restaurants, and

the list goes on. There are few businesses of any size, the exceptions being the SeaLink Group, which operates the ferry between the mainland and Kangaroo Island, and a couple of businesses down in the Fleurieu would be paying serious amounts of payroll tax.

However, at the end of the day in these difficult times we should be asking the government to give all assistance necessary to business to give it the opportunity to employ without being encumbered by this multitude of taxes that are restricting employment and making life more difficult. With those few words, I support the bill, as does this side of the house, but I make the point that, as long as we are going down the road of reducing red tape and a few other things, we need to reduce taxes to go with it. That is a priority.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:38): Everyone agrees that we would be better off without payroll tax, but unless you have a substitute that will not happen, certainly not in the short term. What needs to happen at federal and state level and involving the local government sector is a complete fundamental review of taxation in this country. I am pleased to say that the Rudd government has moved along that path of reform. Recently, I made a submission to the federal government on the need to reform totally the taxation system in this country. It is unnecessarily complex. I commend the government for introducing this bill as it will simplify matters and reduce administrative costs. It is a step in the right direction.

The fundamental issue that has to be addressed is looking at taxation overall in this country. We have some people who do not seem to be paying their fair share of tax. There are too many loopholes in the taxation system at the moment. I believe in reward for effort and I have no problem with people getting a decent reward for the effort they put in, but one would have to ask how it is possible that some people can end up with luxury boats costing tens of millions of dollars if they have been paying their fair share of tax.

I remember one MP in here, who was quite wealthy, who said to me once that only idiots pay tax. I do not agree with that. I do not mind paying tax—and I pay a fair amount—because I believe we have an obligation to support society and the people in it who are less fortunate and to maintain essential services. So the people who continually sound off and say that taxation is evil are, I think, deliberately missing the point and are interested only in their own selfish ends.

So, yes, we have taxation, and it will be with us forever, but let us have a system here in Australia that enables us, for example, to get rid of payroll tax. You would have to offset that with some other revenue source, and there are all sorts of options. I am not arguing for any one in particular, but one possibility would be a small increase in the GST. Of course, the problem with the GST is that it puts an unfair burden on low income earners, but there are plenty of options that could be considered if we had a fairer, more equitable income tax system and closed off a lot of the loopholes where people abuse things like trusts. There is a place for trusts if they are used properly, but at the moment you can drive a truck through a lot of the legal aspects of things like trusts. If people paid their fair share of tax, you would be able to get rid of payroll tax.

Getting back to this bill, I believe it is a step in the right direction and I urge the Treasurer, when speaking to his federal counterpart, to encourage the federal government to give leadership, and continue to give leadership, in the area of taxation reform across this country involving the federal, state and local government arenas.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (11:41): I will not say a lot on this, but I would like to quickly pick up on a theme that my colleague raised. When did you come in, Bob? Was it 1989?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I think it was 1889!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Bob came in a term before me, but I have always appreciated his comments and his passion for the job. He raised a very good point about tax minimisation. As we know, the Liberal Party per se is the party of tax minimisers; it is the party that has many members who spend a lot of their time working out ways to minimise their tax. I think of the great merchant banker who now leads the federal Liberal Party, Malcolm Turnbull; I bet he has employed a lot of lawyers and tax accountants over decades to ensure that he has minimised his tax bill.

I find it extremely amusing, when I hear about tax cuts being proffered as a solution to every economic ill, that many members of the Liberal Party (and I do recall the member to whom the member for Fisher refers) actively look at ways in which they can avoid paying tax. It is all lawful, of course; nonetheless, they look at minimising their tax.

The interesting thing about the Liberal Party now is that it is all over the shop on policy positions. It wants to build a football stadium worth billions; it wants to build stormwater projects worth \$400 million; and it wants to do all sorts of beautiful and wonderful things that will cost money.

Mr Griffiths interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Well, where is the \$400 million coming from?

Mr Griffiths: Where is the \$1.1 billion coming from for the desal plant?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: From water pricing.

Mr Griffiths interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: So, you are going to increase water prices. The shadow minister for finance has just indicated that the Liberal Party will pay for its \$400 million stormwater improvement program through an increase in water pricing. I will ensure that we come back into the parliament today and tell members opposite how much more South Australians will now be paying for their water to pay for the Liberal Party's stormwater project.

Again, that just shows that the Liberal Party is all over the shop on policy. The shadow finance minister, one of the most senior economic members opposite at the forefront of policy formation for his party, has just announced that the \$400 million stormwater project will be funded from an increase in water pricing. I read the paper yesterday and apparently Martin Hamilton-Smith was planning to ask the Labor Party to pay for it out of Canberra.

Mr Griffiths: You've got water price increases for the next three years.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: For the next five, to pay for the desal. So you are going to increase it further to pay for your stormwater projects. The shadow finance minister has said that the \$400 million stormwater project will be funded from price increases in water. Members opposite make policy on the run.

When it comes to tax cuts, the Liberal Party has had its tax summit here, but what has come out of it? Zip. It is very good at highlighting problems and at highlighting issues, but it is never able to put on the table a constructive solution. It is a bit like its call leading right up to the last state election that we should cut land tax. The land tax mantra was, 'Cut it, cut it, cut it. It is shameful what you are doing with land tax.'

What was the Liberal Party's policy on land tax at the last election? 'We'll give a \$70 million tax cut on land tax, but we don't know which rate to cut or how we would implement this tax cut. We'll work that out after the election.' That was how pathetic its policymaking was in the lead-up to the last election, and I see no improvement in its policy formulation at present, except for one frightening fact: the Liberal Party policy put forward by its leader (Mr Bankrupt, as I now quite appropriately name him), and every policy option that is coming out of the Liberal Party, is about bankrupting the state financially.

We have just listened to the shadow finance minister quite rightly put on the table the extraordinary financial devastation which has been wrought worldwide, which is now crashing onto our shores and from which this state is not immune. Mr Bankrupt, as the Leader of the Opposition, is still out there every day saying, 'We'll build a stadium for \$1.5 billion. We'll do stormwater for \$400 million,' which we now know will be paid for through water pricing. We have the Leader of the Opposition saying that we should relocate the Keswick railway site for however many hundreds of millions of dollars that would cost. The next thing is that we will hear him say that he wants a concert hall and that he wants this, that or whatever.

Every time the Liberal leader, Mr Bankrupt, pronounces a spending policy it will, without a shadow of a doubt, bankrupt this state financially. I will hammer this point right up to election day: a Liberal government is about big spending and bankrupting the state financially and it is not one with any economic or financial credibility at all.

On payroll tax, the shadow minister and other speakers talk about cutting payroll tax, saying that it is the great disincentive to employing people. That is simply not true. As the leader said—that was a Freudian slip; perhaps one day, Steve, but you will need to tighten up on policy formation. The current shadow finance minister, the would-be leader, says that payroll tax receipts have increased enormously—yeah, duh! That was because we have had a rapid increase in

employment: the more people employed, the more payroll tax receipts. That is how it has increased, not because we have increased the rate.

In fact, since coming to government, we have significantly decreased the rate. We now have a more competitive payroll tax regime than our nearest competitor, Victoria, and we have a more competitive payroll tax system than the state of New South Wales—that is not bad. We have a lower rate than WA, where I think the rate is 5.75; ours is 4.95. Yes, it has a higher threshold, with fewer companies paying it, but those that are pay nearly a percentage point more than they do here. I have always said that, where possible, government should look at reducing taxes to ease the tax burden.

We also have an incredibly insatiable appetite and demand from the community for more and improved services, but you cannot have improved services without the money to pay for them. In a perfect world, perhaps we would not have payroll tax, although I am not certain that that is actually necessarily good public policy. If you did not have payroll tax, what tax would you have? Would you have a 15 per cent GST? We do not support that; do you? Would you have death duties? We do not support that; do you? Would you have increased land and property taxes? We do not support that; do you?

Ultimately, you cannot abolish or greatly reduce payroll tax to the extent the conservatives opposite say that we should without putting in new taxes to replace it or, if you do not have new taxes to replace it, slashing, burning and cancelling widespread government programs. Of course, the opposition never, ever spells out that part of the equation; it simply says that we should do this, this and this. It really is very disingenuous and very poor, sloppy policy preparation, policy development and policy pronouncements.

You can stand up and complain about anything in the world you like, but when you are in government you have to come up with solutions and alternatives, and the opposition has not given me any alternative today as to what it would do differently on tax to what this government does. What I do know is that it is this Labor government that has reduced payroll tax on employers, not the former Liberal government.

What I do not hear coming out of the opposition's so-called tax summit where it had a whole lot of good ideas—I get good ideas about tax cuts every day from business. Business loves to talk about tax cuts, why wouldn't it? That is its advocacy role to do that. But we have not seen or heard of one bit of policy coming out of the opposition's great tax summit. Where is your tax policy? Silence.

Mr Venning: Why would we put it out now?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: 'Why would we put it out now?' says the whip, the member for Schubert.

Mr Venning: We will put it out during the election period.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Oh, you will not release your tax policy until the election period. You will keep it hidden from people, will you?

Mr Venning: We will put it out when it is right for us.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Right. So, we now know that the Liberal Party will not release its tax policy until the election period proper because it wants to hide it from people. You can work out your tax policy now; it is not difficult. You will have the state budget in a few weeks' time. You will have the forward estimates. You can release your tax policy then. But of course the opposition will not. It will try to do what it did last time, it will talk tax cuts, it will talk tax reform, it will not promise a zack and it will hoodwink South Australians.

Mr Venning: What did you do last state election?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Got re-elected with a record majority.

Mr Venning: You did exactly the same thing. You are a hypocrite.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: That is unparliamentary, the word 'hypocrite', sir.

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert will withdraw.

Mr VENNING: I withdraw.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Thank you. I am very offended by that reference.

Mr Venning: You are a whited synagogue.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I am a what?

Mr Venning: A whited synagogue.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: A whited synagogue. What does that mean, sir?

Mr Venning interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: What is a 'whited synagogue'? Is that blasphemy to the Jewish community?

Mr Venning: You check the *Hansard*, it is all there.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Like me, Ivan, don't try to use Latin, French or any other language that you do not understand. I have enough trouble with English.

Ms Fox: It is English.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Was that English, was it? Now, where was I in my blistering attack on the opposition? Can someone remind me?

Ms Fox: You were saying that it just was not on and they would not let us know what their policy was, they were hiding it.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: That is right; extremely well put by the member for Brighton. I cannot do any better than that but to conclude by saying this, that I welcome the opposition's support. We always look at taxation reduction where we can but, equally, we have to be mindful that we are in arguably the worst financial crisis the world has seen since the Great Depression.

It is affecting the state in a drastic way. We have already lost billions of dollars of revenue. We need to continue to provide surpluses. The budget will be severely in deficit. Our credit rating is at serious risk. This is an incredibly difficult time and one in which making tax cuts becomes all the more problematic and very difficult.

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

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development) (11:54): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P. CAICA: The matter that I raise today has ongoing importance to all South Australians, but is one that is highlighted on this particular day. Across the world, 28 April has two parallel designations: International Workers Memorial Day and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

International Workers Memorial Day began in Canada in the late 1980s to recognise landmark labour laws in that country, and is now recognised worldwide as a day of action and remembrance on workplace health and safety. In conjunction with this, the International Labour Organisation has, since 2003, declared the same day as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work to promote safe, healthy and decent work.

Today in Adelaide I joined about 200 others at an ecumenical service at the Baptist church in the city to honour those who have died from a work-related injury or illness in South Australia, to remember those people and to lend support to those South Australian families whose lives have been scarred by the loss of a loved one whose death has occurred in the course of or due to their work.

For those of us in this house charged with the responsibility of making laws for our community, that service on this day serves as a stark reminder of the terrible human toll that has taken place in Australia because of unsafe workplaces or practices. National figures show that more than 250 Australians die every year from workplace trauma, while an estimated 140,000 are seriously injured. In a recent report, the former Australian Safety and Compensation Council (now

known as Safe Work Australia) estimated from 2005-06 data that workplace harm costs Australia \$57.5 billion in total and that, on average, it costs the community \$125,700 for each incident of workplace harm, including the forgone economic activity.

This day calls for reflection about the lives lost and harmed. It is also about reinforcing a commitment to action to make our workplaces as safe as possible in the future. Workplace safety is not just a South Australian issue: it is a worldwide challenge. On a global basis, the International Labour Organisation estimates that more than two million people die from workplace injury and disease every year and that 270 million safety failures occur. The ILO also estimates the total cost to be about 4 per cent of the world's GDP.

The concern that is held internationally about workplace harm was highlighted in June last year with the signing of the Seoul Declaration on Safety and Health at Work at the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held in South Korea. In Australia, official figures continue to show that, in particular, our farms, mines, construction sites, factories, warehouses and transport hubs present significant risks to worker safety, and these remain the focus of preventive programs in our state.

DAYLIGHT SAVING EXTENSION

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development) (11:57): I seek leave to make another ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P. CAICA: The government has considered community feedback from extensive consultations undertaken in regard to the trial extension of daylight saving in South Australia. South Australia has now trialled two summer periods of extended daylight saving, the first being the extra week in April 2008 and the other the three-week period in October of the same year. Prior to the trial extension in 2007 and, following the extensions in April and October 2008, SafeWork SA undertook a wide public consultation to ascertain the range of views held across the state.

The consultation included opportunities for the public to provide feedback to a designated page on the SafeWork SA website; engagement of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet State Strategic Plan Community Network for the conduct of an online survey; and consideration of correspondence received since the first part of the trial in April 2008. Mindful of the considerable community interest in this issue, the government lengthened the period of public consultation by three weeks after the October trial extension, concluding it on 12 December 2008.

To add further depth to the consultation, SafeWork SA also commissioned an independent, random and statistically valid telephone survey that was undertaken by a private research company (Harrison Research) across the state in early December 2008. Analysis of the feedback indicated that, on balance, there is broad support amongst South Australians for the ongoing extension of daylight saving on the basis of social, community and work/life considerations. Many South Australians indicated that they valued the extra daylight hours for participating in sporting and recreational pursuits and for spending more time with their family.

In addition, businesses indicated that extending daylight saving will reduce cost and confusion by maintaining a consistent time differential between New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT for the entire year. If the extension was not continued, the tourism, media and airline industries in particular would be disadvantaged due to the variations in time differences during October and early April each year.

It is the government's intention to now put in place the appropriate legislative arrangements to confirm that daylight saving will commence on the first Sunday in October each year and run until the first Sunday in April the following year. In doing so, the government acknowledges the concerns expressed by some individuals and groups, particularly those in some of our regional areas, about the local impacts of the daylight saving extension. SafeWork SA will continue liaising with regional communities across the state to assist in the development of practical strategies that will help them to mitigate some of the impacts of extended daylight saving.

STAMP DUTIES (TAX REFORM) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 8 April 2009. Page 2330.)

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (12:00): Again, I confirm that I will be the lead speaker for the opposition, and I indicate that the opposition will be supporting the bill without amendment. I must admit that I will have to be a little more careful about any reflections I make in the chamber, because the Treasurer is quite good when it comes to identifying anything that is said that he can construe in a way that provides an advantage to himself. However, that is part of the cut and thrust of this game, I suppose.

I note that this bill was introduced on 8 April by minister Koutsantonis (the member for West Torrens) on behalf of the Treasurer. Again, a briefing was provided on very short notice, and I express my gratitude for that and also for the degree of detail that was provided to us. As I understand it, this bill is part of an acknowledgment of an issue contained in the 2005-06 budget that was presented by the Treasurer, and this bill introduces legislative amendments to phase out rental and mortgage duty as from 1 July 2009, the date upon which these amendments will commence.

On reviewing this issue as part of the briefing process and after looking at the budget papers, it is interesting to note that significant dollars are involved in the process—and the Treasurer is nodding his head in agreement. Looking at the rental duty (and I think this is across the forward estimates; the Treasurer will certainly correct me if I am wrong), I see that it is something like \$39.6 million; and mortgage duty is \$192.2 million. Again, the Treasurer is nodding his head in accepting those figures as being of that order. I note, though, that the stimulus for this comes from the inter-governmental agreement that was prepared prior to the implementation of the goods and services tax in July 2000.

There was heated debate in all parliaments across Australia prior to the introduction of the goods and services tax—and it was certainly an election issue the Howard government took to the Australian community in 1998—and the opinions of various people across the nation were quite divided on its introduction. However, no-one can argue that the introduction of the GST has provided great financial benefits to states such as South Australia.

I think the Treasurer himself (or it might be figures I have seen) has identified that the level of GST revenue received has been greater than expected over the seven or eight years since its introduction when it was predicted it would be something in the order of \$1.9 billion—and if the figure I have quoted is incorrect, I apologise. However, substantial dollars have come through the fiscal equalisation that occurs as part of the GST, where it is not necessarily the level of GST revenue generated by the individual states but an equalisation of GST revenue across all the states. There is no doubt that that process has benefited this state, and it has provided opportunities for services to be upgraded and infrastructure projects to be undertaken.

It is important that this bill is supported. I note from the second reading explanation that the finance industry made representations recommending that the legislation be amended to enable all rental contracts in existence as at 1 July 2009 to attract the benefit arising from the abolition of rental duty. We were advised subsequently that the industry had revised its position following the receipt of more detailed advice in relation to the application of the GST which removed the need for GST adjustment notices when stamp duty rates were changed. This is an incentive; it is recognised that stamp duty in a variety of areas across the state is considered by some to be an impost. Certainly, those people who purchase a home or, indeed, business groups and investors who purchase large office buildings are very concerned about the level of stamp duty they pay.

Having purchased a residential property myself late last year, I think that stamp duty on that property was in the range of \$22,000. I recall having a discussion with a person within the property area who talked about the stamp duty on a very large office building valued in the range of \$100 million—so a large multi-storeyed structure—amounting to \$8 million.

In highlighting that figure, he mentioned to me the fact that, because in many cases these buildings are being purchased by superannuation schemes, the cost of that stamp duty actually reduces the long-term benefit of—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: So, you're going to cut that one, are you? You're going to cut stamp duties on that.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Treasurer, I am pointing out some comments that have come through to me and putting them on the public record, that's all, and what some of the impacts of stamp duty are.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: You can afford stamp duty.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Well, like everybody else, I have had to take out a mortgage.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: You can afford it.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Like everybody else, I can hopefully meet my liabilities each month for the next 25 years, but we shall see. One can enjoy the home and like where it is but that, in addition to the purchase price, makes it difficult. So, rental duty being cut by nearly \$40 million and mortgage duty being cut by \$192 million across the forward estimates is actually a progressive step; I acknowledge that. There is reason for businesses and individuals within South Australia to be pleased with that, because it will reduce the cost of these sorts of transactions.

Stamp duty actually affects other areas, too. The Treasurer has no doubt had submissions put to him by the Insurance Council of Australia, which talks about stamp duty costs on insurance policies—

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: I probably do not get them as often as you, but I have also met with them. The Insurance Council of Australia talks about the fact that the stamp duty cost on insurance policies acts—in its words—as a very serious disincentive to consumers actually taking out insurance that they need or, indeed, under-insuring on the value. There is debate occurring about that. Indeed, the Insurance Council has evidence which supports its position, and it has been interesting to review that.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Are you going to cut stamp duties on insurance now?

Mr GRIFFITHS: Treasurer, one thing I am learning is that responding to you will actually only create more problems for me, so I am going to choose to focus on what I want to talk about and not necessarily reflect upon what you might say across the chamber.

Mr Venning interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes. In addition to abolishing the rental and mortgage duty, the government has also taken the opportunity to extend concessional stamp duty treatment provided to exploration licences to include geothermal licences. Again, this is a step forward, and I acknowledge the effort that has been made in this regard.

Energy production is an enormous challenge for all parts of the world. Within Australia, the fact that the majority is from coal fired plants does, in itself, create the need for opportunity to actually seek any other form of energy production. I know that the member for Flinders has spoken quite often in our party room, and to me personally, about opportunities for alternative energy production within her electorate. She is quite passionate and pursues every possibility of that.

As I understand it, South Australia is well placed when it comes to geothermal energy production, but the financial challenges are quite immense in those industries, too. Again, I am not fully aware of the dollars that go into exploration and the potential use of this technology, but the chances to ensure that where—

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is all very interesting, but I just have no idea what geothermal has to do with abolishing stamp duty on mortgages and rental duties.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the member to explain to us very quickly what the relationship is.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I shall, by actually referring to the fact that it is in the second reading speech that the Treasurer presented to the parliament.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Is it?

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes. It is rather interesting that the Treasurer is calling a point of order, questioning the inclusion of the comments about that. I would have thought that the Treasurer would have supported that industry and would have made sure that he was aware of any opportunity to improve the viability of that. That shows rather flippant regard for what should be an important opportunity for the state. The Premier actually refers to it quite often as one of the future opportunities for our state.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: I didn't know what it had to do with this. I'll have to read my second reading speech.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes. Well, I actually referred to it in the brief contribution that I made, too. Anyway, I also note that—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Oh, yes.

Mr GRIFFITHS: —yes—other amendments have been made, including repealing of redundant provisions in relation to cheque and lease duties, which have not operated for some time. So, there is a variety of areas that the Treasurer has chosen to pursue within this bill. Some appear to have slipped his mind, but he has an immense number of issues occupying his time—there is no doubt about that.

The stamp duty reform is a positive one. It will create the opportunity for fewer costs to be incurred by individuals and businesses and, especially in these trying times, the appropriateness of the timing of the implementation of this legislation is good. I am sure that, while other opposition members in this chamber will speak in regard to this matter, there is no doubt that we certainly support the intent of the bill and we look forward to its speedy passage through the house.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (12:10): I would like to make some comments on this bill. Our lead speaker, the member for Goyder, and our shadow finance minister covered a number of points to be made on the measure. If my understanding of the bill is correct, I think we may very well see more competition between the banks for mortgages. Those who are not happy with the bank that they are using at the moment will be able to move that mortgage from one bank to another without incurring any additional stamp duty, or people may be able to adjust their borrowings, their mortgage levels, to suit different circumstances without incurring stamp duty penalties at all.

Stamp duty is, of course, a major source of revenue for state governments. Prior to the introduction of the GST (a tax on which state governments so quickly become reliant), I think it is fair to say that the Treasurer of this state had a view, which he no longer holds but which he expressed when he was fighting for his federal Labor colleagues in the lead-up to the GST election in 1998, that GST was—and I will paraphrase—an insult to every working South Australian. I think it is fair to say that the Treasurer, the member for Hart (I think it was back then), was wrong when he said that, because we have seen tremendous growth in the economy since the introduction of the GST.

We have seen a lot of people pulled out of poverty. We have seen a decrease in the number of working poor in that time. We have seen an enormous increase in revenue to state governments because, of course, state governments receive the revenue from the GST. As a matter of fact, the Treasurer's very own budget has been saved a number of times from falling into deficit simply by GST windfalls, which have covered the annual overspending of the budget. It has been a boon for state governments.

I am pleased that with this bill we are seeing the removal of rental and mortgage duty. Stamp duty, I know, is a bone of contention for so many South Australians. Stamp duty revenues have grown enormously under the Rann government, as we know. It is interesting that we are discussing this bill today in relation to stamp duty involving mortgage and rental duty, and at this point I would like to refer to a letter in today's *Advertiser* by Brian Clark of West Lakes Shore, who, I am sure, had a very unpleasant surprise when he settled on the home he recently purchased. Under the heading 'Stamp duty slug'—a typical *Advertiser* heading to a letter—he states:

Help! Help! I've just been robbed. I've had to pay \$24,500 stamp duty on a property I've just purchased.

That letter is obviously straight to the point. He was obviously shocked and surprised at the level of stamp duty on his purchase. I do not know the rates off the top of my head, but our shadow minister for finance would probably have an idea as to the value of that property for it to have achieved that stamp duty rate. He is very good with numbers.

Mr Pederick: Close to \$600,000.

Mr PISONI: I have been advised that it would be close to \$600,000 to attract a stamp duty of \$24,500. I think the whole thing about stamp duty is that it is one of those taxes that is there. Businesses pay it often because they are buying and selling all the time. Generally, the general public only come across it on occasions such as that described by Brian Clark. Of course, it comes with mortgages as well.

With the removal of this stamp duty on mortgages, I would like to see families, particularly those who have mortgages, not to be reluctant to take their business elsewhere if they find that the bank is not delivering what they think is a fair and reasonable interest rate and is not considering

their personal situation. If they have a good credit record and they are a low risk, of course, they should be rewarded.

Hopefully, this legislation will enable people to shop around without penalty. They can legitimately go to their bank and say, 'I'm not happy with the service you're giving me. If it doesn't improve, or if you don't improve this rate you are giving me on the mortgage, I'm going to take it elsewhere.'

Before 1 July, that is a bit of a hollow argument for customers to take to their banks, because the banks know that there is a very strong financial penalty in the way of stamp duty for that person to take their mortgage elsewhere. Because of that, we have not seen the competition in the banks that we deserve. We really only have the four big banks that we can turn to; of course, there are some smaller banks but, with the credit squeeze, we are seeing how difficult it is for people to borrow money, particularly businesses.

Businesses are finding it very difficult to borrow. Businesses have quite comfortably been heavily geared for a decade or so, having been told by their banks that they must reduce their exposure, despite the fact that they may very well have collateral to back up their borrowings. Banks are getting very nervous about business borrowings, and that is reflected in the higher interest rates that they are paying for loans. We have not seen anywhere near the reduction in loans for business overdrafts and borrowings that we are seeing in the mortgage market.

In the mortgage market we have seen the margins that banks are making between the Reserve Bank rate and their own high rates which, I would argue, are at historically high levels. We are down to about 3 per cent now on the Reserve Bank rate, but I know that many mortgages are somewhere between 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent. That is not bad money if you can make it.

The banks do these things because, unfortunately, there is very little competition for Australians to shop around for their mortgages. Having said that, we have a robust banking regime here in Australia, and I think it is fair to say that that has been managed very well by a combination of private sector involvement and government regulation. We have very little interference in our banks, and I think that we have had responsible government. I think that is fair to say in most instances. We have that on both sides of politics when it comes to banking.

It reminds me of a story that I heard when I was at the RSL breakfast at Unley on Saturday morning. One of my senior constituents was telling me that she was very pleased to be a supporter of the Liberal Party, but her mother had actually been a Labor member back in the very old days, and the Labor Party lost her mother when it tried to nationalise the banks. It was an interesting scenario that the distinct difference between the socialist way of thinking and the free market way of thinking had convinced somebody who was rusted onto the Labor Party to move over to voting Liberal for the rest of her life because of the threat of losing the independence of the banks from the private sector into government hands.

The stamp duty that we are seeing removed today came about because of the introduction of the GST and the arrangements that were made between state and federal government at that time for states receiving the GST revenue. There was to be an orderly reduction in some state taxes. From my point of view, having been a former small business operator and somebody who paid payroll tax, for example, it would have been nice to see the GST introduction actually have some impact on the reduction of payroll tax, perhaps by way of an increase in threshold.

I think that is the important thing, and it is what many small businesses would like to see. I know from personal experience that, in tough times, when you are faced with saving money where you can and your customers are screwing you for better prices, when you have to get more efficiency out of your staff and you may have to cut staff, it is a heartless exercise writing out that cheque every month to Revenue SA for payroll tax when you know very well that you will be going to the bank yourself to make adjustments to your own overdraft or, alternatively, you will not draw a salary yourself that particular month.

For those of us who have spent many years in small business, one of the frustrating things about state taxes is that they do not reflect your profitability or your wealth. They are paid based on the size of your payroll or the size of the property you purchased or the property you own in the case of land tax. Do not get me going on land tax! Land tax is a very big issue for people in my constituency, in particular. The Greeks and the Italians who came to this country with nothing knew the importance of owning property for their future and for their children. Many of these properties were purchased for \$50,000 or \$60,000 some 20 or 30 years ago when they were working seven days a week on the factory floor.

My father was never reluctant to put in many hours of overtime at GMH. As a matter of fact, he was a prolific overtime worker, and he had his very own nickname. They used to call him 'Both Days' because the foreman would come out and ask, 'Who wants to work on the weekend?' and my father would jump up and down and shout out, 'Both days! Both days for me, please,' because he knew the importance of putting money away for the future and feeding four hungry boys as they were growing up.

Mr Venning: Were they all as big as you?

Mr PISONI: All as big as me. As a matter of fact, I am not the tallest, nor am I the heaviest. At mealtimes in the Pisoni household, if somebody walked in off the street, I think they would have confused it with the family having a party because there was so much food around. My father did the shopping; he was a stickler for good meat. I can remember at one stage complaining to my mother 'not scotch fillet again', after having it for five days in a row.

I do digress; I am speaking about the mortgage duty. This does go to the heart of home ownership and people having a choice; people being responsible for their own livelihood; people being responsible for their future; and people being able to make choices. This will minimise some of the burden of moving house, whether you are a young couple who has bought a small apartment when first married and then, when going through the family planning stage, buying a family home and increasing the size of the mortgage; whether you have transferred from one end of town to the other and decide that you do not want to do all that travelling and you want to sell your house and move, and you decide to buy a slightly more expensive house and as a result increase the size of the mortgage; or whether you decide to borrow money for an extension or something along those lines.

Obviously this will help people who want to make an investment in their own home or change their living circumstances. Of course, the rental duty is another important impost which is being removed by this bill. Obviously we are supporting this and we acknowledge that this is only possible because of the introduction of the GST. We do remember the political campaign that the Labor Party ran against the GST at the time. We also remember the opportunistic campaign of the Labor Party (when in opposition), opposing every economic reform put through by the former Howard government and looking for some way to try to run a scare campaign.

It is as a result of that economic reform made by the Howard government that we are now in this strong position in this global financial crisis. We entered this financial crisis with no debt whatsoever. We had money in the bank. We had future funds set up. We had an efficient tax system through the GST. We had reductions in income tax. If you recall, when John Howard came to office, for every dollar you were earning in excess of \$50,000 a year, you were paying about 48¢ in the dollar in tax. You now need to earn in excess of \$150,000 before you pay the top marginal tax rate, which has now been reduced to about 44¢ or 45¢—I do not know the exact figure. I think that will be changing again on 1 July.

We have seen significant reform in tax due to the former Howard government. This parliament cannot forget that that reform was opposed on every possible occasion by the Labor Party when in opposition. The very Treasurer who we have running this state today and the Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, his own finance minister and his then shadow treasurer opposed every one of those single reforms which has put us in the strong position we are in today to face this world financial crisis head on.

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (12:29): I was enjoying that. It was a good piece of history and very relevant to the subject. I also commend the member for Goyder, our shadow minister, in relation to preparing a case on this, because it is an important matter. This bill amends the Stamp Duties Act 1923 and will implement the legislative amendments introduced as part of the 2005-06 budget and passed to phase out rental duty and mortgage duty, with 1 July 2009 being the date on which both of these duties will be abolished. The bill reflects the changes requested by industry and ensures that no rental duty is payable on rental contracts on or after 1 July 2009.

This bill has been a long time in the making. The removal of these duties was part of an intergovernmental agreement, stemming from the introduction of the goods and services tax in July 2000—some nine years ago. I had a discussion with the shadow minister a minute ago. He told the house about the amount of tax he paid on his own home, but a person buying a house paid not only tax on the house but also tax on the mortgage. It was a double dip, wasn't it? I am pleased that it is going because taxes on taxes are not on. In fact, in some instances we are taxing taxes; I think it is ridiculous.

It has taken nine years to gain this relief. The GST was supposed to reduce or even replace taxes such as this. In fact, that is the premise on which it was sold at the time. I know that former prime minister John Howard was very strong and brave in introducing a services tax such as this. We all support it and it is the proper way in which to do it. No-one objects to paying a tax as they consume something, and how much you consume determines how much tax you pay.

I understood at the time that these taxes were to go, but at that time all states had Labor governments; so there was hesitation and we still have them. I hope that over the years, as we finetune our tax regimes—and I would never say I support an increase in GST—we can be more efficient in tax collection in order to minimise or get rid of taxes such as this.

The savings to businesses indicated in the 2008-09 budget across the forward estimates as a result of abolishing stamp duty are estimated to amount to \$39.6 million in relation to rental duty and \$192.2 million involving mortgage duty; that is a total of \$231.8 million. Given the current economic climate, business will be grateful for this relief. I will be interested to hear what the Treasurer will say about that and whether he has it up his sleeve. I am pleased that business is able to have that relief.

Stamp duty is another tax disincentive. I am also very concerned about what it costs to collect these taxes. It annoys me to pay tax and know that a fair percentage of it is spent on collecting that tax. That really gets under my skin. The bureaucracy seems to be able to get through a fair bit of money just collecting it.

Some areas of exemption in relation to taxes such as these are confusing, particularly for the average person who does not study tax law. Of course, we all pay accountants to make sure that they know the tax law because it is forever changing. The Treasurer talked earlier today about people avoiding tax. Well, tax minimisation, tax avoidance and tax advice are growth areas of the industry, and most members in this house, including the Treasurer (if he does not, I would be surprised), would take advice from a tax consultant. I take advice because I do not know the rules. As a member of parliament I have to obey the law and I am not so up with the tax law that I can get it right; and that is why I pay big bucks to consultants who are able to advise me so that I pay the correct amount of tax. I thought the Treasurer was a little naive and precious when he made that comment because, no doubt, being as astute as he says he is, he would have his own consultant.

This whole area of tax is confusing; it is not popular, and it is expensive. As the member for Unley just said, these taxes do not reflect the profitability or wealth of the people who pay them. We all have personal recollections of businesses and companies that have battled hard and got into financial difficulty—and I have a personal involvement with one at present. These sorts of taxes kill businesses. They are unable to avoid the imposts: the barriers that are put up there by government charges and taxes such as this. Every time they transact—when they buy a piece of furniture or a raw product and create something out of that—they pay tax. It all has to go on the top. It is no wonder that companies such as Pacific Brands bail out of this country and go overseas. When companies such as Bonds, Exacto and others go with it, it is a pretty sad state of affairs.

We as legislators at all times have to be mindful to try to make it easier for business to prosper, particularly now. The bottom line is often very difficult to estimate, and if it is not in the right colour—if it is continually red—you know where you are going. Bankruptcies today are all too prevalent and bankruptcy courts are extremely busy, which is pretty sad. We all know and deal with small businesses: we buy our furniture from them and undertake various transactions, but the next time you visit you notice that there are fewer employees working in these businesses.

I hope that the prediction by Access Economics of our having an unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent by 2012 is not right. On the Access Economics figures, the level of pain begins at about 8 per cent; that is the real level of pain. Any unemployment is painful, but if we reach 9.6 per cent—if these people are right—we will have to start looking at relief for business, particularly those businesses with a large number of employees. It should be easy for the Treasurer to pick them out, because he will know who they are; their receipts will tell him straight away.

I am very lucky to be in the situation in which I am and at the age I am, where I can now sit back and not experience this anxiety. However, anyone under the age of 45 or 50 will probably experience anxiety about what the future holds in a system like this, and we as legislators have to make it easier. We should all plan to one day have only one tax, a GST, which is a fair tax. If I want to buy an expensive motor car—a Rolls Royce, for example—I will pay a lot of GST.

Mr Goldsworthy: Haven't you got one?

Mr VENNING: Not yet, no. If I wanted to buy a second-hand Commodore, the GST would be a lot less. That is a fair tax; it is a tax that works. If people want to buy expensive goods, they will pay; if they want to buy the economy version, it will be minimised. That is fair. The problem is with the sorts of businesses that are transacting to make a living; those that are buying raw product and making a product and then on-selling it.

That is how I see it—and in business I have been reasonably successful. Over the years, as a farmer, we had tax exemptions in this area. That was also confusing, because some goods were exempt and some were not. At least we got rid of all that. Some of those products are now exempt from GST—of course, you have to go through all the hassle of getting it back, but it does not matter.

I think the GST is a good tax and I believe that it is now universally supported. I understand that all state and federal Labor governments in Australia now support it. I wish to pay the highest accolade to the Hon. John Howard for having the guts and the bravery to bring it in. Introducing a tax like that was never going to be popular, and I think we ought to be eternally grateful to him for doing so, because we are now able to have a very honest and straight tax regime.

I believe that the old income tax situation was not equitable in the least. It had pitfalls right through it. Our tax accountants could drive a truck through it, and a lot of us benefited over many years by having a very loose, inefficient and costly national taxation scheme. I think the state will fix that with the GST.

As I said, this tax does not reflect profitability and wealth—the same as land tax. Hopefully, in the next budget (which is a few weeks away), the Treasurer will address this tax and also, indeed, land tax. He has got to, because our land tax regime is way out of kilter with all the other states. I would be absolutely shocked and amazed if he does not address this. I know he says that he has not got much up his sleeve. We understand that he probably has not got much up his sleeve, but he has just got to trim his cloth in other areas. His priorities have to be such because this land tax is an iniquitous tax. Some people are living in family homes of a high value and just cannot afford that tax

Also, I believe that our state pays the highest levels of stamp duty in Australia. The Treasurer will tell me whether I am wrong. I am pleased that the mortgages are now exempt, as I said earlier. Should this tax be harmonised with the other states, as we have just done with payroll tax? If we could do that, again, it would make it a lot simpler for everyone. Like payroll tax, I believe this one should also be abolished.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: It is, but altogether. Land tax should be gone, finished.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: All land tax should go?

Mr VENNING: I think so. In a glorified world—

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: I said 'should' not 'will'.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: Rubbish! It is purely a desire, but whether—

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: Land tax has been with us for many years. Now that we have the GST, hopefully, governments in the future one day will be able to phase them out. That is all I can say. Do not put words in my mouth. I did not say that we would get rid of it when we got—

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr VENNING: Anyway, I commend the shadow minister, and I do commend the member for Unley on a good speech. Certainly, I enjoyed that and I think that people will read that with some interest. We support the bill.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (12:41): I will not keep the house long. The Liberal Party does support this bill, and I am sure that members before me have spoken quite comprehensively on this. There are just a few points I would like to make. Unfortunately, I was with minister Hill for a briefing on some health matters before and I could not speak on the Payroll Tax Bill. Before I start

on this piece of legislation, can I say that payroll tax has come down in South Australia, but it has a way to go yet. It always seemed to me to be a disincentive to employ, but, unfortunately, like stamp duties and land tax, the revenue has to come from somewhere and it is a real balancing act.

When you have the financial economic crisis around the world that we are seeing at the moment and you see governments overseas, such as the Obama government in America and the Brown Government in the UK, going to the extent of not only massive stimulation packages but also going into what they are quaintly calling 'quantitative easing' (which is just another name for printing money), I start to get scared and worried about what is going on with the finances around the world. I just hope that the Rudd government does not indulge in 'quantitative easing'.

We have some easing here. We have some easing on the pressures on the people of South Australia in terms of the reductions in rental and mortgage duty. It has been a long time coming. It has been on the books for a while. It is good to see that this is actually happening. The \$39.6 million for rental duty and the \$192.2 million for mortgage duty will be another hole in the budget, which means that the Treasurer will have to try to juggle figures around to overcome it. Each year I wish the Treasurer well with his budgets and on his new tie, because I know that he does try to do what he can with the money. The sad part is that we have had the rivers of gold in the past seven years but now it is really tough.

I am really looking forward to seeing how the Treasurer does perform. This reduction in income to the state is significant, but it is overdue. It was foreseen, it is not unexpected and so should well and truly be covered. I do have one question for the Treasurer: is there a GST component in this? I do not know. The one issue I have had with the GST is that, in many cases, you are paying a tax on a tax. I do not think that should ever be the case, whether it is on petrol or with respect to the other cases. Other than that, the GST, as a broad-based tax, is now welcomed by the Labor Party. It is a good tax. We are going to see massive reductions in it. I am pleased that this bill is reducing the tax burden on the people of South Australia. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:45): I also rise in support of this bill and note the contributions of my fellow members and also the briefing we had from the member for Goyder and his comments in the house. I also note the excellent contributions by the members for Unley, Schubert and Morphett. This bill was introduced into the house on Wednesday 8 April 2009 by the so-called Hon. Tom Koutsantonis when he introduced—

An honourable member: Is he still here? Where is he?

Mr PEDERICK: —he drove in pretty quickly—the Stamp Duties (Tax Reform) Amendment Bill 2009, on behalf of the Treasurer (Hon. Kevin Foley), to amend the Stamp Duties Act 1923. During consultation in relation to this bill, as part of the 2005-06 budget, legislative amendments were introduced, and these were cast to phase out rental and mortgage duties, with 1 July 2009 being the date on which both these duties are to be abolished.

There has also been representation by the finance industry, and these representations have been considered during the process, with the industry position being revised following the receipt of more detailed advice on the application of GST on adjustment notices when stamp duty rates changed. As such, the current bill reflects the changes requested by industry and ensures that no rental duty is payable on rental contracts on or after 1 July 2009. We were told at our briefing that it is important to recognise that the removal of these duty costs was part of the intergovernmental agreement stemming from the introduction of the goods and services tax in July 2000 and not any sign of generosity by the Treasurer of this Labor government.

My own comment to this advice was that we have certainly been a long time waiting for these changes to come through. I was of the belief when the GST came in that most, if not all, stamp duties were to be abolished, so we have a long way to go. When my wife and I purchased a property three years ago, the amount of stamp duty paid was horrendous, and we have had massive GST increases—well above what was budgeted for—yet we still seem to pay stamp duty in many and varied ways.

The 2008-09 budget indicates that savings to business, and thus reduced revenue to government, across the forward estimates as a result of abolishing these stamp duties are estimated to be, in the case of rental duty, \$39.6 million and, in the case of mortgage duty, \$192.2 million.

In addition to abolishing both of these duties, the government has also taken the opportunity to extend the concessional stamp duty treatment provided to exploration licences to include geothermal licences, and that is a very good part of this legislation. As the new shadow minister for mines, it is heartening to see something like that coming through, and geothermal power, which could produce many hundreds, if not thousands, of years of power for this state if we can harness it, will be a great boost for the state and the economy.

We have only just come out of a summer with a hot spell during which 72 people passed away. I have not heard whether all deaths were attributed to the hot spell, but the morgues were full or operating at full capacity during that period. The advent of better assistance to renewable energy and any assistance that can be given to people in the geothermal field is to be commended. I was at the site at Innamincka about three years ago and a lot of work was going up on there, apart from geothermal work at Torrens Island and in the Flinders Ranges. I hope we get fast tracked outcomes, with companies being able to invest more money with pressure on harnessing this energy several kilometres down so that we can get better energy production for this state.

Other minor amendments have been included in the bill to repeal the provisions in relation to cheque duty and lease duty, which have not operated for some time and should be enacted as part of the bill. I looked at some of the taxes gathered by government and land tax revenue collected back in 1997-98 was \$143 million: in this budget, 2008-09, it is predicted to be \$511 million—a massive increase. It is threefold the amount of 10 years ago, yet the Treasurer cannot get his hands on enough land tax. When he goes on radio and people say, 'How do I pay my land tax bill, which has suddenly tripled?', he says, 'You are wealthy people, you can sell your asset.' Who will own the assets? No-one is wealthy if they own an asset. It is like owning a farm: a farm might be worth a lot of money, but it is only worth what you can make out of the day-to-day operations, like any other business, and it is only worth money with the capital realised when you sell it.

You cannot have all sellers out in the field just because they do not want to pay or have no capacity to pay land tax. People who have emigrated to this country are being crucified. They have come out in the past 50 or 60 years and bought property as an investment to keep their family and now they find that all the work they have done has come to nought because they have to realise it, otherwise they will be crippled with bills. These people believe in bricks and mortar and in industry and do not believe in other assets, like perhaps investing in the share market.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: This is not about land tax. Will you wind up or I will take a point of order?

Mr PEDERICK: It is about tax in general. The imposition of land tax and stamp duties in relation to purchasing property is a massive hit on investment. I note there were around 66,000 land taxpayers in 1999-2000.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, this is not a bill about land tax but is specifically aimed at abolishing mortgage rental duties. I ask that the speaker be contained within the ambit of the bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member is straying quite considerably.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: No problem: I am happy to stay here all day Treasurer—all day, no problem at all.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Discussion across the chamber is out of order. The member for Hammond will focus on the bill please.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Treasurer!

Mr PEDERICK: When I need advice from across the floor I will ask for it. As I said earlier, GST receipts have come in and given this state government a massive influx of funds, which have been fought hard against on a state and federal level, yet they still want massive tax grabs, including stamp duty, and much of it has been frittered away in the seven best years of earning capacity that this state has had. With those few words, I support the bill.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (12:55): The member talked about money being frittered away, but what did this government do with the GST windfall? It actually eliminated all state budget debt—\$1.2 billion or \$1.5 billion, from memory—that was left to us by the former government. Since it came into office this government has cut taxes out to the year 2010 by \$2 billion; it has employed thousands more teachers, doctors, nurses and service providers in the public sector. That is what this government has done with the GST.

They are a bloody greedy lot these Liberals, they fair dinkum are. Let us look at their contribution today about tax: it has all been about their own greed. The shadow minister for finance got up and his beef was about the amount of stamp duty he had to pay on a house mortgage. He is earning \$130,000 a year and he complains about the stamp duty he had to pay on his house. It was not about any ordinary South Australian; it was about what it meant to him. Then the member for Unley got up and talked about the impact on him of the tax impost, about how it affected the way he was able to do business.

Of course, we then had the member for Schubert, who is always good for a 'foot in the mouth' moment. What did he say? The member for Schubert actually said that, with the tax he has had to pay, he has not been able to afford to buy a Rolls Royce—yet. Well, I hope the media were listening, because I was gobsmacked with what the member for Schubert then said; he said words to the effect that under the old system you could get a tax accountant who could drive a truck through the tax legislation, and it benefitted everyone. So, someone who has been in this parliament for 20 years, a very wealthy individual—and I respect that—just said that under the old tax system he and his tax accountants drove a truck through the tax law for his benefit. As I said, the Liberal Party of this state is all about tax minimisation.

The member for Hammond then got on his feet, and, of course, it was all about him; it was all about the cost of the stamp duty that he had to pay when it came to his home. All we have heard from members opposite, in a 45 minute spray, is about how taxes have affected the wealthy on the Liberal side of politics and stopped them from being even more wealthy.

However, do we all know what taxes pay for? Taxes pay for services in working class people's electorates. They pay for doctors, for nurses, for ambulance drivers and for police to keep them safe, and those of us who earn more should pay more. Where is the Liberal Party's policy going? The member says on the one hand that a building owner paying \$8 million stamp duty on the purchase of a major building is paying too much, and therefore he will cut stamp duty at the higher end.

The member for Unley—I think he is the shadow small business minister—was going on about the indecent rate of payroll tax, stamp duties, blah, blah, blah. I assume there will be a wholesale cut right across the board by the Liberal Party in stamp duty, payroll tax and land tax as part of its election strategy. Well, it needs to come out now and say how it will pay for it—itemise dollar for dollar how it will pay for it—because it is disingenuous. It is a fraud on the taxpayers of this state to come out and give the impression that you will cut a whole suite of taxes yet not have the gumption or the ability to actually identify which tax and by how much. I appreciate the support of the opposition.

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

[Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00]

OUTBACK COMMUNITIES (ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT) BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the house the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

SURVEY (FUNDING AND PROMOTION OF SURVEYING QUALIFICATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

IRRIGATION BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

REMARK IRRIGATION TRUST BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

FAIR TRADING (TELEMARKETING) AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

LIDLAW, HON. D.H.

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) (14:03): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Don Laidlaw, former member of the Legislative Council, and places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Earlier this month, I was saddened to hear of the passing of Don Laidlaw on 14 April, aged 85. Don Laidlaw provided long and distinguished service to South Australia's business community and to the state as a manager and director of some of our best known business and industrial enterprises.

He served as a legislative councillor from 1975 to 1982 during the governments of Don Dunstan, Des Corcoran and David Tonkin, but perhaps Don Laidlaw is best known in this place for his act of political courage in 1979, when he and two of his Liberal Party colleagues crossed the floor and voted with the Labor government against legislation that would have cleared the way for Alan Bond to take control of Santos and, indeed, the Cooper Basin resources.

Donald Hope Laidlaw was born in Adelaide on 6 August 1923. He was educated at St Peter's College and the University of Adelaide, where he attained a law degree. He also completed a Bachelor of Letters at Oxford University's renowned Magdalen College, whose famous alumni include King Edward VIII, Oscar Wilde, our own Sir Howard Florey, Lawrence of Arabia and Dudley Moore.

Upon his return to Adelaide, Don joined the army and initially served as a filing clerk with the intelligence corps at Keswick, and at Rymill House on East Terrace. He described his daily filing routine as 'an incredibly dull existence' but, in order to overcome the tedium of the first six months of his army career, he began to study the Japanese language in his spare time. That led to his appointment as a Japanese interpreter based at the Loveday internment camp near Barmera.

In his autobiographical memoirs of that period, Don Laidlaw recalled how he arrived at the camp on his first evening and was provided with some threadbare blankets and a hessian sack which he was instructed to fill with wet straw that was lying outside. That was to be his bed, inside the very rudimentary army hut—quite different from the quarters being constructed right now out at Edinburgh.

He also recalled another valuable life experience he gained when staying as a guest on the Sewell family's property at Barmera. He wrote:

At my first breakfast I was confronted with a jug of iced yellow liquid sitting on the table alongside the milk, stewed fruit and corn flakes. It turned out to be iced sweet sherry [for breakfast] and Mr Sewell assured me that it was a regular 'starter' in the Riverland—

I will have to ask the member for Chaffey about that—

and that on hot summer days one needed a little stimulant to get out to work in the orchard.

In early 1943, after six months of working as an interpreter at Loveday, Don Laidlaw successfully applied for a position with the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps, based at General Douglas MacArthur's South-West Pacific Area headquarters in Brisbane, MacArthur being the head of allied command. There is his famous press conference and statement at Terowie when he got off the train and said, 'I have come out of Bataan and I will return.' All of us feel like that when we go to Terowie, that we want to return. He worked at General MacArthur's headquarters for the next 2½ years, helping to decode Japanese radio signals.

After the war, Don Laidlaw made his mark in South Australia's rapidly expanding industry sector. In 1956 he joined Adelaide firm Perry Engineering, which later became Johns Perry Limited

and is now part of the Boral Group. Don served as managing director of Perry Engineering from 1962 to 1973 and was a member of the company's board of directors from 1966 to 1988.

He was appointed president of the Metal Industries Association, which was the forerunner of the Engineering Employers Association, and, following his retirement from Perry in 1973, he served as director for a number of companies, including Quarry Industries, Bennett and Fisher, and Adelaide and Wallaroo Fertilisers.

From 1977 to 1995 he was chairman of Adelaide Brighton Cement, and from 1988 to 1995 he was a director of Western Mining Corporation, during that critical time of the development of the Roxby Downs Olympic Dam mine. Indeed, Don Laidlaw maintained an active role in corporate South Australia before, during and after he was elected to the state's upper house.

Having been a member of the federal Liberal Party's manufacturing committee, as well as the party's state treasurer from 1974, he was elected to the Legislative Council on 12 July 1975. In his maiden speech, delivered the day after his 52nd birthday, Don outlined the two wishes he held in relation to his parliamentary career. He stated:

First, that I can help maintain a high standard of debate in this council, and secondly, that no-one will ever say after my time in parliament is over that I ever lost my sense of humour for too long a time.

He was regarded as one of the Liberal Party's most influential members during his seven years in the Legislative Council. He was the only South Australian member of the federal government's Economy Watch Committee that was established under former prime minister Malcolm Fraser.

In 1978 he counselled Dean Brown (later to become a very distinguished premier of this state) against mounting a challenge to David Tonkin's leadership of the parliamentary Liberal Party. A newspaper article at the time, written by Greg Kelton in *The Advertiser*, reported that many ALP members described him (Don Laidlaw) 'as the only Liberal they could talk to rationally on industrial and economic issues'.

During his time as a legislative councillor he served as chairman of the Industries Development Committee. Interestingly, given contemporary events, in that role he assessed the financial plight of the South Australian Jockey Club—it sort of keeps on keeping on. He was also involved in negotiations with the South Australian National Football League that led to the financing by the Labor government of lighting and new grandstands at Football Park, now known as AAMI Stadium. So, those who visit AAMI Stadium should think about Des Corcoran, Geoff Virgo and Don Laidlaw.

As I mentioned earlier, he was one of the three Liberal legislative councillors to vote with the government to protect Santos and the security of South Australia's gas supplies. It was a sign of his influence that he was the only one of those three not to be punished for taking that principled stand. I have to say I was around at that time and I remember being in a room when Hugh Hudson was meeting with Alan Bond to tell him that, under no circumstances, would he be allowed to take control of Santos and that, if necessary, the government would pass legislation to prevent him from doing so. Of course, it was only recently that this government agreed to a request from Santos to remove the shareholding constraints that were imposed three decades ago because of Don Laidlaw's vote in the upper house after we sought and received assurances from Santos as to its ongoing corporate presence and contribution to our state.

In announcing his retirement from the Legislative Council in 1982, Don noted that he was no longer able to balance his parliamentary commitments with his ongoing business interests. He said—and this is a very interesting quote—'There is no longer any room in the upper house for a part-time member with outside interests.' How true is that?

Following his retirement from parliament, he not only maintained his numerous corporate directorships but he also continued to make a significant community contribution in a number of other areas. He continued to enhance his reputation as a vigneron, having initially planted 185 acres of vines near Waikerie in 1968. He went on to establish the 15 hectare Warrenda vineyard in the Barossa Valley with his youngest daughter, Sonia, in 1990. In 1995, along with his wife, Peg, and his daughter Diana he planted the Pancake Estate vineyard at the Warrenda property.

Don Laidlaw was also a significant supporter of St Mark's College in North Adelaide. He served as the inaugural director of the Playford Memorial Trust for 14 years from 1982. In 1996 he was honoured by the University of Adelaide for his work with the trust, with a three-hectare plantation of native eucalypts and acacias established at the Waite campus and named after him.

Don Laidlaw was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1989 for services to industry, parliament and the community. In 1996 his corporate contribution was recognised when he was named by the Australian Institute of Company Directors as the inaugural South Australian director of the year.

Of course, he is also the father of the Hon. Diana Laidlaw, who served in the Legislative Council from 1982 to 2003. She served with distinction and was a minister for the arts and transport in the previous Liberal government. Having followed her in the arts portfolio, I know that Diana Laidlaw was and continues to be a passionate supporter of our artistic communities who made a significant contribution to art and culture in South Australia during her tenure as minister, and continues to do so in a number of areas. I have no doubt that her father was immensely proud of all that she achieved.

Upon learning of Don Laidlaw's death, I wrote to Diana to express my sincere condolences and our deepest sympathy. On behalf of all members of this house, I extend my condolences to Don's wife, Peg; to his daughters, Diana, Susan and Sonia; and to all of his family and friends.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15): I rise to support the motion and thank the Premier for his kind remarks. South Australian businessman and parliamentarian, Don Laidlaw, is remembered fondly in this parliament. He died on 14 April this year, and he will be missed. I indicate to the house that the Liberal Party in the other place will make a similar but more lengthy condolence motion than in this house.

Don Laidlaw was a champion of the Legislative Council and he will be forever remembered as such. Don retired as chairman of Adelaide Brighton Cement in 1995. He was also a director of Western Mining Corporation. As we have heard, Mr Laidlaw was a Liberal member of South Australia's Legislative Council from 1975 to 1982, and he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1989 for his services to industry, parliament and the community. Don is remembered on this side particularly for his kindness, his tolerance, his commitment, and his capacity for friendship.

After attending St Peter's College, Don started a law degree before the war intervened. As we have heard, he joined the Australian Intelligence Corp, learning Japanese with the help of Japanese internees at Loveday Internment Camp in the Riverland. I understand that, after the war, he wanted to go on to learn Russian, but other events intervened. For the next 2½ years, Don was a code-breaker, decoding Japanese radio signals.

After the war, he resumed his law degree and, at law school, met and later married fellow law student, Vivienne Perry. They had three children together. Don's eldest daughter, Diana, was also a Liberal member of the South Australian parliament from 1982 to 2002. In June 2005, Diana Laidlaw followed her father's footsteps once again by being made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the parliament, the arts and for improved transport systems. After Vivienne's death, Don later married her sister, Peg, and enjoyed 41 years of happy married life.

Don spent 20 years as a manufacturer, manager or director of various South Australian-based companies involved in engineering, cement, quarrying, fertilisers and chemicals before his parliamentary career began. He was elected on 12 July 1975, and he was an MLC until 5 November 1982. His maiden speech on 7 August 1975 concentrated on his experience in industrial development and industrial relations.

As we have heard, a significant contribution in the parliament was his decision to support the Labor government's legislation to restrict voting rights in two local companies (the South Australian Gas Company and Santos) from predatory interstate purchasers, because he believed the security of gas distribution and resources was absolutely vital for the future development of the state. I can tell the house that I did receive a couple of animated calls from Don during our consideration of more recent Santos legislation. His advice was forthcoming and certainly—

Ms Chapman: Unrestrained.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Well, welcome. He was a member of the State Industrial Development Council almost from its inception and served on a number of committees with respect to industrial relations, including several with former prime minister Bob Hawke. In 1995, when Don retired as chairman of Adelaide Brighton Ltd and as a director of Western Mining, he planned and planted the Pancake Estate vineyard in the hills above the Barossa Valley, between Lyndoch and Williamstown.

Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: I hear the member for Kavel applauding that decision by Don. He utilised all of the experience he had gained over 36 years of involvement in vineyard management in his post-working life endeavours. Pancake Estate was the third successful vineyard undertaken by Don Laidlaw and his family. In his life post parliament, Don was also the president of the South Australian Liberal Party and the first chair of the Playford Trust. As a director of Western Mining company he relished being involved in the development of Roxby Downs and the Olympic Dam mine. He traced his family history and wrote about his war years.

In 1996, Don was named the inaugural South Australian director of the year by the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Diana observed that his interest in business loomed large in his life to the last, still requesting the *Financial Review* to be delivered daily to him in intensive care at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Don was a champion of the parliament and the Liberal Party, and he will be remembered as one of a generation of members of parliament who stepped forward from the business community and community life to serve in the parliament, almost as a duty, almost as a calling, and almost as an obligation, in the belief that he should return something to the community, having already accomplished a great deal and having led a very successful life.

This was truly in the spirit of the founding years of this parliament, when so many very well established and well regarded South Australians saw it as their calling, to step forward to the parliament and, without remuneration and without reward, to serve the people of this great state. In that respect, Don was a very special example of many on both sides of the house who have served this state with distinction.

On behalf of the state Liberal Party and all Liberals across the state, I express our condolences and warm regards to the family. It was a great privilege to attend Don's funeral service along with many of my colleagues, present and past. He was a champion. To the family I say that they should be very proud of all that Don achieved. We remember him.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (14:22): One thing in politics and parliament that I discovered is that you cannot help but like the Laidlaws, certainly the Laidlaws whom I met. I do have a fond spot for Diana, even when I was in full attack mode in opposition. It was difficult not to like Diana.

I got to know Diana's father when he was chairman of the Adelaide Brighton Cement company, then in my electorate. I had a long association with Adelaide Brighton Cement prior to even coming into parliament because my best friend's father used to work there, and I used to play in the Adelaide Brighton Cement versus Portland Cement company annual footy match. It was a moment of no great merit at all, to be honest. I always went along to the Adelaide Brighton Cement footy day, with free grog and free food, and I met Don at one of those picnics.

When I got into parliament, Don was very quick to meet me. In fact, I had some dealings with him when I was an adviser to the opposition. I should try to recall that as carefully as I can. When I was an adviser to the minister of industry, Lynn Arnold, there was an attempt by another cement company to enter into South Australian waters and set up an operation in South Australia.

Back in the eighties, of course, the Adelaide business establishment—I use this term in the kindest way—was very good at ensuring that governments of the day understood what was good for business and what was not good for business. Clearly, overt competition for cement against Adelaide Brighton Cement in Adelaide might not necessarily be in the best interests of people who were employed in South Australia.

Of course, as a government, we could not enforce any anti-competitive measures to stop the said company, which I will not name, from actually setting up a depot in competition to Adelaide Brighton Cement. It is just that, in those days, we owned the marine and harbours, and the wharfage charges that we told the new entrant they would have to pay were somewhat larger than what Adelaide Brighton Cement was paying—whatever it took in those days.

Of course, the world has since changed, and those sorts of things could never happen now, but it was done with the right intent. Don Laidlaw, of course, the great board member and chairman of that company, ensured that Adelaide Brighton Cement maintained its position, in market terms, in South Australia.

Don invited me on a number of occasions to the plant. We had a lot of issues to deal with in my electorate where, every now and again, Adelaide Brighton Cement would have a blow-out in its stack and a whole lot of stuff would fall on the roofs of residents. I would get a phone call at two o'clock in the morning from residents telling me that their roof was full of 'whatever'—and I will not use the word they used—that came out of Adelaide Brighton Cement. I would often ring Don the next day or Adelaide Brighton Cement's management, and they were always good in terms of addressing those issues.

Indeed, under Don's chairmanship, from memory, a lot of money was spent by Adelaide Brighton Cement to clean up its act in terms of its emissions and covering the large stockpile of various sands that it puts into its processes, and that is now all covered. In fact, Adelaide Brighton Cement has gone a long way towards embracing alternative energy. Whilst this may well have occurred after Don's chairmanship of the company, they have now undertaken the use of renewable 'stuff' to go into their kiln to make concrete.

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: As you can see, I am technically very literate when it comes to the process of—

The Hon. J.D. Hill: Fuel is the word you are looking for.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Fuel. Of course, Don Laidlaw had a great association with the Perry family, and I did not realise how close. Perry Engineering was a great South Australian engineering company and, for those not familiar with my career before my civic duty of coming into this place and lending this parliament the skills and acumen that I have to offer, I worked in the steel industry.

In my early days in the steel industry, going back to 1976, I had a lot to do with Perry Engineering. They were one of the great engineering companies of this state and they held out against every market force that was eventually to see the demise of that company because, in those days, we had a large number of heavy structural steel, engineering companies in South Australia. We had the O'Connor Group, Perry's, ATCO Construction (in those days), Malco Engineering—a lot of large engineering companies.

People like Don Laidlaw were the people who built these large industrial entities into what they were and maintained them as the most competitive workshop they could until, in the end, a lot of these workshops were not cost-competitive. Either they were too large and their overheads were too large; imported fabrication had become the order of the day with big oil rigs and the big constructions, and they tended to be fabricated—if not in whole, at least in part—in Indonesia, Korea and other parts of the world where it was cheaper to do so.

I remember Don Laidlaw fondly. Of course, the Premier and the leader have spoken about his role with Santos and Western Mining. If I was a Liberal and I looked at Don Laidlaw's legacy, I would say that he was one of the great gems of the Liberal Party, not just in terms of his ability to straddle both business and politics—and, indeed, he is held affectionately in the Labor Party—but also as somebody who perhaps, unlike some of us, never really got into the more aggressive confrontational side of politics but really provided his business acumen and made South Australia a better place. Clearly, he made the Liberal Party a better party for having been a member of it. To the Hon. Diana Laidlaw and her family, the family of Don Laidlaw, it is with great regret that he has passed. He was a truly great South Australian, and I honour him here today.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Lee—Minister for Police, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:29): Don Laidlaw was born in Adelaide on 6 August 1923 and, sadly, passed away on 14 April, aged 85. He served in the Legislative Council from 1975 to 1982. In his maiden speech, he said that he intended to concentrate on two subjects in which he had expertise. The first was industrial development; the second was industrial relations. Don Laidlaw had many years of involvement with South Australian based companies involved in engineering, cement quarrying, fertilisers, chemicals and mining. In 1989, he was awarded an Order of Australia for his services to industry, parliament and the community.

Don was a member of parliament during a very turbulent time. It was a time of corporate raiders, and Santos was one target. In 1979, he and two of his Liberal Party colleagues crossed the floor and voted with the Labor government against legislation that would have cleared the way for Alan Bond to take control of Santos. Mr Geddes, a shadow minister who crossed the floor with

Don Laidlaw, was sacked as opposition spokesman on mines and energy as a result of his opposition to the legislation, but no action was taken against Mr Laidlaw.

Don Laidlaw was chairman of Adelaide Brighton Cement and a director of Western Mining Corporation until his retirement in 1995. In 1968, Don and his wife, Peg, planted 185 acres of vines on their property along the River Murray near Waikerie. Some 20 years later, this large enterprise was sold to Penfolds and subsequently to Southcorp. In 1990, Don, with his youngest daughter Sonia, planted a 14.8 acre vineyard on Warrenda.

In 1995, when Don retired as chairman of Adelaide Brighton Ltd and a director of Western Mining Corporation, he initiated the Pancake partnership, and progressed a plan to plant the Pancake vineyard, utilising all the experience he had gained over 36 years of involvement in vineyard management. Don's eldest daughter and former Liberal minister, Diana Laidlaw, took an active interest in the management of the vineyard and all responsibility for the sales of Pancake Estate wines—very good wines, I might add—since her retirement as a member of the South Australian parliament.

Don Laidlaw was a man of great intellect. My father often spoke fondly of him. Dad used to say that you could always talk with Don and you could negotiate with him. Of course, during Don's time in here, my father would have been either minister for industrial relations or shadow minister for industrial relations. I know that dad and Don had a very healthy respect for each other and dad used to always say that, if Don gave his word, you knew it would stick. I also pass on my condolences to Don's wife, Peg, his daughters, Diana, Susan and Sonia, and to all family and friends.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Adelaide—Minister for Education, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Tourism, Minister for the City of Adelaide) (14:32): I also endorse what has been said about the Hon. Don Laidlaw. He was a truly courageous and great statesman and a consummate industrialist who understood not just the fine detail of business but the broader picture and the impact internationally and nationally. We were privileged to have him serve in the Legislative Council, and the impact he had, I think, was far broader than many people would have realised.

Of course, he was intelligent, articulate and educated. I know we say very often at these moments that these people were respected by both sides of politics, but in the case of the Hon. Don Laidlaw I think that was genuinely true. He had friends on both sides of the chamber and was respected not only in here but as an industrialist and, I believe, respected by his staff as well. His employees spoke well of him. He was held in high esteem and was a man to be admired for his standing in the community and his service to us all.

It is also worth noting that Don had the capacity to speak to anyone at any level. I must have attended luncheons with him dozens of times over the last 15 years, and I would often seek him out and try to sit next to him because I enjoyed his company. He was a fascinating man, with stories to tell, great intellect and a vision of what a better world would be. As I say, we were privileged to have him serve in the Legislative Council. We are all saddened by his passing, and I pass on my condolences to his wife, Peg, and his daughters, Sonia, Susan and Diana.

The SPEAKER (14:34): I also add my personal condolences to the Laidlaw family. I will ensure that a copy of this afternoon's proceedings is forwarded to the Laidlaw family. I ask all members to rise in support of the motion in the customary manner.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 14:35 to 14:45]

BUDDHA STATUE

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher): Presented a petition signed by 69 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to oppose the erection of a Buddha statue structure on the Adelaide hills face.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The SPEAKER: I direct that the following written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

RED TAPE REDUCTION PLAN

66 Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (30 September 2008).
With respect to 2007-08 Budget Paper 4 volume 1—page 3.5—

- (a) what are the details of initiatives referred to in the Highlight entitled 'identified eight initiatives for inclusion in the government's red tape reduction plan';
- (b) what action will be taken to progress these initiatives;
- (c) what savings have been realised as a result of these initiatives; and
- (d) which agency is responsible for quantifying these savings?

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

- (a) The eight initiatives included in the Red Tape Reduction Plan are:
 - 1. Remove redundant provisions and regulations;
 - 2. Remove requirement for stamp duty exempt mortgages to be stamped as 'exempt';
 - 3. Allow stamp duty opinion assessments to be stamped on RevNet;
 - 4. Payroll tax (PRT) monthly return payments by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT);
 - 5. Increased RevNet usage for Land Tax and Emergency Services Levy (ESL) Certificate processing;
 - 6. Reduction in telephone calls by improving information accessibility
 - 7. Online completion and lodgement of PRT Trainee Rebate Applications and Trainee details; and
 - 8. Online completion and lodgement of PRT Exporters Rebate.
- (b) Action being taken to progress these initiatives.
 - 1. The Statutes Amendment and Repeal (Taxation Administration) Act 2008, which removes redundant provisions was proclaimed to come into operation on 1 January 2009. Other related amendments made by this Act to the Emergency Services Funding Act 1998 and the Land Tax Act 1936, come into operation on 1 July 2009.
 - 2. This was implemented in December 2007, with notification provided to all lodging parties.
 - 3. This initiative has been fully implemented with stamp duty opinion assessments being stamped on RevNet since September 2008.
 - 4. An EFT option for PRT monthly return payment has been available to taxpayers since July 2008.
 - 5. Targeted marketing strategy undertaken with letters and flyers sent to all potential applicants in December 2007. Ongoing monitoring of applications. Follow up of those who have not elected to use RevNet commenced in February 2008.
 - 6. RevenueSA is maintaining a range of ongoing strategies to minimise the number of telephone calls received from taxpayers and to ensure the provision of up to date online information. Further strategies have been identified to extend the provision of online information. These are being progressively implemented, some of which will be included in RISTEC (a new IT system).
 - 7. Requirement for Statutory Declaration removed and new form implemented. Online application functionality included in RISTEC business requirements.

8. Requirement for Statutory Declaration removed and new form implemented. Online application functionality included in RISTEC business requirements.
- (c) Savings realised as a result of these initiatives.
Business net red tape savings to date are at \$25.7 million per annum.
- (d) The agency responsible for quantifying these savings.
Savings are calculated by the Department of Treasury and Finance using the Business Cost Calculator, with values independently verified by Deloitte.

PRINT MEDIA WAREHOUSE

103 Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (30 September 2008).

1. Were there any additional costs involved in obtaining Print Media Warehouse as the government's new stationery supplier and if so, what are the details?
2. Will this supplier deliver the same service and requirements as previously provided by Supply SA or are additional suppliers required?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations): I have been provided the following information:

The Department of Treasury and Finance is currently preparing a tender specification for a stationery contract that will replace the service provided by Supply SA, which closed on 30 June 2008. As the tender has not yet been let, it cannot have been won, whether by Print Media Warehouse or any other provider.

Print Media Warehouse is currently the preferred supplier of stationery to the House of Assembly.

If any member has concerns about the service provided by Print Media Warehouse, those concerns should be addressed to the Speaker.

ROAD MAINTENANCE, FAR NORTH

188 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008).

1. When will the state government undertake maintenance works and grading of the road between Mount Serle and Arkaroola?
2. How many road gangs are currently operating in the far north of this state?
3. How much funding is currently provided for road gangs operating in the far north, what projects are currently being undertaken and what maintenance works will be undertaken next year?
4. Is there a future plan to increase the number of workers and road gangs in the far north to keep up with the level of maintenance and road works urgently required in these areas?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

1. The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) maintains the access road from the Copley-Balcanoona Road past Mount Serle to the Umberatana Homestead. This road is graded on average once per year or when urgent repairs are needed.

The road from Umberatana Homestead to Arkaroola is not maintained by DTEI.

2. There are currently 20 road gangs operating in the far north region of this State, including contract and departmental day labour gangs.

3. In 2008-09 the State Government has budgeted \$19 million for periodic and routine maintenance in the far north region.

In addition, the following projects are currently being undertaken:

- Strzelecki Track upgrade, total cost \$13.7 million
- Blinman—Wilpena Road upgrade, total cost \$10.5 million

- Marree—Lyndhurst Road upgrade, total cost \$3.9 million
- Road Condition Sign Automation, total cost \$1 million
- Outback concrete floodway construction, total cost \$3.4 million; and
- Shoulder Sealing \$800,000.

4. The government will continue to manage the far north region road network in a responsible manner and manage needs as they arise.

ROADS, COUNTRY

189 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). How much funding has been spent on the construction and maintenance of country roads since 2001-02 and what are details of each project undertaken?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

State Government spending on the construction and maintenance of country roads since 2001-02 is as follows:

2001-02 (\$88.516m)	
Adelaide Hills Bypass—\$0.162m	Flinders Ranges Tourist Roads—\$2.329m
Gomersal Road—\$5.624m	Hindmarsh Island Bridge—\$0.011m
Lincoln Highway—\$2.041m	Minor Works—\$13.008m
Noarlunga to Cape Jervis—\$1.841m	Noarlunga to Victor Harbor Road—\$0.768m
Overtaking Lanes Program—\$6.454m	Peterborough Freight Route—\$1.319m
Responsive Road Safety Program—\$0.391m	School Zones (Crossing) Improvement Program—\$1.089m
Shoulder Sealing Program—\$2.506m	Unsealed Arterial Road Projects—\$12.477m
Wallaroo to Port Wakefield—Kulpara to Port Wakefield—\$1.531m	Maintenance—\$36.965m

2002-03 (\$70.564m)	
Gomersal Road—\$0.110m	Lincoln Highway—\$1.015m
Minor Works—\$8.250m	Noarlunga to Cape Jervis—\$0.027m
Noarlunga to Victor Harbor Road—\$0.163m	Overtaking Lanes Program—\$6.107m
Peterborough Freight Route—\$0.017m	Responsive Road Safety Program—\$2.672m
Shoulder Sealing Program—\$4.060m	State Black Spot Program—\$5.322m
Unsealed Arterial Road Projects—\$2.889m	Wallaroo to Port Wakefield—Kulpara to Port Wakefield—\$0.836m
Maintenance—\$39.096m	

2003-04 (\$88.114m)	
Lincoln Highway—\$1.936m	Minor Works—\$8.585m
Noarlunga to Victor Harbor Road—\$0.016m	Overtaking Lanes Program—\$6.376m
Responsive Road Safety Program—\$3.109m	Safety Driven Investments—\$2.384m
Shoulder Sealing Program—\$8.986m	State Black Spot Program—\$3.619m
Unsealed Arterial Road Projects—\$3.169m	Wallaroo to Port Wakefield—Kulpara to Port Wakefield—\$0.219m
Maintenance—\$49.715m	

2004-05 (\$75.758m)	
Lincoln Highway—\$0.665m	Mass Action – \$0.672m
Overtaking Lanes Program—\$6.428m	Responsive Road Safety Program—\$2.519m
Rural and Remote Minor Works—\$5.937m	Shoulder Sealing Program—\$8.814m

2004-05 (\$75.758m)	
State Black Spot Program—\$2.964m	Transport System Responsiveness—\$1.991m
Unsealed Arterial Road Projects—\$1.007m	Maintenance—\$44.761m

2005-06 (\$80.321m)	
Eyre Peninsula Grain Transport Plan—\$3.123m	Level Crossing Safety Upgrade – \$0.171m
Long Life Roads—\$5.040m	Mass Action – \$2.026m
Mount Gambier Duplication—\$1.978m	Overtaking Lanes Program – \$3.645m
Responsive Road Safety Program—\$1.099m	Rural and Remote Minor Works – \$7.015m
Shoulder Sealing Program—\$1.215m	State Black Spot Program—\$1.894m
Transport System Responsiveness—\$0.850m	Wallaroo to Port Wakefield—Kulpara to Port Wakefield—\$2.328m
Maintenance—\$49.937m	

2006-07 (\$90.851m)	
Eyre Peninsula Grain Transport Plan—\$0.718m	Flood Damage Works—\$6.352m
Le Fevre Peninsula—\$1.034m	Level Crossing Safety Upgrade—\$1.017m
Long Life Roads—\$5.993m	Overtaking Lanes Program—\$3.942m
Responsive Road Safety Program—\$1.015m	Rural and Remote Minor Works—\$7.005m
Rural Road Improvement—\$0.508m	Shoulder Sealing Program—\$6.570m
State Black Spot Program—\$4.338m	Transport System Responsiveness—\$2.118m
Wallaroo to Port Wakefield—Kulpara to Port Wakefield—\$0.467m	Maintenance—\$49.774m

2007-08 (\$125.278m)	
Flood Damage to roads—\$16.133m	Level Crossing Safety Upgrade—\$1.867m
Long Life Roads—\$4.572m	Mass Action—\$1.138m
Overtaking Lanes Program—\$5.276m	Rapid Bay Jetty—\$1.108m
Responsive Road Safety Program—\$4.078m	Roadside Rest Area Strategy—\$1.353m
Rural and Remote Works—\$8.552m	Rural Freight Improvements—\$3.499m
Rural Road Improvements—\$2.894m	Rural Road Safety Program—\$2.464m
Shoulder Sealing Program—\$7.880m	State Black Spot Program—\$3.880m
Transport System Responsiveness—\$5.203m	Upgrade inspection facilities and checking stations—\$1.631m
Maintenance—\$53.75m	

GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

190 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008).

1. With respect to each of the South Australian Financing Authority, Funds SA and the South Australian Captive Insurance Corporation:

- (a) what are current exposure of these agencies to US sub-prime mortgage market associated with the hedge of overseas equities investments and credit markets;
- (b) what are their current percentage and dollar amount of international equities exposure;
- (c) have any of these agencies or any other government agency or financial corporation invested or hedged any funds either directly or indirectly through the following hedge funds:
 - (i) Macquarie Bank's Fortress Funds;
 - (ii) Bear Stearns;

- (iii) Basis Capital;
 - (iv) Goldman Sachs;
 - (v) Cheyne Finance;
 - (vi) Landesbank Sachsen;
 - (vii) BNP Paribas; or
 - (viii) any other hedge fund exposed to the US sub-prime mortgage market
- and if so, what are the total values of hedge transactions recorded for each of these funds;

- (d) do any of these agencies have an international credit risk on overseas financial assets and if so, what are the details; and
- (e) do any of these agencies have an off-balance sheet credit risk from exposure to overseas financial instruments, including derivatives?

2. What is the Treasurer's current approved limit on measures of interest rate risk for SAFA's portfolios?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations): I have been provided the following information:

Funds SA

- (a) Funds SA has an exposure to the US sub-prime mortgage market of approximately \$0.9m as at 30 November 2008 which represents 0.01 per cent of total assets under management.
- (b) Funds SA has \$2.6b invested in international equities portfolios, as at the end of November 2008 which represents 21 per cent of total assets under management.
- (c) Funds SA does not have an exposure to any of the listed hedge funds, nor any hedge funds exposed directly to the US sub-prime mortgage market.
- (d) Funds SA's international fixed interest investments total approximately 11.5 per cent of total assets under management as at the end of November 2008.
- (e) Funds SA has exposure to credit risk associated with financial instruments used in hedging various exposures in the portfolio. These financial instruments are marked to market each month and incorporated within Funds SA's accounts in accordance with accepted accounting practices.

SAFA/SAICORP

- (i)
 - (a) SAFA has no direct exposure to the US sub-prime mortgage market. SAICORP's funds now form part of SAFA following the amalgamation of SAFA and SAICORP on 1 July 2006. SAFA's insurance related investments are managed by Funds SA.
 - (b) SAFA does not have any exposure to international equities. As noted above, SAFA has its insurance related investments managed by Funds SA in its growth product. The exposure to international equities of this product is 32 per cent.
 - (c) SAFA has not invested in or hedged any of its funds either directly or indirectly through the following hedge funds: Macquarie Bank's Fortress Funds; Bear Stearns; Basis Capital; Goldman Sachs; Cheyne Finance; Landesbank Sachsen; BNP Paribas; or any other hedge fund exposed to that market.
 - (d) SAFA's investments must comply with stringent credit guidelines that are endorsed by the SAFA Advisory Board and approved by the Under Treasurer and Treasurer. The credit guidelines have been developed with reference to credit ratings assigned by Standard & Poor's credit rating

agency and permit SAFA to invest with domestic and offshore counterparties that possess a strong capacity to meet their financial commitments, including the timely payment of principal and interest.

Information on SAFA's credit risk (disaggregated by asset class by country) appears in disclosure note 22.4 of SAFA's 2007-08 Annual Report.

- (e) SAFA uses derivatives as part of its fundraising and asset and liability management activities to lower funding costs; facilitate diversification of funding sources; reconfigure interest rate risk profiles consistent with debt management strategy; and convert foreign currency exposures into Australian dollars.

The main derivative instruments used by SAFA are Australian dollar interest rate swaps that are used to manage Australian interest rate risk. Foreign currency derivatives are used to manage foreign exchange risk.

SAFA undertakes derivative transactions with approved creditworthy Australian and offshore financial institutions. All of SAFA's derivatives are on balance sheet.

Information on SAFA's credit risk emanating from derivative transactions (eg. interest rate swaps) appears in disclosure note 22.4 of SAFA's 2007-08 Annual Report.

- (ii) Interest rate risk limits apply for all portfolios managed by SAFA.

Where the portfolio is managed on behalf of a client, the limits are set by the client.

The limits for portfolios residing on SAFA's balance sheet are endorsed by the SAFA Advisory Board and approved by the Under Treasurer and Treasurer.

The key portfolio on SAFA's balance sheet used to fund loans to clients holds liabilities, assets and hedging instruments (including derivatives) and is run on a basis where mismatches between assets and liabilities are managed within tight risk parameters as shown in the table below.

	Primary Level Outright & Yield Curve Risk ¹ \$A	Secondary Level Basis Risk ¹ \$A
Short (<1 year)	±5,000	500,000
Medium (1 to <5 years)	±5,000	500,000
Long (5 years and longer)	±5,000	500,000
Net outright risk	±5,000	-

¹Basis point sensitivity (PV01).

As well as the risk parameters depicted in the table above, the portfolio has a value-at-risk limit of \$500,000.

TRANSADELAIDE

199 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). What has been the increase in employees in TransAdelaide's management and administration since the current minister took over this portfolio and by how much has TransAdelaide's payroll budget increased during this time?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

In total there has been an increase of 15.43 full time equivalent employees in management and administration at TransAdelaide since I took over responsibility in March 2005, up to and including 31 October 2008, representing a \$1.377 million per annum increase in the related TransAdelaide payroll budget over this time.

RED TAPE REDUCTION PLAN

200 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Since the Premier's 2002 announcement that 'Labor will do away with unnecessary business red tape and end wasteful duplication in government':

- (a) how much 'red tape' according to the state government's strategic plan has been reduced?
- (b) What has been the cost to taxpayers of implementing red tape reduction programs to date?
- (c) What financial benefits have small businesses and industry received, in dollar terms per organisation, as a result of these programs?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations): I have been provided the following information:

The South Australian Competitiveness Council was given the task of overseeing the implementation of a red tape program to achieve a target of \$150 million in red tape savings to business by 30 June 2008. The aim of the program was to reduce unnecessary administrative and compliance requirements, which impose a time and cost burden on business.

- (a) An independent assessment by consultants Deloitte found that the government's red tape reduction initiatives are on track to save South Australian businesses more than \$170 million per year.
- (b) The savings have been achieved at no cost to taxpayers as the red tape reduction initiatives have been funded from within existing departmental budgets.
- (c) The financial benefits received by individual businesses as a result of the red tape reduction program vary according to the amount of unnecessary red tape that existed in their particular industry. Examples of industries receiving significant savings include the wine industry with savings of \$18.5 million, property development, savings of \$17.8 million, and heavy vehicle road transport, savings of at least \$1 million.

GLOBAL BUSINESS PROGRAM

232 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). What was the cost of delivering the Global Business program for the ICT and creative industry sector?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations): I have been advised that the cost of the Growing Global Companies Program in 2007-08 was \$257,620.31. This is an entrepreneurial business skills program for young, innovative ICT and Creative Industries companies in South Australia with growth and export potential, and for older innovative technology companies still on a growth and export path.

Growing Global Companies courses cover a range of skills needed for successful business growth with topics covering Managing Growth, Strategic and Project Planning, Leadership, Marketing, and Media and Presentation training. Follow-on mentoring with each participating company is a strong component. In 2007-08, 30 separate courses were run for nearly 200 ICT and Creative industries companies involving over 300 CEOs and senior executives.

INNOVATION SHOWCASE PROGRAMS

233 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008).

1. What was the cost of innovation showcase programs in 2007-08 and what is the expected cost for 2008-09?
2. What are the details on these programs including, topics covered, attendances and how many staff assisted in providing the forums?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations): I have been provided the following information:

1. The cost of the Innovation Showcase Programs in 2007-08 was \$74,768. The budget allocated in 2008-09 is \$70,000.
2. The Innovation Showcase programs allow South Australian businesses cost-effective access to a broad cross section of South Australian industries to view innovation and business best practices in action.

The Program consists of 10 site visits per year to host companies demonstrating business best practices in areas such as innovation, workforce development, strategy & leadership, change management, safety, quality management systems, continuous improvement, product development, marketing, supply chain management and environmental initiatives. The site visits also provide host companies with the opportunity to showcase their successes as well as receive critical feedback from other visiting company representatives.

Apart from hosting site visits and applying learning's, the Innovation Showcase program has also become a dynamic 'hub' to disseminate awareness of a wide range of SA Centre for Innovation activities and services offered as well as a source of stimulation for innovation and business excellence in South Australia.

There are numerous topics covered in the Program, including:

- Integrating manufacturing process management into financial services
- Introducing Lean office principles and creating a lean culture
- Applying value stream mapping techniques
- People Culture—Training and Development
- Safety management
- Manufacturing Process Control
- Alternative systems and processes in vehicle manufacturing
- Managing Growth and Fast Growth,
- Product Development and Lifecycle
- Standardising Manufacturing Processes
- Developing an Innovative Culture
- Designing and implementing a new manufacturing system
- Optimising Materials Flow
- Introducing Innovative products in traditional markets
- Lean Thinking in a Public Sector organisation
- Value Stream Mapping
- 5S and Visual Management in the Office
- World Class Customer Delivery
- Supply Chain Management
- Commercialisation of new technology
- Re-engineering products and processes.
- Improving overall productivity
- Improving work flow within a small to medium sized manufacturer
- Environmental initiatives
- Innovative approaches to farming
- Managing relationships with suppliers and large clients
- Transforming a traditional dairy farm
- Using Lean principles in the finance processing industry

Attendances in 2007-08 have been 150 representatives consisting of executives, administration managers, manufacturing managers and team leaders from 86 various organisations (excluding the South Australian Centre for Innovation Incorporated (SACFI), the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) and associated organisations).

In 2007-08, there were 10 high-level small to large enterprises that participated as host companies.

Figures for 2008-09 for the July to September quarter indicate an ongoing high level of interest and engagement across the South Australian manufacturing industry, with registrations to the Program expected to reach 200.

The Program is overseen by several members of the SACFII on behalf of DTED, and delivered by a private consultancy firm Learning and Productivity Pty Ltd where 4 appropriately credentialed individuals are allocated to develop and manage the Program.

WEB-BASED PORTAL

235 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008).

1. What is the budgeted expenditure for the development of the 'web-based portal to integrated spatial information'?
2. How will the amount of investment directly generated by this expenditure be measured?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations): I have been provided the following information:

The web-based portal project is being led by the Department of Trade and Economic Development. Development of the portal involves undertaking a sequence of demand, technical, feasibility and implementation studies over various stages. Stage one of the project is being undertaken this financial year and has a budget of \$15,000.

Subject to outcomes of stage one's concept plan and demand analysis, a more detailed technical analysis and feasibility of the proposed portal will be undertaken.

Sophisticated spatial information tools have been developed in other jurisdictions including North America and are used principally to assist prospective businesses in selecting suitable sites for investment.

Estimation of investment that could be generated by this tool will depend largely on the technical specifications and feasibility that are to be undertaken in stage 2. Importantly, the spatial information portal would serve to complement other marketing and investment attraction programs that are undertaken by government.

TRANSADELAIDE CLEANING CONTRACT

247 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008).

1. Who is the cleaning contractor for TransAdelaide trains?
2. How much is the cleaning contract valued at?
3. How often are the trains cleaned and what cleaning is involved?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

1. Bombardier Transportation.
2. The cleaning obligation is covered by the wheel rate paid to Bombardier for each kilometre run by a railcar and is not identified as a separate component.
3. Spot cleaning is performed whenever possible at the Adelaide Railway Station whilst railcars are in service; a major internal clean is undertaken each evening prior to service the following day and a major internal and external clean is undertaken when railcars undergo a full maintenance service.

METROTICKETS

248 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). What revenue was generated from metro ticket sales in 2007-08 and what was the increase in this revenue from 2006-07?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

Metroticket sales were \$76.3 million in 2007-08 and the increase in revenue was \$5.5 million.

TAXI LICENCES

250 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). How much additional revenue has been generated purely from the sale of taxi licences in 2007-08?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

\$5.45 million.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

254 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). With respect to the 2008-09 budget papers—Program 4: public transport services, what extra supplies and services will be provided at a further cost of \$13.629 million?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The increase in the goods and services budget is due to impact of Treasury allowance for inflation and higher contract costs e.g. fuel, patronage incentive payments, plus extra funding for additional public transport services. The increased costs have partially been offset by the impact of the transfer of TransAdelaide rail assets to DTEI.

BUS SERVICES

260 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Has the department applied a 'third taxi rate' for 'bus services' for commuters travelling from the airport?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

There is no third tariff rate in the scheduled fares for taxis. Adelaide Metro fares apply for Adelaide Metro bus services to and from the airport.

TONSLEY TRANSPORT PLANS

272 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). What are the future plans for the Tonsley Railway line and Tonsley interchange hub?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

On 4 July 2008, the Australian and South Australian Governments announced a \$4 million Transport Sustainability Study into Adelaide's urban congestion, which will include an investigation into extending the Tonsley Rail line to the Flinders Medical Centre.

NORTHFIELD RAIL LINE

273 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Was any consideration given to re-opening the Northfield line and establishing a park and ride facility between Port Wakefield road and Main North road?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The State Government's \$2 billion investment in Adelaide's metropolitan passenger rail network focuses on upgrading existing lines, as well as providing a new Coast to Coast light rail service. In particular, the program includes:

- concrete re-sleepering of the metropolitan passenger rail network
- electrification of the Noarlunga (including Tonsley), Outer Harbor, Grange and Gawler lines and the subsequent purchase of 50 new electric trains
- gauge standardisation across the whole network
- interchange, station and Park 'n' Ride infrastructure upgrades; and

- further extension of the tramline to provide a coast to coast service running from Glenelg through the City, to West Lakes and on to Semaphore through the heart of Port Adelaide.

There is no intention at this time within this current investment program to re-open the Northfield line or to establish a park and ride facility between Port Wakefield road and Main North road.

BELAIR RAIL LINE

275 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Will the Belair line be converted to standard gauge as part of the state's rail revitalisation program and are the sleepers that have been replaced in recent years, dual gauge?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The Belair line will be converted to standard gauge as part of the rail revitalisation program. The concrete sleepers that have been installed on the Belair and other lines are 'gauge convertible'.

BELAIR RAIL LINE

276 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008).

1. What percentage of the 12 railcars set aside for the Belair line will be 3000 class?
2. With only 12 railcars being confined to the Belair line does this mean the government has no plans for patronage growth on this line?
3. Where will the fleet of 12 railcars be maintained?
4. How much funding has been allocated to replace railcar windows to improve visibility for passengers?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

1. It is proposed that all of the 12 railcars to be used on the Belair line will be the 3000 class railcars.
2. An increase in the frequency of services is planned for the Belair line utilising the proposed railcar fleet. This will effectively increase capacity for patronage growth.
3. At the new railcar depot to be built at Dry Creek.
4. \$700,000.

RAIL GAUGE

277 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Will the broad gauge be maintained and at what cost, and will the department take into consideration the extra cost of mixed gauge switches?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The Rail Revitalisation Program includes replacing all broad gauge with standard gauge.

RAILCAR MAINTENANCE FACILITY

279 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). What is the location of the new rail car maintenance facility, when will construction start and what will be the total cost of constructing this facility?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

On 5 November 2008 the Government announced the new railcar maintenance facility would be established at Dry Creek adjacent to the Dry Creek Railway Station and the existing stabling facility at Lonsdale would be expanded.

Construction is proposed to commence this year and the works will be funded from the allocation of \$157 million approved for the project.

RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

281 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Does the \$31 million over four years for upgrade to infrastructure and equipment include the cost of new maintenance equipment such as track machines and overhead equipment?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The \$31 million over four years does not include new.

RAIL RESLEEPING

290 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Is re-sleeping the Noarlunga and Belair lines included as part of the \$42.55 million allocation in 2008-09 and if so, why wasn't the money spent in 2007-08 when it was announced as part of last year's budget?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The proposed expenditure in 2008-09 of \$42.55 million on rail revitalisation delivers this year's program for re-sleeping the Belair line and for preliminary works on the Noarlunga line.

The 2007-08 Budget announcement made provision for the Belair and Noarlunga lines to be upgraded over a four year program. That announcement anticipated expenditure during the second year of the program to be approximately \$40 million, which is consistent with the allocation made available in the 2008-09 Budget.

FLOOD DAMAGE TO ROADS PROGRAM

305 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Why has there been a \$4.852 million underspend on the Flood Damage to Roads program, does the remainder of the work to be completed form part of the \$4.5 million allocated in 2008-09 and what work is yet to be completed?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The State Government allocated \$29.5 million to repair roads and infrastructure damaged across the north of South Australia following the January 2007 floods.

In 2006-07 the government spent \$6.4 million and allocated \$18.6 million in 2007-08. A total of \$16.1 million was spent, leaving an underspend of \$2.5 million.

The government allocated \$4.5 million in 2008-09, plus \$2.5 million carryover from 2007-08, which will bring the total funding to \$29.5 million.

The underspend in 2007-08 was due to a shortage of resources resulting from increased construction activity and mining exploration across the State and the need to undertake detailed drainage and structural design associated with the remaining floodways to be repaired.

Remaining works to be completed in 2008-09 include the upgrading and stabilisation of floodways at Stuarts Creek, Finnis Creek, Mount Victor Creek, Arkaringa Creek, Mount Curtis Creek, Frome Creek, Fish Hole Creek and McDonnell Creek and scour repairs and removal of silt and debris from shoulders and floodway's on Marree—Hawker and Black Rock—Clare Roads.

All repairs are due to be completed by the end of May 2009, subject to weather conditions.

BORROWINGS REPAYMENT

319 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Why has only \$1,000 been allocated within cash outflows for the repayment of borrowings in 2008-09?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

Correction to 2006-07 outcome data by Department of Treasury and Finance has resulted in a \$1,000 transaction against borrowings repayment on the cash flow statement. This does not represent repayments of borrowings.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

329 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). With respect to the 2008-09 budget papers—Program 1: policy and planning, how many more employees are working within this program which contributed to a \$1.446 million increase in employee benefits and costs between the 2007-08 and 2008-09 budget?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The increase in employee benefits and costs between 2007-08 and 2008-09 in Program 1 is predominantly due to annual Enterprise Bargaining employee benefit increases. There was an increase of two employees for implementation of the national model legislation to introduce Chain of Responsibility for Heavy Vehicle Speed Compliance.

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES EXPENSES

334 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). With respect to the 2008-09 budget papers—Program 1: policy and planning, what are the reasons for a \$6.295 million increase in 'supplies and services' expenses?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The \$6.295 million increase in 'supplies and services', as provided in Budget Paper 4 Volume 2, is a result of additional expenditure for AusLink 2 planning studies, Adelaide freight movement studies, urban congestion studies, the Intelligent Access Program and the implementation of the national model legislation to introduce Chain of Responsibility for Heavy Vehicle Speed Compliance.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

335 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Why has 'other income' reduced from the estimated result of \$91.441 million in 2007-08 to the budgeted amount of \$22.764 million for 2008-09?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The 2007-08 Estimated Result reflects two large one-off revenue items relating to:

- borrowings write-off of \$67.1 million as a result of the rail specific assets transferred to the Minister for Transport; and
- a capital grant funding write-back of \$9 million to revenue resulted from a transfer of deferred capital funding from TransAdelaide to the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

338 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008).

1. What fees, fines and penalties contributed to income revenue increases of \$19.877 million between 2007-08 and 2008-09 budget and what item contributed to the greatest percentage increase?

2. Why was \$46.712 million allocated for intra-government transfers in 2007-08 when \$31.782 million was spent in 2006-07?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

1. Items which contributed to the increase of \$19.877 million between 2007-08 and 2008-09:

- drivers' licence fees (23 per cent)
- motor vehicle registration fees
- vehicle roadworthiness inspections
- boating fees

- boating facilities levy
- indentured ports revenue; and
- land services fees.

2. There has been an increase in intra-government transfers due to the following:

- indentured Ports payment to Treasury previously classified as Dividend payment now classified as an intra-government transfer
- payments previously classified as grants and subsidies payments now classified as intra-government transfers; and
- intra-government funding payment made by Building Management Division to South Australian Government Employee Residential Properties to cover expenditure on their investing program for Roxby Downs.

GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

339 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Why have grants and subsidies have been reduced by \$6.9 million in 2008-09?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The \$6.9 million reduction in grants and subsidies is primarily due to the completion of the Eyre Peninsula Grain Transport Plan in 2007-08.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ACCOMMODATION

349 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). Why has \$2.19 million been allocated for building management accommodation in 2008-09?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The Building Management Division of the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure relocated from its Wakefield House tenancy to a new tenancy at 211 Victoria Square. The \$2.19 million is to meet lease requirements.

OLD STOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING

350 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (21 October 2008). How much more funding in forward years is expected to be spent on the old stock exchange building other than \$11.5 million allocated in 2008-09?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The upgrade and refurbishment of the Old Stock Exchange to accommodate the Royal Institute Australia will be completed this financial year. No further funding is expected or proposed.

ISLINGTON RAIL YARDS

378 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (17 November 2008). What was the estimated cost of remediating the Islington rail yards and did the final cost exceed the original estimate and if so, by how much?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The estimated cost of remediating the portion of the Islington rail yards, now known as Jack Watkins Park was \$5.5 million.

The final cost to the State Government of remediation of Jack Watkins Park exceeded budget by \$60,000.

RURAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

405 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (2 December 2008).

1. What roads will be improved under the Rural Road Improvement Program in 2008-09 and what work will be undertaken?
2. Will the William Creek to Oodnadatta Road be graded as part of this program in 2008-09 and in particular –
 - (a) Nilpinna Station to Paties Yard section
 - (b) the corner boundary of Allandale and Nilpinna Stations; and
 - (c) the Barton's Gap section?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

1. The following work will be carried out under the 2008-09 Rural Road Improvement Program:
 - Replacement of the Stone Hut Bridge on Main North Road.
 - Construction and sealing of the Blinman to Wilpena Road.
 - Construction and sealing of part of the Marree to Lyndhurst Road.
 - Pre-construction activities for reconstruction works on the Oodnadatta to Hamilton Road.
2. The William Creek to Oodnadatta Road is not part of the Rural Road Improvement Program. Work on this road is undertaken as part of the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure's Routine Maintenance Program.
 - (a) The Nilpinna Station to Paties Yard section is scheduled for grading in February/March 2009 and June/July 2009.
 - (b) The corner boundary of Allandale and Nilpinna Stations is scheduled for grading in February/March 2009 and June/July 2009.
 - (c) The Barton's Gap section is scheduled for grading in February/March 2009 and June/July 2009.

RURAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

406 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (2 December 2008). What extra expenditure is planned in future years for additional road maintenance as a result of increased mining traffic?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy): I provide the following information:

The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure closely monitors road transport trends to ensure that road maintenance activities are targeted where the greatest benefit can be provided to the community as a whole.

The Department is also presently considering a national initiative to adopt a cost recovery mechanism for the damage that large over-mass vehicles cause to the road asset. This will allow heavy vehicle operators the right to carry loads above the prescribed mass limits in exchange for payments to recover the costs of the resulting additional wear to the road network.

A South Australian trial is anticipated for 2010 and will be considered for specific applications such as mining operations.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

In reply to various members. (Estimates Committee A).

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):

6.(1) Total Number of Employees with a TEC of \$100,000 or more

As at 30 June 2008, the total number of employees with a total employment cost of \$100,000 or more was 11.

In addition, of those employees the total number of employees with a total employment cost over \$200,000 or more was 1.

6.(2) Positions Abolished and Created

Between 30 June 2007 and 30 June 2008

Positions Abolished—TEC of \$100,000 or more:

As at 30 June 2008, one (1) position with a TEC of \$100,000 or more was abolished.

Department/Agency	Position Title	TEC
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Director, Strategic Policy	\$135,378

Positions Created—TEC of \$100,000 or more:

As at 30 June 2008, four (4) positions with a TEC of \$100,000 or more were created.

Department/Agency	Position Title	TEC
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Chief Executive, Public Sector Performance Commission	Vacant as at 30 June.
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Executive Director, Public Sector Performance Commission	Vacant as at 30 June.
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Director, Public Sector Performance Commission	\$130,000
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Director, Public Sector Performance Commission	\$130,000

SURPLUS EMPLOYEES

In reply to various members. (Estimates Committee A).

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):

Surplus Employees as at 30 June 2008

Minister for Environment and Conservation

Department/Agency	Position Title	Classification	TEC Cost
Department for Environment and Heritage	Co-ordinator Aboriginal Heritage and Native Title	ASO6	\$89,252
	Graphic Designer	TGO1	\$59,414
	Business Manager, Adelaide Gaol	ASO5	\$85,348
	Special Events and Sponsorship Manager	ASO6	\$89,252
	Application Administrator	ASO4	\$68,270
			TOTAL: \$391,536
Environment Protection Authority	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zero Waste SA	N/A	N/A	N/A

MARJORIE JACKSON-NELSON HOSPITAL

In reply to **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition)** (11 November 2008).

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations): I am advised a figure for the public sector comparator will not be finalised until the detailed project brief is finalised as part of the

Request for Proposal stage of the process. In PPP projects it is standard that these calculations are commercial in confidence during the request for proposal stage.

CHRISTIES BEACH WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

In reply to **Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder)** (4 July 2007) (Second Session) (Estimates Committee B).

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for State/Local Government Relations, Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister for Government Enterprises, Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy): I have been advised that:

1. In the late 1990s the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) negotiated Environment Improvement Programs with the South Australian Water Corporation (SA Water) for the upgrade of all four metropolitan wastewater treatment plants. As part of those programs, the EPA and SA Water agreed to a target of 10mg/L total Nitrogen (median concentration) in the treated effluent. This Nitrogen target was not a discharge standard, but a target to work towards by adopting reasonable and practicable measures.

These improvement programs resulted in the closure of the Port Adelaide plant, the achievement of the target at Bolivar and near achievement of the target at Glenelg.

The target was not achieved at the Christies Beach plant. However, as a major upgrade is proposed, the EPA and SA Water are currently discussing discharge limits, which are likely to be set as conditions of a future licence.

This discussion is likely to be assisted by recommendations of the Adelaide Coastal Waters Study.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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) (14:46): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Last month the Economic Development Board delivered to the government its economic statement. I made a promise on that day that on this day I would make a reply on behalf of the government, given that I will be at the Council of Australian Governments meeting in Tasmania tomorrow and Thursday.

This statement was prepared in response to the EDB's statement. It was prepared in response to the government's request for advice about the future directions of and opportunities for South Australia's economy. The statement was guided extensively by South Australia's Strategic Plan, as well as contributions from many South Australians from business and the wider community.

I am pleased to report that despite the very difficult current global circumstances we can be optimistic about the future of this state. The EDB chair, Bruce Carter, has said that the medium term outlook for South Australia is bright and that the state is likely to outperform the national economy when global growth returns. This is not to downplay the current economic challenges.

Because of the seriousness of the global financial crisis, I extended the terms of reference for the economic statement and requested the EDB to provide advice to government on the global economic environment and implications for growth. The EDB believes that this is a critical time to invest in public infrastructure, both to generate employment and to prepare for the inevitable upswing in economic activity. I accept completely the board's assessment, which is why this government remains committed to a record investment of \$9.2 billion on infrastructure over the next four years, as outlined in the 2008-09 budget.

Like all governments in Australia, we must contend with significant budget pressure, as GST and other revenue streams decline in the wake of the global financial crisis—and decline dramatically, as they have. However, we will not run up the white flag on the state's economy by cutting back on our infrastructure program.

We will maintain this strong public investment, creating jobs now and investing and building for the future. Our program of works includes a \$2 billion investment in public transport, with the

development of a coast-to-coast tramline and electrification of our train network, which will generate thousands of direct and indirect new jobs. For example, extending the tramline to a park and ride facility at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre is expected to generate close to 200 jobs during its construction phase. Major construction works to revitalise the Belair rail line, which started some days ago, will create another 150 jobs.

We are also further streamlining our north-south road transport corridor through projects such as the \$564 million Northern Expressway—the largest road construction undertaken in South Australia since the 1960s—with 1,500 people so far inducted on the work site. Work started on the \$1.4 billion 50-gigalitre desalination plant at Port Stanvac earlier this month, with the first water to be delivered into Adelaide's water system by December 2010 and around 500 jobs to be created during the construction phase.

Work at Techport Australia, the South Australian government funded site for the construction of the \$8 billion air warfare destroyer project, is proceeding apace. The AWD project alone should return to South Australia about \$1.4 billion in economic benefit over the next decade, creating more 3,000 direct and indirect jobs. Our investments in Techport will create benefits for decades to come, as we become the home of ship and submarine building in Australia.

In line with the EDB's recommendations, this government is rolling out the social housing, transport and education infrastructure elements of the commonwealth's \$42 billion Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan as quickly as possible. We were the first state to amend our development regulations to ensure projects funded under the program get started as quickly as possible. Maintenance projects on schools and social houses have already begun, as have millions of dollars worth of investment in transport infrastructure.

From June, we will be building 105 new school halls, gyms, libraries and classrooms, valued at over \$200 million. We have a further 94 applications lodged with the commonwealth, well ahead of schedule, and expect the balance of the total 520 new buildings to follow soon after. Also from June, we will be building 246 new social houses, with 1,254 to follow.

This all means jobs for our construction industry and for associated contractors. The EDB has called on government to use its capital works program to provide for increased employment opportunities for disadvantaged members of society, and we are already trialling approaches on how best to do this. The Northern Expressway program contract is the first in South Australia to include a requirement for 10 per cent employment of local youth and indigenous people. Currently, local young people and indigenous people perform 18 per cent of the project's labour hours.

The Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan provides a further opportunity to deliver jobs to disadvantaged people. As a first step, we are working with the construction industry to secure a commitment from contractors to employ trainees and apprentices, indigenous people and local people with barriers to employment. We will use this experience to inform how workforce participation requirements can be built into our own future infrastructure projects.

There is also a role for business in supporting social inclusion. The private sector has an important role in determining economic outcomes for all sections of the community, and I encourage industry to work with the Social Inclusion Board to improve outcomes for all South Australians. The EDB has recommended examining how we engage with local industry with a view to maintaining local industries in the current downturn and beyond—advice I am already acting on.

For example, I have asked the Treasurer to increase the purchase of locally produced Holden vehicles for the state government fleet. Approximately 850 vehicles will now be purchased from Holden over the next two years. In doing this, the government is doing its part to support Holden and local automotive suppliers. The government will develop a revised local industry participation policy, which will set out the government's preferences for engaging local industry while observing South Australia's international and national trade obligations.

This government has already demonstrated its commitment to developing and maintaining a competitive business climate. In July 2008, an independent audit report by Deloitte Australia showed that over \$170 million will be saved by businesses through the government's red tape reduction program. According to KPMG's Competitive Alternatives Study 2008, Adelaide is Australia's most cost competitive city for business and the third most cost competitive in the world in its population bracket.

I can announce today that the government will maintain its commitment to competitiveness through a new target of a further \$150 million reduction in red tape over three years. In line with the

EDB's recommendation, a key part of meeting this target will be a rolling five year review of all business regulation. Our objective is to make South Australia the most competitive place in which to invest or operate a business in Australia. A competitive business climate means more businesses will establish and remain in South Australia, creating more jobs for our state.

The EDB has also advised us to increase our commitment to training and workforce development. We continue to have historically high numbers of people undertaking training courses and apprenticeships. We had 33,500 apprentices and trainees in South Australia at the end of September last year. Through our SA Works program, the government provides skills development and training programs for young people, Aboriginal people and people with a disability seeking to re-enter the workforce.

South Australia was also one of the first states to secure commonwealth funding to help train more than 12,000 job seekers. We will receive almost \$40 million over four years to help boost the skills and qualifications of our job seekers. Partnering with industry to deliver training, build capacity, keep people in work and get people back to work becomes even more critical during an economic slowdown. Now, more than ever, we need to know we are providing the right support.

For this reason, as recommended by the EDB, the government is undertaking a review of SA Works to ensure that it remains responsive to the state's labour force needs and contributes to South Australia's economic development and social inclusion outcomes.

This government is committed to creating and protecting jobs in the face of this crisis. There is no question that times are tough and that jobs will be lost, but the government will do everything in its power to protect jobs, create jobs and prepare for future growth when the global economic climate improves.

However, the economic statement is about much more than how to respond to the current crisis, it is a blueprint for future growth in this state beyond the current crisis and into a future where South Australia outperforms the nation. On the advice of the EDB, this government has vigorously pursued strategies to diversify our economic base by encouraging mining and defence activities, as well as our education exports industry. We will maintain our effort in these areas, but we also need to capitalise on areas of future strength.

The economic statement identifies renewable energy as an industry with an enormous potential for growth, and we are well placed to establish ourselves as Australia's leading clean energy state. South Australia is currently home to 58 per cent of the nation's wind generation, 32 per cent of the nation's domestic grid connected solar electricity and more than 70 per cent of the country's geothermal exploration licences.

Our original target of 20 per cent renewable energy produced in the state by 2020 is on track to be met well ahead of schedule. We expect to reach and exceed this target. To do this we must continue to promote technological innovation in a range of renewable energies, fast track demonstration plants, minimise regulatory impediments and secure industry investment.

To lead this process, I am announcing today that I will appoint a renewable energy commissioner. The commissioner will work with a new Renewable Energy Board, chaired by the chair of the Economic Development Board, Bruce Carter, with representatives from the Climate Change Council and the Premier's Science and Research Council, as well as the renewable energy sector and universities, which is a recommendation, of course, of the EDB.

The EDB's recommendation of a few years ago to set up a special unit to drive defence jobs in this state has been spectacularly successful, just as its recommendation to set up a plan for accelerated exploration has been spectacularly successful in world terms.

Mr Williams interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Well, you would know all about that, sunshine. The EDB has also recommended that our government's—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —industry policy focus on export-oriented industries, such as education, services and advanced manufacturing. Here is some spin for the Liberals. Education is an area where the state has made significant gains, and our international student numbers have

grown to almost 28,000 students, from around 6,000 at the start of the decade. It is now, I am told, our fourth biggest export.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: It is about diversification. That is the thing you do not understand. You do not support mining, you do not support diversification. A recent Access Economics report showed that in 2007—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: All you had were your call centres that closed down. A recent Access Economics report showed that in 2007-08 international students contributed more than \$660 million to gross state product, creating approximately 6,500 jobs across the economy. So, members opposite might think that education is a mirage in the desert, just like they did for mining, but I have different views.

To do this, the government has decided to waive the primary and secondary state school fees for dependents of international higher degree by research university students on home-country scholarships from June this year. This will place these overseas students in the same position as other parents in South Australia. This will encourage more graduate students to study in our state and encourage them to settle here permanently, boosting the stock of high-skill graduates in high demand within the state.

We must aim to succeed in other service industries as we do in education. To that end, the government will ask the EDB, supported by the Department for Trade and Economic Development, to make the service industry one of its priorities for 2009-10. We will ask the board to oversee a project to map the strength and weaknesses of traded services and provide advice to the government on how best to remove barriers to service exports. To encourage the state's focus on manufacturing and traded services the board has recommended that the SA Centre for Innovation be restructured as the flagship organisation for business innovation and certain traded services, operating at arm's length from government. The government accepts this recommendation, and the South Australian Centre for Innovation will be positioned outside government from 1 July 2009.

The economic growth envisaged by the EDB can only be maintained if we guarantee water security for the state. That is why the government has brought forward the construction of a desalination plant to provide a non-climate, non-River Murray dependent source of water from 2010 onwards. The government has also commissioned the preparation of a State Water Security Plan, to be launched in mid-2009. The Water Security Plan will address the EDB's recommendations in relation to water security.

The economic statement notes that the state's population target of two million by 2050 is likely to be achieved ahead of schedule but adds that the target can and should be reached by 2027. The board recommends that the government review and update its population policy with the objective of reaching this target, further increasing our share of skilled migration, stemming the outflow of locals interstate and increasing workforce participation. To respond to this recommendation, the South Australian government will publish a revised population policy by the end of 2010, which will be heavily informed by the forthcoming 30-year plan for greater Adelaide to be released for consultation later in the year.

I have a major announcement to make which I know that members opposite will support: in relation to regional development, I am pleased to report that a new Regional Development Australia network that will more closely align with the South Australian government regions is being progressed. It will provide local businesses and communities with a single shopfront for programs and services of the three levels of government. I am very pleased to announce that the government has appointed former premier Rob Kerin to lead South Australia's transition to the new regional development structure. I am sure I have the support of members on both sides of the house.

The EDB's economic statement contains a number of recommendations in relation to education and training and public sector performance. The government is working to implement these recommendations, and further details on education and training will be provided in the budget context. The priority actions identified by the board are also being examined and will be implemented when possible.

The preparation of this statement was a detailed and involved process over a number of months. I would like to thank the Economic Development Board for its efforts and for yet another important piece of advice to inform the policy decisions of this government for our state's future.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Treasurer (Hon. K.O. Foley)—

Regulations under the following Acts—
Superannuation—Component of Salary

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

Development Act—
Tumby Bay Council—General and Coastal Development Plan Amendment for Interim Operation and Public Consultation—November 2008
Proposal to move two Significant Trees to Facilitate the Extension of the Tramline to the Adelaide Entertainment Centre
Regulations under the following Acts—
Development—
Affordable Housing
Aquaculture
Nation Building Projects—Significant Trees
Harbors and Navigation—Registration Label
Motor Vehicles—Alcohol Interlock Schemes
Road Traffic—
Miscellaneous—Revocation of Part 2A
Road Rules—Ancillary and Miscellaneous—Loading Zones

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

Regulations under the following Act—
Partnership—Winding Up

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

Cancer in South Australia 2006 with Projections to 2009—A Report on the Incidence and Mortality Patterns of Cancer
Review of South Australian Cancer Services—Report dated 3 April 2009

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

Regulations under the following Acts—
Controlled Substances—Poisons
Mental Health—Actions Involving Other Jurisdictions

By the Minister for the River Murray (Hon. K.A. Maywald)—

Regulations under the following Acts—
Irrigation—General
Renmark Irrigation Trust—General

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

Regulations under the following Acts—
Liquor Licensing—Dry Areas—
Fisherman Bay and Port Broughton
Hallett Cove
Local Council By-Laws—
City of Campbelltown
No. 1—Permits and Penalties
No. 2—Moveable Signs
No. 3—Roads
No. 4—Local Government Land

No. 5—Dogs

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

Training and Skills Commission—Report 2008

Office of the Training Advocate dated 1 September 2008 to 31 December 2008

Rules—

Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation—Tribunal Rules—Rule Nineteen—
Referrals to Medical Panels

DRIVING RECORD

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Gambling, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (15:06): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, I will do it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: On Sunday 19 April, a history of my driving offences was revealed for all to read in the paper. It was a deeply humiliating event that led to my resignation the following morning as Minister for Road Safety. On that Sunday, perhaps naïvely, I believed that I could stay on as the minister, because it was a portfolio that I cared about deeply. I was also aware that, in the first few months of this year, South Australia had recorded a high level of road deaths and injuries. While many aspects of the portfolio were dealing with very sad events, being given the challenge of trying to reduce the road toll was very compelling, and I really wanted the chance to make a difference.

Understandably, there was an outcry from the public about my speeding offences, and it was obvious by Monday morning that I could no longer be an effective advocate for this very important portfolio responsibility. I visited the Premier on Monday morning prior to cabinet meeting and offered him my resignation from the portfolio, with regret.

Earlier that morning, I had undertaken a series of media interviews in which I gave an undertaking to disclose my driving history—to put it on the record—so that all South Australians are aware of how many speeding offences have been committed by me. I volunteered to make this disclosure in parliament so that the people of South Australia know the facts of the matter and so that the facts become a matter of public record.

The information contained in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have drawn on information provided by various agencies in the preparation of this statement, namely, the Courts Administration Authority, South Australia Police, department of transport and Fleet SA.

I have never driven under the influence of alcohol or drugs. I do not take drugs, and none of my offending has resulted in a car accident. None—I repeat, none—of my traffic violations have occurred while I have been a minister. My full record of offending has included exceeding the speed limit, using a mobile phone while driving and disobeying traffic lights and signs. It is a record of which I am not proud.

On Monday 20 April, shortly after the Courts Administration Authority Fines Payment Unit opened, I paid two outstanding fines for infringements committed on 21 May 2007 and 7 May 2008. These offences accrued four demerit points, bringing my current driving licence demerit points total to nine. A driver is liable to be disqualified when he or she accrues 12 demerit points within a rolling three-year period.

Members might like to note that, prior to December 2003, demerit points were not incurred for speeding and red light offences detected by camera. The Rann government closed that loophole, introducing demerit points for these offences. I supported that amendment in the house, and I still do.

I am advised by the Courts Administration Authority Fines Payment Unit, South Australia Police, department of transport and Fleet SA that, between June 1994 and May 2008—a period of

14 years—there is a total of 59 traffic infringements in a range of vehicles registered in my name. I take full responsibility for all those infringements.

Four of these infringements were in the car allocated to me as a member of this house. All other infringements under my name were incurred in privately owned vehicles or business owned vehicles prior to my entering parliament. On checking records, late last week SAPOL confirmed that a total of five traffic offences recorded under my name were withdrawn when I filed statutory declarations nominating another driver. I unequivocally stand by the information I included in those statutory declarations.

In recent days, there have been allegations that I have filed false statutory declarations and blamed my own poor driving on other people to avoid demerits or penalties. This is completely untrue. I have never nominated another driver for a driving offence that I committed. I have also been criticised for accepting responsibility for traffic infringements in which vehicles registered in my name were involved, but where I was not the driver of the vehicle.

The decision I made to accept responsibility in these instances was made well before I became minister for road safety. The decision was made in the circumstances of the closeness of my relationship with the driver involved. In hindsight, it may have been more appropriate to nominate the other driver; but hindsight is a wonderful thing. In taking responsibility at a time before I became minister, I did nothing more than what countless other South Australians have done, whether they were related to the driver as a parent, child, husband or wife.

I have received advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office and South Australia Police that it is not an offence for the owner of a vehicle not to complete a statutory declaration nominating another driver for an offence when that other person was driving at the time of the offence. I am also advised that it is not an offence for the owner of a vehicle to pay a fine or accrue demerit points that may be incurred by another driver in those circumstances.

In February 1998, I appealed against a disqualification of my driver's licence due to an accumulation of demerit points. I won the appeal, and retained my licence. Good behaviour agreements were not available at the time; instead, demerit points were deducted. I was disqualified from driving for three months from March 1999 to June 1999 due to an accumulation of demerit points. I did not drive during this period. I also completed a 12 month good behaviour agreement, which began in December 2005 after accruing a further 12 demerit points. I did not incur any traffic infringements during the good behaviour agreement period.

I have twice been temporarily suspended from driving due to the late payment of fines. I was suspended from 15 December 2004 to 4 February 2005 and from 26 March 2006 to 15 May 2006. I did not drive during these periods. My licence was returned to me upon paying the outstanding fines.

As I have previously said, prior to being appointed minister for road safety, I informed the Premier that my licence had been disqualified once, about a decade ago, after I had exhausted my demerit points because of speeding fines, and that is the case. I did not inform the Premier of other aspects of my traffic offending. I did not omit information with the intention of misleading the Premier.

I considered, wrongly as it happens, that, because the disqualification was the most serious issue arising from my offending, that was the matter that bore upon my possible role as minister for road safety. Again, I should have realised that the speeding and other offences since that disqualification also had a bearing on my suitability as minister for road safety.

The two instances where my licence was temporarily suspended due to late payment of fines did not come to mind when I was relating my driving record to the Premier, because the suspensions were not imposed due to my driving behaviour but for the non-payment of fines arising from my driving. I regret that I did not disclose to the Premier all the information now set out in this statement, and I have apologised to him for that.

Many of my friends, family and colleagues have berated me over the past week for my past record of exceeding the speed limit, disobeying road rules and then neglecting to pay the fines on time. For this I can offer no justifiable excuse or explanation. It was stupid.

In terms of the late payment of fines, I can only say that I stand guilty of failing to attend to my personal affairs while concentrating on my work and career. The intense embarrassment and regret that this has caused is a matter that will never rest easy with me again. It has been a hard lesson, well learnt.

I would like to apologise to the parliament and the people of South Australia for my past traffic offences. I deeply regret my previous driving behaviour. Speeding is not acceptable, breaking the road rules is not acceptable, and my past actions were completely inappropriate. The Premier has challenged me never, ever to violate the road rules again, and I have given him that assurance, as I give the people of South Australia that assurance today.

I had hoped to use my position as road safety minister to introduce a range of new, innovative ideas to reduce our road toll, particularly amongst young people. Instead, I will be investing my efforts in serving the people of South Australia in my remaining portfolios. I take full responsibility for this regrettable situation. I look forward to the challenge of my remaining ministerial responsibilities with renewed vigour, while realising the full weight of responsibility and honour that lies with being a cabinet minister.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood) (15:16): I bring up the 329th report of the committee, entitled Roxby Downs Police Station.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms CICCARELLO: I bring up the 330th report of the committee, entitled Victor Harbor TAFE.

Report received and ordered to be published.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Taylor) (15:17): I bring up the 29th report of the committee, entitled A Review of the Department of Health Report into Hypnosis.

Report received.

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I advise members of the presence in the gallery today of students from Karoonda Area School, who are guests of the member for Hammond, and students from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, who are guests of the member for Enfield.

QUESTION TIME

CRIMINON

Mr PISONI (Unley) (15:18): What discussions or involvement has the Minister for Correctional Services had with the prison education program Criminon or its associated organisation, Applied Scholastics?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Gambling, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (15:18): I have no recollection of any conversation, but I will check and get back to the house as soon as possible with an answer.

CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (15:19): Can the Premier provide the house with information on South Australia's push to have voluntary action recognised under the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme?

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) (15:19): I thank the honourable member for Light for his question on this issue. It is of great concern for all Australians that we get this right. I watched the *Lateline* interview last night with Ian Plimer, and I have to say that I thought it was one of the better interviews I have seen on the ABC in recent years. I thought that the cat had been belled, basically. I found extraordinary some of the things that had been said that were then clearly not accurate.

The Labor government is strongly committed to reducing South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and being part of national and international efforts to address climate change. To this end, the state government has passed the nation's first climate change legislation; has included emissions reduction and energy efficiency targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan; has invested

in a range of climate change initiatives to ensure that our SASP targets are met; and has continued to work towards decreasing emissions in collaboration with local government, industry, community and education sectors. The work has included completion of sector agreements with the South Australian Wine Industry Association, the Local Government Association, the Property Council and the Anglican Church.

The state government has also contributed to the national effort to address climate change and to the design of Australia's emissions trading scheme. This contribution has occurred through the National Emissions Trading Task Force; by commissioning with other states and territories the Garnaut Climate Change Review—I am very proud that, as chairman of the Council of the Australian Federation at that stage, we commissioned Professor Garnaut; and providing submissions on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, including a detailed submission to the CPRS Green Paper in which the state government highlighted the need for assistance to the community and to emissions intensive trade exposed industries.

The state government supports the CPRS but believes that the current design could be improved by recognising certain types of abatement actions undertaken on a voluntary basis by households and individuals. Under the present design, households that reduce emissions by choosing to install solar panels or purchase renewable energy are not contributing to any greenhouse gas reduction under the CPRS. This is because the CPRS sets a minimum and maximum cap on carbon pollution, which means that people who install solar panels and buy renewable energy are effectively creating emissions space within the cap for someone else to fill.

Households and individuals prepared to make financial sacrifices for the sake of the environment deserve to have their efforts recognised. The purchase of renewable energy and domestic solar panels can be verified and measured. They are therefore capable of being taken into account when setting the national cap and trajectory under the CPRS. This measurement is provided through the commonwealth government's Solar Homes and Communities Plan (formerly known as the Photovoltaic Rebate Program), as well as the Office of Renewable Energy Regulator and the government GreenPower Program, which maintain data on GreenPower purchases. Other household actions, such as those to improve energy efficiency, could also be considered, but those actions have measurement issues with regard to energy savings and emissions reduction that would need to be addressed.

There are international precedents for the recognition of voluntary action in emissions trading schemes, particularly in the regional greenhouse gas initiative in the United States and, to a lesser extent, in the United Kingdom's European Union emissions trading scheme and carbon reduction commitment. In April I wrote to the Prime Minister proposing that voluntary action by individuals and households to reduce greenhouse gas emissions be recognised and valued under the CPRS. I also proposed that the issue be raised at the upcoming COAG meeting in Tasmania.

In addition, the state government provided a submission to the Senate select committee on climate policy, recommending that the appropriate clauses of the draft CPRS legislation, clauses 14 and 15 (which I am sure other members have also examined in detail), be amended to require that voluntary action be factored into setting the national emissions cap and trajectory. I am pleased that minister Wong has indicated a willingness to consider taking further account of voluntary actions in the design of CPRS. Senator Penny Wong has indicated that she would 'consider a suggestion from Labor senators to amend the proposed legislation to make sure that voluntary action by the community to reduce emissions is taken into account when setting targets'. Senator Wong has further stated that 'existing and potentially future voluntary action can be taken into account when setting the caps...sections 14 and 15 in the act make it very clear that voluntary action can be taken into account'.

While the legislation has scope to take voluntary action into account when setting caps, I believe this should be obligatory, not discretionary, as it is at the moment. It is worth noting that our state's renewable energy efforts and investments have paid off. South Australians have installed domestic solar panels at a much higher rate than the rest of the nation. This is partially due to our solar feed-in scheme—the first solar feed-in law in Australia which pays a guaranteed tariff of 44¢ per unit of electricity (kilowatt hour) for households and small customers who feed solar electricity into the grid.

We are now seeing great results from our state's solar investment. I am delighted to inform the house that currently we have more than 30 per cent of the nation's domestic grid-connected solar photovoltaic capacity, and over the past 12 months alone the number of grid-connected installations has doubled to almost 5,300 systems. I am advised that we also have 58 per cent of

the nation's installed wind power and from 2002 to last year attracted more than 97 per cent of the national investment in geothermal exploration.

CRIMINON

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:25): Did the Premier, at the instigation of the member for West Torrens and former senator Nick Bolkus, have discussions with representatives of the prison education program Criminon or its associated organisation Applied Scholastics on 16 March this year?

In an email from ALP State Secretary, Michael Brown, to ALP fundraiser and lobbyist, Nick Bolkus, dated 6 March 2009, with the subject heading 'Melbourne visit', Mr Brown refers Mr Bolkus to a conversation he had with a 'man called Tom' regarding prison education programs. Sources from within the Labor Party have advised the opposition that the 'man called Tom' is the Minister for Correctional Services. The email states:

Mike has asked me if there is anyone worth visiting while he is in Melbourne next week. Are they worth special treatment?

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) (15:27): I have no recollection of visiting anyone called Criminon. It might not be this Mike.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

Ms PORTOLESI (Hartley) (15:27): Will the Treasurer advise the house of two reports released recently containing outlooks 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) (15:27): Can I have that question again? The Leader of the Opposition was interjecting and talking to me across the chamber.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hartley.

Ms PORTOLESI: Thank you, sir. Will the Treasurer advise the house of two recent reports released containing outlooks for the South Australian economy?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: That was a surprise question. I do not do Dorothy Dixers—well, I do, so I cannot mislead the house, but I have two questions. As I have said repeatedly in this house, we are going through the most extraordinary of times, both economically and financially, that the world has seen since the Great Depression, and some commentators are now saying that in many facets of this global financial meltdown it is more severe than what was seen in the 1920s and 1930s. It is an event which we have been unable to stop impacting on Australia and, obviously, South Australia.

Indeed, I was pleased before lunch to hear the shadow minister for finance being so open when he acknowledged that there is a significant financial global crisis which is putting great strain and stresses—I am paraphrasing here—on the budget and how we will cope with it. I thank the honourable member for his openness and honesty. These are matters beyond our control.

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Well, it is what I am saying today, and if you think any differently you are up there with Lawrence Springborg thinking that this is not having an impact on us.

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: He did not say that.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: A lot of cheek from someone who has been demoted!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The member for MacKillop has been demoted. He has had energy stripped off him. The member for Morphett has had infrastructure and general transport ripped off him. Look at them—they have been demoted.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: An under-performer.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: He snuck out the reshuffle on a Saturday afternoon. He made no changes but stripped a few shadow portfolios from the under-performers. Isobel should be up here

next to Vickie but Vickie won't have her next to her—that's the truth. They cannot have them sitting together. The dynamic would not work—as much as it would be amusing for us.

Importantly, what we are seeing is that in countries such as Germany they are expecting a contraction of their economy in the order of up to 7 per cent; in the United Kingdom, it could be as much as 5 per cent; and, in the US, 4 per cent. Globally, for the first time, I think, since the Second World War, if not the Great Depression, there will be global contraction entirely. These are quite extraordinary events.

Australia is better placed than most to deal with the contraction of the global economy. Within Australia, our state is extremely well positioned to be less affected than it otherwise would be had it not been for this government when compared with other states. That is not to say that we will not have higher unemployment; we will. That is not to say that we will not lose our AAA credit rating; we probably will. That is not to say we will not run deficits; we certainly will.

However, we are better positioned than any other Australian state. It is not a hardworking government saying that; it is very noted commentators. The National Australia Bank's March business confidence survey was published two weeks ago, and the Access Economics Business Outlook for March was published this morning. The NAB survey said of business conditions (and I hope this will be reported):

By State, there has been a general deterioration in business conditions across States since mid 2008, with all States now experiencing poor or negative conditions...South Australia has shown a surprise improvement, to be the best performing State.

The National Australia Bank's senior market economist, David de Garis, said:

It's certainly true that the South Australian economy has done better than the rest of Australia. Macro indicators suggest that South Australia should do no worse and in fact be better than other States in the year ahead.

The Access Economics report in its Business Outlook observes:

South Australia's Economy has done solidly in recent years...and that..the State will have a smaller recession than the Australian average, with population growth still OK. Rental vacancies are extremely tight, and the First Home Owners Grant and Boost have been particularly effective in a State where those dollars go further towards buying the average home.

Those are quite extraordinary statements, and they are a ringing endorsement, despite the incredibly harsh financial times in which we will almost certainly go into recession (if we are not there), in which there will be a significant increase in employment and in which almost certainly the state's AAA credit rating will be lost, with the loss of GST revenue and state-based revenues.

Notwithstanding those incredibly distressing and disappointing elements, we are still doing better than the rest of Australia, and this should be the moment to reflect on where we will be when we come out of recession and where we will be placed with the enormous infrastructure spend we are now doing on rail, hospitals, prisons, roads, underpasses and schools, as well as the Prime Minister's Infrastructure Australia program and the desal plant. We are turbocharging the future years for construction, capital growth and jobs. As much as our budget in June will be a very tough document and sober reading, it will also be about the critical function of government—that is, job creation.

I conclude by saying that it does not matter how much whingeing, whining, negative commentary and almost glee at every poor indicator and poor statistic that comes out, the opposition cannot deny the fact that independent economic forecasters are stating publicly that this state is better positioned than any other state in Australia. As much as I could say that that is the work of our government, it is not about how good we are as a government; it is about the hope and the confidence in the future. With the performance we have provided, there is a great opportunity to grow this economy out of this recession and to be bigger, better and stronger than ever.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the cameramen in the gallery that they are to film only members on their feet.

CRIMINON

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:35): My question is to the Premier, now that he is back from his briefing in the corridor of a few seconds ago. What discussions did the Premier have with ALP officials about 'special treatment' for representatives of Criminon or Applied Scholastics at the 16 March meeting?

In an email from the ALP state secretary to ALP fundraiser and lobbyist Nick Bolkus on 6 March 2009, the subject heading 'Melbourne visit', Mr Brown asked Mr Bolkus:

Mike has asked me if there is anyone worth visiting while he is in Melbourne next week. Are they worth special treatment?

In a later email from Nick Bolkus to Michael Brown, dated Tuesday 17 March 2009, Mr Bolkus refers to the Melbourne visit—the one he cannot remember—and states, 'As discussed, they were happy with their discussions with Mike. Worth the trip.'

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) (15:36): They did not have discussions with me, sunshine, let me just tell you that. I have asked my office outside to check the pecuniary interests register of the Leader of the Opposition to see if he has any connections with an organisation called Criminon, because it sounds much more like the cup of tea of members opposite than it does of me.

I will say this too—because I do not change my name and I do not change other matters to do with my record—that we know, and it has been made a matter of public fact, that the Liberal Party of Australia has had a special relationship with the Closed Brethren. Now I am wondering whether it has a special relationship with Scientology.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

SPORTS STADIUM

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Taylor) (15:37): Can the Treasurer advise the house of the latest update—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the leader!

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: —to the opposition's costing for the proposed inner city stadium?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (15:37): I wonder whether that is the same made-up stuff that *The Advertiser* ran the other day about me seeking a job. I say on the public record that I was somewhat disturbed, and it is in line with this because it is about a Treasurer who brings down a budget with infrastructure spending and then apparently goes through an intermediary seeking a job paying hundreds of thousands of dollars from contractors. That was an absolute lie.

Ms CHAPMAN: I rise on a point of order. The question was about costings of a stadium, nothing to do with the job prospects or otherwise of the Treasurer.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The Treasurer.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: It probably was a bit of a stretch. Unless I am totally unaware of what I do, the suggestion that I have been seeking a job is not true. The suggestion that I have used an intermediary is not true. I just wonder whether it is the same person who gave the leader that last question that was so enthusiastically tracked down by Russell Emmerson and others. We will see.

The issue with the stadium in the inner city area is one of great concern in terms of the Leader of the Opposition. One would have hoped that there would have been a skerrick of—and I know this will get me into trouble and they will be belting me again tomorrow in *The Advertiser*, but I have to say that we saw on the front page of the *Sunday Mail* of 4 May, I am advised—

Mr Pederick: We haven't had May.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: No, we haven't had May yet. I have my dates a bit mixed up. No, it is May 2008—in which the Leader of the Opposition released a statement, 'Stadium truth'. I am advised that in that release it stated:

A sports stadium at City West would cost around \$520 million according to an independent firm of property and construction consultants.

Remember that—on the *Sunday Mail* front page, from memory—independent consultants. It could not tell us who they were because, somehow, there would be retribution. It sounds a little bit like why sources—that are telling lies to *The Advertiser*—cannot be named but, never mind.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: Or sources that don't exist.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Or don't exist. Anyway, there was never any scrutiny of that, and why would there be? It is not in *The Advertiser's* interests. What we now find is that the 66-page document released on 20 April 2009 reveals that the stadium will cost \$900 million. One minute it is \$520 million, months later it is \$900 million. That is a \$400 million blow-out in their own costings. Do we see any of that reported in *The Advertiser*? No.

On page 66 of this document about the stadium, I am told that only pages 37 to 39 canvass construction costs—2¼ pages of a 66-page document refer to costings. This is what the document states—there is allowance for further blow-outs in the costings. It states:

For the purpose of this plan, average 2008-09 prices shall apply. Actual construction costs are influenced by delays in start-up—

they are already foreshadowing they are going to have a delay in the start-up of their own program—

speed of construction—

they are now saying it will not be built as quickly as they may say—

financing and variations in the price of labour and material inputs. To commence operations there is the further dimension of fit-out and other start-up costs.

So, in that statement, they are already saying the great evil of this government is that projects have not been delivered on time; there may have been a variation in price. We are highly scrutinised for that. What they are now saying is, 'Yes, there will be a delay. Yes, there will be problems with the time it takes to build it. There will certainly be problems financing it, and there will be variations in the price of labour and material input costs.'

Anyone who had read this and then wrote a report on it, I would have thought, would pick this up—it ain't rocket science! This is what it says, 'To commence operations there is the further dimension of fit-out and other start-up costs.' So, they have not put the seats in. They built the stadium without seats in it. They have not put in the Coca-Cola and hot dog stands. They have not put in the showers—what a joke! A \$900 million cost which does not have all the fit-out costs put into it. What a joke!

Then the Leader of the Opposition tried to talk about the Docklands Stadium. He said it only cost \$400 million in 2000. It might have, in 2000, but in today's dollars that would be \$600 million. That is a 50 per cent blow-out. Therefore, if what we are saying is that over a seven or eight year period to build his stadium of dreams, that it would go up by at least another 50 per cent, so we are already heading up to \$1.35 billion. Again, I quote from the 'Stadium truth' release back in May 2008: 'The report and costings supplied to the state opposition show Premier Rann's claims that a stadium would cost \$1.5 billion were nonsense.' We are almost there at 1.35.

What it shows is that he makes stuff up, gullible media swallow it and then produce it and promote it. Even Geoff Roach, somebody who at least has been prepared to be upfront about this in *The Advertiser*, states (about the idea of a multipurpose sporting stadium on the city fringe):

Sure, it would be great; but that dream is becoming more distant from reality with every passing day as the global financial crisis digs its talons ever more deeply into the social order. You surely don't need a deep understanding of economics to know that, in order to make such an expensive amenity viable, it is necessary to attract tenants capable of attracting vast numbers of people, along with corporations willing to expend significant dollars for the privilege.

He then went on to say in *The Advertiser*, regarding the prospect of that stadium, 'It's about as likely as Dean Brogan winning the Brownlow.'

This is why I was really annoyed a few weeks ago and I paid such a price in *The Advertiser* which directly, for revenge purposes, clearly made up a story for the front page. No doubt, in the next day or two, it will get revenge back at me again. But I will say this: the stadium's scrutiny has been non-existent, because Martin Hamilton-Smith has not even asked the football league, the SANFL, the AFL or the SACA whether they would use the new stadium, and they have all come out and said that they would not. They would not use the stadium. So, he is making this stuff up. There is no basis and credibility to it. Nobody wants to use it. But then what do we see in

yesterday's newspaper, again? I was flabbergasted when I read in the paper an incredibly bizarre story by reporter Russell Emmerson: that he will get his infrastructure paid for by Kevin Rudd. What he said was, if he is going to get the—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Why didn't we think of that?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Why didn't we think of that? He is going to get Kevin Rudd to pay for \$400 million of stormwater. He is going to get Kevin Rudd to pay \$1.3 billion for the hospital. He is going to get Kevin Rudd to pay for the new football stadium. You know, fair dinkum—and it gets written as if it is going to happen. Wouldn't you have asked first, 'Have you written to the Prime Minister?' Have you written to the Prime Minister asking for that? Have you? He hasn't even written to the Prime Minister.

Mr Hamilton-Smith: Yes, I have.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Have you seen the letter? Can you produce the letter to him?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Have a look at him. I can assure you—and I can say this with absolute confidence, Premier—that there is no way that the Rudd Labor government is going to pay for \$400 million of stormwater, a \$1.35 billion hospital or a \$1.5 billion football stadium. They ain't going to do it. So, how are you going to pay for it? You cannot get your costs right. You do not even cost the fit-outs.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Plan B—Scientologists.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Scientologists. You do not even ask if anyone would use it, and then we have this bizarre story yesterday that the Rudd government is going to pay for it all, and it gets printed in the paper as if it is a fait accompli. It is like we are living in the twilight zone. I know I have been harsh on *The Advertiser* today, and I know that the editor will get very angry, and he will ensure that there is a retribution wrought upon me—of that there can be no doubt. But, I am going to call it as it is. The opposition's stadium proposal is one of the most harebrained, reckless proposals that Mr Bankrupt has ever delivered in terms of a policy. And Mr Bankrupt over here—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: It has become a point of embarrassment that an alternative premier, 10 months away from an election, is coming up with such harebrained, ill-thought-through, ill-costed dopey ideas when the state's financial system has never been under greater stress. Don't you honestly think that there is something more important out there than a football stadium?

CRIMINON

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:48): I am glad that is over. What discussions did the Premier have with representatives of Criminon or Applied Scholastics in relation to donations to the Australian Labor Party? In an email from Nick Bolkus to ALP State Secretary, Michael Brown, dated 17 March, reference is made to the Premier's Melbourne visit and states, 'As discussed, they were very happy with their discussion with Mike. Worth the trip.' It adds:

Happy to give up to \$20,000 as a start but want to do it under the radar. If this is okay, their address is: Applied Scholastics 1/89 Jones St Ultimo NSW 2007, Nick.

A series of searches reveals that the organisation Applied Scholastics is one of four key organisations operated by the Church of Scientology.

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) (15:49): Can I tell you this—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Can I just tell you this: I would never do a favour for the Church of Scientology, founded by a loony called L. Ron Hubbard. Can I just say that there was a Twitter site set up with my name on it. Now, anywhere else in Australia, when it was exposed that it was being

set up on the second floor by Rob Lucas's—a guy called Daniel, some mate of Christopher Pyne—he certainly sounds like him—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The fact is that they are prepared to do and say anything. Let me tell you this right now: I would never do a favour—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —for Scientology, because, in fact, if you do some checking, way back in the 1970s a program against Scientology was being run in New Zealand. I do remember who was involved in that program. Indeed, the Minister for Education has been condemned by Scientology, as will I be by the end of today, and they will come after me and come after me. You are much more likely to get—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —involved with Scientology than anyone I know on this side of the house. Let me tell you about what we got from the website, not your make-believe, fake website, which you set up with my name on it, putting out defamatory material. That is how dishonest you are: a pack of lies from the Liberals operating a dirty tricks unit on the second floor, and with a former treasurer involved—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —sanctioning it. When I came in here and named—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —who was responsible, it immediately vanished into thin air. And then their mates suddenly produced a story saying how unfair it was that they had been exposed. If I or a member of my staff had set up a Martin Hamilton-Smith website, putting out defamatory material, it would have been on the front page of *The Advertiser*, and it would have been the lead item on every television news. That is the measure of your character. This is all about the content of your character. I make this promise to you now: I would never do a favour for Scientology—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —who, in my view, are beneath contempt. Here we go. Under the question: 'What is Criminon's relationship to the Church of Scientology?' the website states:

Criminon is an independently incorporated organization and is licensed to use Mr. Hubbard's social betterment methodologies, including drug rehabilitation and criminal rehabilitation methodology. Mr. Hubbard did extensive research in this field and we are privileged to have the license to utilize his findings.

Criminon programs are available to anyone regardless of their religion or belief systems.

Criminon is very happy to have the support of the Church of Scientology because, like many other religions, its members are very involved in community betterment programs and participate as volunteers.

Criminon is licensed by the Association for Better Living and Education (ABLE), a non-profit corporation recognized as tax exempt under the 501(c)(3) status of the Internal Revenue Code.

It goes on to state:

Criminon is not licensed to use and does not utilize the religious writings and technologies of Mr. Hubbard.

Thank God for that. It would be as loopy as it sounds. It continues:

It has the secular purposes of eradicating the scourge of crime which plagues and often terrorizes our society.

And it goes on. Here we go. What do we have here? Wikipedia states:

Hubbard's 1981 booklet, *The Way to Happiness* is an integral part of the program, setting forth precepts such as 'Do not take harmful drugs', 'Be faithful to your sexual partner', 'Do not tell harmful lies', 'Don't do anything illegal', 'Do not steal', and 'Do not murder.'

That is really going to work with the bikies when they come down here on the weekend. We are going to get them to read Ron Hubbard's book. You have to be kidding! This might be your standard, but it is not mine. If that is what you want to see in our prison system, then you are more reckless and irresponsible than I thought. Wikipedia states:

In 1997, Judge Stephen Rushing, a Pinellas County, Florida, judge, received criticism and raised eyebrows from other judges when he began sentencing defendants to a program called 'Impulse Control' that was run by Criminon. Rushing said that people running the course promised they would not try to convert anyone. However the paper noted that many critics have suggested that Criminon was being used as a recruitment tool.

We might get the Hell's Angels joining Scientology. This could be something really novel. Can I just say this: I do not care what pieces of paper you have, I do not care what websites you manufacture in your dishonest way, but we will not be doing any favour for Scientology, we will not be doing any favour for Criminon, and, quite frankly, I think they are barking mad.

SWINE FLU

Ms FOX (Bright) (15:55): My question is to the Minister for Health. What is the status of the outbreak of swine flu and what is being done in Australia to guard against it?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kurna—Minister for Health, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (15:55): I thank the member for Bright for this very important question. In recent days, a new influenza virus has emerged out of Mexico. This new virus is believed to be a combination of swine flu, avian flu and H1N1. Mexican authorities are reporting that more than 1,300 people in that country are ill from the flu and up to 149 people have died, most of whom were between the ages of 20 and 50 years.

In the United States, 40 cases have been confirmed across 10 different states. Almost all patients have experienced a relatively mild illness, differing from the more severe flu which has emerged in Mexico. There are also confirmed cases reported in Canada and Spain, with no deaths from those cases.

The World Health Organisation has upgraded its influenza pandemic alert from phase 3 to phase 4, meaning that there has been sustained human-to-human transmission of swine flu in a country. I am advised that no people have tested positive to swine flu in Australia. Here in South Australia, 12 people, who have recently returned from North America and who have displayed flu-like symptoms, are being tested for possible exposure to swine flu. The results from this testing are expected in coming days. Another two people have been tested and the results are negative. Similarly, travellers from other states have also been tested.

South Australia has a pandemic influenza operational plan which was developed in 2006 to prepare for such an event. This plan is being used by health officials in preparation for any potential pandemic. At this stage, our hospitals, health centres and GPs have been put on alert. We are asking anyone who has travelled to areas affected by the new strain of influenza to go to one of the specified hospitals named in the plan—Royal Adelaide Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre and Women's and Children's Hospital in the city, and the country hospitals of Whyalla, Port Augusta, Mount Gambier, Berri and Port Lincoln.

There is expert advice that the anti-viral drugs Tamiflu and Relenza will be useful in treating this virus. These are drugs that are readily available in South Australia that GPs can prescribe. The commonwealth government and the states and territories are working closely on surveillance and monitoring and on ensuring that systems are in place for our nation to cope with any outbreak of this flu. The commonwealth is liaising with the WHO and the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant health experts to obtain the best information on the outbreaks. The commonwealth has introduced greater surveillance measures at airports.

Meanwhile, our health experts are urging South Australians once again to have a flu shot. While the current flu vaccination will not protect us against swine flu, it will protect us against other flu. Of course, the more people who have the flu shot, the fewer people will turn up to emergency departments with influenza. That means that South Australians can stay healthy, reducing demand on our hospitals and allowing them to be freed up in the face of any possible outbreak of swine flu.

The other key message is one of personal hygiene. Washing hands and covering your mouth when you cough are important practices for protecting yourself and others against any

infection. Finally, the commonwealth, through the Department of Health and Ageing, has set up a new national hotline for Australians to access information on the overseas outbreak. That number is 180 2007.

CRIMINON

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Leader of the Opposition) (15:59): What advice did the Premier give to representatives of Criminon, Applied Scholastics or any other Church of Scientology organisation regarding Australian electoral office requirements in relation to political donations? An email dated 17 March 2009 at 5.49pm—around seven hours after a previous email between Nick Bolkus and Mr Brown regarding the success of 'Mike's trip'—refers to payment of a \$20,000 donation. This email is from ALP secretary Michael Brown to ALP state treasurer, John Boag, subject 'Re: Melbourne visit'—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: Allegedly.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: You can explain all. You can read the documents in *The Advertiser*.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: In the email, Mr Brown instructs Mr Boag to send four \$5,000 invoices to 'these guys'. The ABN listed is 68001412219. He adds that the ALP account should be used, not the PB account, which we assume is 'progressive business'. According to the Australian electoral laws, donations above \$10,901 must be declared to the Australian Electoral Commission.

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) (16:00): I just looked at my diary. This day that I was supposed to be in Melbourne, I was in Adelaide and, I have to confess, I was meeting with an industry group. It was called OneSteel from Whyalla. Okay; OneSteel from Whyalla here in Adelaide. That is what I was doing on that day. I know why the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is not asking questions, because she was the president of the Liberal Party not dealing with Criminon but dealing with Catch Tim, which was a money laundering system designed to get money through Hong Kong—exposed by the Deputy Premier. I can just say this: I do not expect to get one single question from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, but I was in Adelaide that day.

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

Mr RAU (Enfield) (16:01): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Conservation. How is the government helping South Australians prepare for the upcoming ban on checkout-style plastic bags?

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) (16:02): As of next Monday, as members would appreciate, those checkout-style plastic bags will be banned in South Australia. Just as in 1977, when we led the way with the container deposit legislation, South Australia, once again, will be leading the country in relation to waste management. Currently, in Australia, we use something like four billion of these light-weight style plastic bags each year—an extraordinary number—and about 40 million of those (1 in 100) end up as litter, which is an extraordinary number. It also takes a huge amount of energy to produce these bags. It takes some 37,000 tonnes of plastic polymer (which is derived from non-renewable resources) to make this quantity of plastic bags each year. Of course, by getting rid of these bags, we will have fewer in landfill, use less energy and reduce the litter in our parks and waterways.

I have been very pleased about the level of support for this within the South Australian community. There is wide support for the ban. Many people have already taken the steps to use the re-useable bags as part of their daily routine. It is obvious—by going to a supermarket, you will see that. We have had that transition period from 1 January this year to help people adjust to the change. Many South Australian retailers have worked hard with the government to prepare both shops and shoppers for the ban, and I thank them for their efforts. I would also thank the South Australian community for respecting the rights of shop assistants to carry out their work free of harassment when the ban comes into place.

It is also important for shoppers to bring clean bags and to bring enough bags to ensure that they are not overfull, but we will all get used to the arrangements as they begin to settle down. We have also seen a number of retailers jump out ahead of the ban by introducing their own ban. Places such as K-Mart, Target, Bunnings and IKEA are already introducing their own bans, and it has not caused the end of the world as some predicted.

We know that some people will forget to take their own bags. Retailers have already anticipated that. They have on offer compostable bags, as well as the green re-useable bags. Obviously, the compostable bags are much cheaper and something which people can use as a stand-in when they have forgotten their re-useable bags. We know that there are also some South Australians who might be doing it a bit tough. There might be circumstances in their life that perhaps make it difficult for them to remember.

What we have done today is donate 8,000 bags—3,000 from the Green Bag Company and 5,000 from the South Australian government—to Foodbank SA to distribute to a range of charities in South Australia. We want to ensure that those bags are distributed far and wide because our environment will benefit from this important initiative. I also thank *The Advertiser* for its trolley bag initiative, which supports the initiative of the South Australian government. This initiative has been embraced by South Australians and we look forward to its implementation on Monday as we all begin to change our habits for the sake of the environment.

COLAC HOTEL

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:06): My question is to the Premier. Has the government, through the ALP, been raising funds for marginal seat campaigns and political advertising, using revenue from poker machines and strippers at the Colac Hotel? Recent public reports have revealed a factional fight within the Labor Party over access to revenue raised from the operation and ownership of the Colac Hotel. The enterprise has eight poker machines and advertises sessions with strippers on Thursdays and Fridays.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (16:06): I know the Colac Hotel very well. For many years I sold meat trays in the Colac Hotel. One of my first jobs, organised by Rod Sawford and the late Mick Young, was to sell meat trays. I used to go after work in my suit and tie to the smoke-filled pub in order to sell meat trays to wharfies and storemen who thought, 'Who are you, you wanker?'

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: They were right, hey? I had to grin and bear the initiation that was the early 1980s of selling meat trays in the Colac Hotel. Of course, the member for Lee was heavily involved in it. As members would know, the Colac Hotel was purchased by the Port Adelaide Federal Electorate Committee at the instigation of the late Mick Young and the then secretary of the vehicle builders union; I think it was Kevin Lane. They went 50:50 in the Colac Hotel and the Labor Party has owned it ever since.

The Port Adelaide branch has a special deed. From memory, the deed states that the profits of that hotel shall go to the Federal Electorate Committee for the benefit of the federal candidate; then it would be available to assist the financing of other sub-branches in the Port Adelaide area and, where possible, marginal seats in both state and federal elections. I have never received any significant contribution.

The Colac Hotel is a fine Labor institution. It has been the scene of many celebrations and the odd commiseration and it holds fond memories. As members opposite would know, if one owns a hotel freehold and you sell its leasehold, limited conditions can be imposed on the person taking the leasehold. Ever since it has had topless waitresses I certainly have not been back—as surprising as that may be to some people.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: And as much good as it did Kevin Rudd.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: And I am fairly certain none of my colleagues have been there, but I cannot vouch for the member for Lee. It is a little embarrassing but that is life in the Port.

In respect of matters in relation to the current running of the hotel, while I am aware of the issues involved, it is a matter for the State Secretary of the Labor Party, the State Executive of the Labor Party and the FEC itself. My understanding is that they are in agreement as to the way forward and it is being dealt with properly.

Wasn't it the Liberal Party, with Trevor Griffin as its adviser, that many years ago made a special company with a whole lot of different shareholdings so it could get around paying land tax on its site on Greenhill Road? It divided it up into 20 different lots so it could get away with not paying land tax. I do remember—and I have told the house this before, and I will tell it again—spending many an hour in the Corporate Regulatory Authority's office in Hong Kong with my then wife, Cathy. We took time to expose the fraud of Catch Tim. The deputy leader was right up to her neck in it. She was part of that web of deception, deceiving the Australian Electoral Commission, deceiving the parliament and deceiving everybody. We got to the nitty-gritty of it and exposed the deputy leader for one of the greatest electoral cover-ups and money laundering exercises this state has ever seen. So, don't you guys over there try to get on your high horse, or whatever it is you are playing with today. I was in Melbourne with the Premier at that time, I am advised.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Sorry?

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: He was not there on that day, but he was there, I think, either a couple of days before or after. Do you know what? There is no prison company there. There is no Church of Scientology. It was a Department of Industry and Trade development luncheon.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We went to see Marius Kloppers.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Premier and I went to see Marius Kloppers, and I do not think Marius is into Scientology. I have the list. It was a Melbourne Investment Attraction—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Was Tom Cruise there?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Was Tom Cruise there? That could have been the connection. It was a Melbourne Investment Attraction luncheon, and it was a list of companies compiled by the Department of Industry and Trade.

Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: No; in fact, it was compiled by the Department of Industry and Trade, and I attended that luncheon. It was a defence industry luncheon, and I sat next to John Prescott, the chair of the Australian Submarine Corporation. Later that day, the Premier and I met with Marius Kloppers to get an update on BHP and Olympic Dam. I think you will find that the Premier had some other business meetings, none of which involved the said company at all.

So, all I can assume is that someone is playing dirty tricks and has set up the Leader of the Opposition. If I cut *The Advertiser* any slack, it may be that I was set up with that story in the paper last week and that there are people out there trying to do damage to this government by lying about things that never occurred. The story about my getting an intermediary to go out and try to get me a job with a contracting firm, to come back and bid on government contracting for major capital works, was a lie; I never did it. I just could not believe it. I have written to the Press Council about it, my lawyers have sent a letter to *The Advertiser* and *Media Watch* showed interest in it. It was a lie.

Whether or not it was a lie based upon somebody misrepresenting me, or whether it was part of an ugly dirty tricks campaign, maybe by the opposition or maybe by other parties, I do not know. Unless you can show us some documentation, this would appear to be a political dirty tricks campaign by somebody to damage the Premier and to damage me because you have to damage us—and, no doubt, my colleagues along the front bench with me—to have a chance of getting into government. It will not work if you are following made-up, fabricated lies.

We will go back and research it. We will look at all the emails, and we will do all the due diligence. We will make sure that we get to the bottom of this from our side, but early information is that no such documentation exists; we are checking that. We are checking the Premier's records, but there is certainly no record of his having met with this person. The suggestion that the Premier, I or anyone else would have been involved in such a transaction is absurd and quite offensive. All I say is: let us be very careful. Is there a dirty tricks campaign? I am not saying it is just you guys; it may not be you guys. All I know is that I have been the victim of something pretty bad—a smear.

Mr Pisoni: Look behind you!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Pardon?

Mr Pisoni: Look behind you!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: You reckon they are behind it, do you?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The house will come to order.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I say this: if this is not substantiated by the close of business today, the Leader of the Opposition has to do a couple of things. He, firstly, has to walk back in here later today, or tomorrow, and humbly apologise. He should also consider his future as Leader of the Opposition, because you cannot—

Members interjecting:

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: I rise on a point of order. This is just idiotic ramble.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think the Deputy Premier has moved a long way from the Colac Hotel.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I have, sir. I will wind up by saying this.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The offices of treasurer and premier of this state, regardless of who the occupants are, are important principal positions in government and, if we are to be attacked, let it be done on a basis of fact. If, in fact, the Leader of the Opposition has either deliberately or incompetently stumbled into putting forward untrue allegations of this order he must apologise and resign as Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will take his seat.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Minister for Transport!

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms BREUER (Giles) (16:16): My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. What initiative is being progressed to better integrate the efforts of the three levels of government to meet local, state and national priorities through regional development?

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development) (16:16): I thank the honourable member for her question and acknowledge her commitment to not only her electorate but regional South Australia. In its 2008-09 budget, the commonwealth government announced that a new program, Regional Development Australia, would become its major vehicle for engagement with regional communities.

At that time it stated that the new RDA program would build on the federal government's Area Consultative Committees program, and that the new RDAs would take on a broader role to provide input into national programs, improve the coordination of federal regional initiatives and link closely with local government and other regional organisations.

In July 2008, the Regional Development Council meeting of federal, state and territory ministers and the Australian Local Government Association agreed to move forward in aligning RDA with regional development organisations or, in South Australia's case, regional development boards and ACCs.

Ministers and the ALGA also agreed to a number of principles which will form the basis of aligning and integrating regional development activities and structures through a memorandum of understanding. It is noteworthy that South Australia is the only jurisdiction which is seeking to establish RDA with local government as a founding partner.

The proposal in our state is to transition from the 13 RDBs and five ACCs, and establish seven new RDAs in regional South Australia and one new RDA to cover metropolitan Adelaide. The new RDAs will be closely aligned to the State Government Regions boundaries, in response to the Economic Development Board's recommendation on this matter, as was detailed by the Premier earlier today.

The diversity of our regions will be acknowledged as we transition to the new regional development partnership and that is why the government has been pleased to announce, as the Premier did today, the appointment of the Hon. Rob Kerin, former premier of South Australia and a leader of significant regional standing, to head up a transition team that will work closely with the RDA partners in order to fine tune local arrangements under the RDA partnership. I know that members of the opposition will join with this side of the house in welcoming Rob Kerin to that role.

The government believes RDA will provide an opportunity to put in place an agenda of renewal and opportunity for regional South Australia to help sustain regional communities into the future. It will better position us to align our regional and state priorities for social and economic development with priorities at the national level.

In particular, the government believes RDA will provide clearer focal points for delivering regional development programs for our regional communities and reduce duplication or confusion in the delivery of services.

The new RDA bodies will be capable of attracting high calibre community and business leaders with the capacity to market and promote national and state government programs and services. These leaders will assist regional communities to meet the social and economic challenges they face and maximise outcomes from the opportunities they seize.

Integrating and focusing the efforts of the three levels of government will, without doubt, result in a whole-of-government and community-wide coordination of regional development strategy, reducing the need for bidding wars between our communities.

I certainly believe the establishment of RDA in our state will promote collaboration in regional planning and community consultation, as well as a more strategic approach to the provision of new or upgraded regional infrastructure.

RDA, as it becomes established in our state, offers a unique opportunity for the three levels of government to pool their regional development efforts for the benefit of local communities, the state and, indeed, the nation, and we should collectively exploit that opportunity.

DRIVING RECORD

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen) (16:21): My question is to the Minister for Correctional Services. How many expiated traffic infringements have been recorded against him in the period 1994 to 2009, and how many of those were paid by the due date?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Gambling, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:21): The number that I have mentioned in parliament today is inclusive of the ones that were in the *Sunday Mail*. What I will do is get a breakdown for the member by the end of business today and let her know the exact number. I am not trying to avoid it, I just do not have it here in front of me, but I will get it for the member.

DRIVING RECORD

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen) (16:21): My question is again to the Minister for Correctional Services. Has the minister been the subject of a warrant for his arrest during the term of the Rann government?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Gambling, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:21): I had this question on radio. I have checked with the South Australian police and the Courts Administration Authority and they have advised me that I have not.

DRIVING RECORD

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen) (16:22): My question is again for the Minister for Correctional Services. During the term of the Rann government has the minister had his car repossessed?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, my understanding is that, were it the case, it is a civil matter between one party and another and is not a matter of any responsibility the minister has to the house.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I point out that some people in the house get upset and quite angry when you refer to them being bankrupt, even by interjection. I just wonder if that is the responsibility of the minister to the house.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I do agree with the minister: the minister has no responsibility to the house for such matters. However, the question has been asked and, if the minister wants to answer it, I will give him the opportunity to do so.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Gambling, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:22): I have tried to keep a comprehensive record—more than any other member sitting opposite. I have asked the police commissioner, the Courts Administration Authority, DTEI and Fleet SA to give me a full record of all my offences. That is something that no member opposite has done. I remind members that none of the offending occurred while I was a minister. I do not remember a car of mine ever being repossessed but I will check.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

LAND TAX

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (16:24): My question is to the Treasurer. Did he mislead the public in relation to the amount of land tax revenue collected by his government? On Thursday, 16 April, when asked what land tax is worth to the government every year, the Treasurer stated:

Land tax in excess of, I think, \$200 million, but we've had land tax as a stable tax base of this state for decades.

Budget papers for 2008-09 list land tax revenue at \$511 million.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (16:24): Clearly, I said in excess of \$200 million.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Minister for Transport and the member for MacKillop!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Little Para) (16:25): My question is directed to the Minister for Education. What support is being provided to help teachers prepare for the new South Australian Certificate of Education that is being introduced into secondary schools from this year?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Adelaide—Minister for Education, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Tourism, Minister for the City of Adelaide) (16:25): I thank the member for Little Para; she has a keen interest in education and young people's attainment, not just in her electorate but throughout the state. As members are aware, the new SACE is being introduced to all Catholic, independent and government schools with students involved in years 10, 11 and 12.

The year 10 students this year are now taking part in the first new subject which is called a personal learning plan. This subject is particularly important and is compulsory. It helps students map out their subjects for years 11 and 12 but, more importantly, for the longer term with their career goals being mapped in a concrete and discernible way. This new subject is part of a significant reform of the senior secondary education system to ensure that more young people complete 12 years of secondary education and lift their skills and level of qualifications.

The need to gain higher level qualifications and be effectively equipped for the future is particularly significant in our current global economic climate. The state government has worked

with schools, further education and tertiary sectors to invest \$54.5 million to support this new program. Of course, teachers play a central role in helping students to develop their skills and attributes for the future. That is why a large proportion of the funds is being spent on professional development.

Since 2007 the government has invested more than \$10 million in professional development for teachers and for trialling the new SACE subjects before they are introduced. This has involved forums, workshops and conferences progressively involving and informing teachers so that they are well prepared to teach and help in the assessment of their students.

This year the investment amounts to \$3.2 million towards a range of professional development programs for teachers. For example, in the first few weeks of this school term conferences for all SACE coordinators are being conducted throughout the state. There are workshops at various locations during May and June for subject teachers, including English, English as a second language and mathematics, whilst other professional development programs later this term will focus on assessment processes and grades for the new SACE subjects.

The first students to undertake the new SACE assessment will graduate in 2011 and further professional development support will be provided for our teachers until that time. Meanwhile, I commend South Australia's teachers, coordinators, principals and others, and all school sectors for their passionate commitment to the reform process and helping young people to achieve their best.

CANCER SERVICES REVIEW

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kairua—Minister for Health, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (16:28): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: In December last year I commissioned the SA Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care, led by chairman Mr Hans Ohff, to review auditing and quality assurance systems in cancer services offered throughout the state's public hospitals. I ordered this review following two incidents which emerged last year: the under-dosing of some radiotherapy at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and incorrect chemotherapy dosages at the Women's and Children's, Modbury and Lyell McEwin hospitals.

While independent clinical reviews confirmed that these incidents did not cause significant clinical effects, I believed it was important to review our auditing systems in cancer across the state. Today, I have tabled the report of the review. The report contains 12 recommendations, including: improvement in governance and organisation of cancer services at a regional and state level; a more structured process around continuous review and improvement of clinical care; standardised protocols and procedures across cancer services; the improved credentialling of cancer specialists; and better use of incident management reporting in cancer services.

The report also recommends the full implementation of the statewide cancer control plan. The plan is South Australia's blueprint for a coordinated and strategic cancer service for all South Australians and is currently being rolled out by SA Health. I have asked SA Health to take immediate action to ensure that the recommendations are implemented. Many of the recommendations have already been implemented or are in train. Importantly, none of the recommendations indicate shortcomings in patient care. All of the recommendations are focused on governance, incident management and reporting and staff credentialling.

Today, I have also tabled the state's latest cancer statistics in a report by SA Health, *Cancer in South Australia 2006*. Sourced from data from the South Australian Cancer Registry, the annual report provides us with statistics on cancer detection and mortality, guiding us in trends and helping in the planning of cancer services. The report tells us that the most common cancers in South Australia are prostate, breast, colorectal, lung and melanoma.

In 2006, there were 8,592 new cases of cancer diagnosed and 3,436 cancer deaths in South Australia. Cancer incidence in some areas was on the rise (including prostate, breast, colorectal and melanoma) due to increased screening of the community. The report also tells us that for two key cancers, prostate and breast cancer, the mortality rates have dropped over the past 15 years.

What this report indicates is that early detection of cancers and new and innovative treatment of cancers over the past decade has led to much better outcomes for people with this insidious disease. The very good work of our world-class cancer services across our hospitals is also contributing to this much better outcome for patients.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the excellent clinical staff working across our cancer services. I also wish to reassure South Australians that their cancer services are among the very best in the world. I have tabled both these reports.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

TOURISM

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (16:32): In Australia, 500,000 people are employed in tourism. A document put out today by a major tourism organisation states that 29,000 jobs are at risk. In the Premier's ministerial statement today, he said that there is no question that times are tough and that some jobs will be lost but that the government will do everything in its power to protect jobs, create jobs and prepare for future growth when the global economic climate improves.

Why do I raise that? Well, quite simply, because of the absolutely obscene rise in national parks entry fees into Seal Bay and other parks on Kangaroo Island. 'Obscene' was the term used by Mr. Marc Warren of Budget Kangaroo Island on the radio the other day. I quote from *The Islander* last week:

A family ticket to a Seal Bay beach tour is now \$75, up from \$38. An individual ticket is \$27.50 (from \$14) and the boardwalk tour \$12.50 (from \$10).

The price increase will also impact on Kangaroo Island Tour Pass (entry to all...sites), which increases to \$160.50 for a family (from \$126) and \$59 an adult (from \$46.50).

What is taking place here is absolute lunacy, and I cannot believe that the minister will allow this to happen. Seal Bay is the icon of tourism on Kangaroo Island, and I would like to think that the ERD Committee of parliament will look at this. Quite frankly, these people are out of their mind. The local DEH officers are beside themselves. They cannot speak out for fear of retribution.

Mr Brett Simes, the Program Leader of Commercial Tourism Services, Conservation Policy and Programs, has sent a letter out to tourism operators announcing what they are doing. Also, there has been talk about the consultation that has taken place. Well, there has not been any consultation. Three plans were put up to operators for Seal Bay. They were not asked what they thought, and they just blazed away and whacked up these prices.

Kangaroo Island is already an expensive destination. It is already difficult for people to get over there, whether by boat or plane. To get over there and be faced with a 100 per cent increase in park entry fees into Seal Bay, and to other places, is just totally ridiculous. One wonders where the Rann Labor government is going. Does it want people to visit the island or not? CPI would have been acceptable, but a nearly 100 per cent increase is extreme.

The Minister for Tourism would also be advised to talk to the minister for the environment about this issue, because it is simply unsustainable. It will cost jobs on Kangaroo Island, it will cost jobs in the transport sector, in accommodation, tour companies and small businesses all around the island, all because of this absolutely ludicrous situation. It is bureaucracy gone mad and it should be addressed.

I have spoken to a number of tour operators on the island (small and large operators) over the last few days, and they are outraged at what has happened. They cannot believe that this has taken place. They can in no way afford to lift their prices by 100 per cent, or probably even by 2 or 3 per cent because, quite simply, they will not be in business—nobody will be able to afford them. But here we are, the government department whacks up the cost to get into Seal Bay by nearly 100 per cent, including the family passes.

I urge members on the other side who have some semblance of decency about cost increases to take this matter up with the minister, the Treasurer and the Premier and have it redressed. It is madness; absolute madness. About 110,000 people a year visit Seal Bay. What will this do? People are driving in there—and it is several kilometres in and several kilometres out—finding out what the cost is and driving away, because they simply cannot afford to go in.

Is this the Labor government's great attempt at being fair to everybody: putting up prices nearly 100 per cent? How can we do that to young families? We are losing jobs everywhere. We

have heard what could possibly happen at Holden's. We are losing jobs in all sorts of industries. People are in a position where they can still take a short break and travel within South Australia for a short holiday. They are being put in a situation where they go over to Kangaroo Island—which is a Mecca for visitors—they come down through the Fleurieu and go to things there, but they cannot afford to go to Seal Bay.

HERITAGE SITES

Ms FOX (Bright) (16:37): In order for this state to progress, it is very important to remember and, indeed, preserve the foundations upon which we were built, be they physical or philosophical. I wish to address the house today about the importance of ongoing protection and conservation of significant landmarks within South Australia which have played an important role in our state's history.

The South Australian government, of course, is committed to the preservation of historical and environmental heritage listed sites, not only for our own benefit but for the benefit of many generations to come. Within the state there is a vast array of sites that are classified under different levels of heritage listing, based on the impact they have had on shaping different groups of people or tiers of the community.

Sites such as the Naracoorte Caves, the state's only world heritage listing (I think), through to buildings such as the Adelaide General Post Office, which is registered under the Commonwealth Heritage Register, are evidence of our wealth of heritage sites. Even places that we take for granted, such as the Adelaide Parklands, are protected by the National Environmental Heritage Register and show the environmental diversity which sets us apart from the rest of Australia.

In my own electorate, of course, we have Kingston House, which was built in 1851. There was another structure on this site from 1840, but the building as we know it today was built in 1851. George Strickland Kingston, who was deputy surveyor to Colonel William Light, built it as a summer residence for his large family. As everybody here knows, his son, Charles Cameron Kingston, eventually became premier of South Australia, and was elected to the first federal parliament in 1901.

Kingston House is proudly owned by the state government, and it is leased to the Kingston House Development Committee, an extraordinary group of very hardworking volunteers. I have visited the house on a number of occasions, and I am very proud of the physical and cultural capital it brings to our community. The scones are also very good.

Ms Bedford interjecting:

Ms FOX: Yes, they are very good. I recommend you go, Frances. It is also admirable to see that local government is committed to the preservation of important sites, and I was privileged a couple of weekends ago to attend the reopening of a heritage listed site in my electorate, Bagshaw Hall, also known as the Brighton Institute. This building, constructed in 1929, has recently been lovingly restored by the Brighton Rotary Club.

The land in 1929 cost £210 and the building itself cost £698. It was named after Mr John Augustus Bagshaw, a city councillor and mayor for many years. The hall has had a number of incarnations. It was a library, a classroom for first aiders, a recreation and bridge club, a literary and debating society, a kindergarten, and a place where sewing classes were held. Since the 1950s, Bagshaw Hall has been used almost exclusively as an institute library, and it is heart-warming to see that books are once again on the shelves in Bagshaw Hall.

The Rotary club is now using this hall, and I was impressed by how many people attended its recent sale. I also enjoyed, once again, the sausage sizzle. This is the great thing about being a member of parliament—the scones, sausage sizzles.

For some years, the club has been using the sheds behind the hall for its garage sales, and in 2007 Rotary and the Holdfast Bay council negotiated a lease of the property. The Rotarians have worked extremely hard to restore this hall. They have replastered, painted, polished and basically renovated this beautiful little building, and they have brought it back to an admirable condition. I think this is a wonderful thing for them to have done, because they have done it free of charge. No-one else was doing it.

Mrs Redmond: Like it always does.

Ms FOX: Indeed. I agree with a member for Heysen: Rotary always steps up. The Rotary Club of Brighton has served our local community since 1972, and while they have, of course, carried out hundreds of valuable projects, I have to say that I have been particularly impressed by what I saw in Bagshaw Hall last weekend.

We are so lucky to have many buildings, landmarks and areas, which serve as a reminder to the rich heritage that we hold. Whether they are listed by the National Trust, Heritage SA or by local government, it is personally important to me that we as a government remember and celebrate the past as we move forward is to a vibrant and exciting future.

FOODBANK SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:42): I rise to highlight a very important program that runs in schools all over South Australia to provide nourishing and sustaining breakfasts to many of our disadvantaged school students. The main supplier of these services is Foodbank SA, which was established in September 2000 by the then minister for human services and former Liberal premier, Dean Brown, to provide a one-stop food and grocery centre, where community support agencies can access a constant supply of nutritious food to be distributed to those who need it.

Foodbank receives about 80 per cent of its food and products from donations, and another 20 per cent is funded through hard-won grants, as they become available, and money from donations, together with robust negotiations with manufacturers, so that Foodbank can keep sufficient supplies of food available for the needy at all times. Of course, Foodbank is not just there for school breakfast. It serves many thousands of South Australians who are disadvantaged in our community.

An amazing one million kilograms of food is sourced, warehoused and moved around the state by Foodbank each year. Following research that showed 40 per cent of Australian schoolchildren go to school without breakfast, which ultimately results in poor behaviour, lack of concentration and poor academic outcomes, Foodbank joined with the Red Cross and Save the Children Fund, Rotary and other service groups to establish school programs which provide breakfast to hungry and disadvantaged children.

Most importantly, the children also learn about healthy eating and hygiene, as well as gaining good social and life skills as they interact with each other before school. Red Cross and Save the Children then train local groups to set up and run their own breakfast clubs in partnership with Foodbank. So, not only does it move in initially and set up and run the programs for a short time, Foodbank also works towards making breakfast clubs self-sufficient so that they can be run by their own school communities.

Currently, Foodbank is delivering breakfast foods and products to 110 schools around the state, from the APY lands to the north to Mount Gambier in the south, as well as across the metropolitan area. A conservative estimate indicates that these wonderful people feed breakfast to about 15,000 hungry students each week in South Australia. I applaud and congratulate everyone involved in providing breakfast each day to our needy children.

However, with the global financial crisis biting hard, these charities and other groups are finding it increasingly difficult to raise the funds necessary to keep the programs going. Everyone is tightening their belts when considering financial assistance, including the Rann Labor government, it seems. I was shocked to learn that Foodbank's annual \$75,000 subsidy from the government was terminated last year.

That small amount made a big difference to this organisation, located at Edwardstown and run by a small but dedicated band of six people. At a time when more and more South Australians are struggling to make ends meet, this is just a cold and callous act on the part of the government, particularly when you consider that Foodbank in Queensland, which delivers the same amount of food to the needy as South Australia, receives \$650,000 from its government. Victoria receives \$450,000 from its government, and in Western Australia they get a share of lotteries for their Foodbank.

We should hardly be surprised that Mr Rann endorses such actions when his Minister for Education tells us that these services (breakfast in schools) are not her responsibility. In response to a question I asked in parliament last June, minister Lomax-Smith expressed a view that she had no interest in such school breakfasts as follows:

The Department of Education does not run breakfast programs. They are not part of our funding package.

I suggest it should be. It is time to do something about breaking the poverty cycle and ensuring that all children have their fair go in education and that these programs are properly funded.

Now is not the time for Mr Rann, the social inclusion minister, to play Mr Scrooge. If the self-proclaimed education Premier wants South Australia to produce sufficient numbers of skilled school leavers to meet our state's needs, as he stated in an article in *The Weekend Australian* just last month, then he and his Minister for Education should take an interest in school breakfast clubs and school communities, if South Australia is to take part in the post-recession recovery.

ADELAIDE ZOO

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (16:46): Adelaide Zoo held a tribute day on Wednesday 22 April for Pusung, the much loved Sumatran orangutan who died there the previous week. Born on 25 February 1978 in Perth, Pusung was hand raised at Singapore Zoo. He was always patient, gentle, calm and too shy to cross the footbridge to go on exhibit. At the age of 10, he was sent to Adelaide where he has become part of the international breeding program. As we know, he went on to father two young orangutans.

I refer to Adam Todd's *City Messenger* article of 23 April 2009 quoting zoo primate curator, Emma Yengi, when she was talking about Pusung. Emma Yengi said:

He was wonderful on display, because he was such a big creature—his big cheeks, long hair, shy eyes—people couldn't walk past without having a look. Pusung just had a beautiful character, he made wonderful connections with people.

It has been a sad year for the Adelaide Zoo. They have lost several animals. Levi, the dominant lion, died at Monarto Zoo on 1 April, aged 9. Last May, the Sumatran tiger, Tiger Boy, died from kidney failure, aged 24. Eli, the Syrian brown bear, died on 18 September, aged 32. Birri, the sea lion, passed away in December. It is very lucky for animal lovers that we have the much anticipated arrival of pandas Wang Wang and Funi to look forward to. I know that it will make a great deal of difference to the Adelaide Zoo.

The Florey electorate sponsored Pusung for 12 months, ending in January 2007. We were greatly saddened to learn of his death after suffering from a respiratory infection—a common cause of death in older male orangutans. This was despite the best efforts of the zoo's wonderful and hardworking veterinary team.

As part of this tribute to Pusung today, I acknowledge Dr Chris West, CEO of Zoos SA, and his team of committed staff who work with the primates at the zoo, and congratulate them on their work, including highlighting the plight of orangutans in the wild and the devastating impact the palm oil trade is having on the species.

Orangutans are highly intelligent animals. Their intelligence is comparable to that of a five or six year old child; therefore, it was only natural that Pusung would become an ambassador for his species and the face of Adelaide Zoo.

The single greatest threat facing orangutans in the wild today is the rapidly expanding palm oil trade. Palm oil is a form of edible vegetable oil obtained from the fruit of the African oil palm tree. It is believed to have recently eclipsed soya bean oil to become the world's most widely produced edible oil. It is used in many foods, cosmetics and household products. More recently, it has been touted as a biofuel, despite evidence that the use of palm oil-based diesel actually increases greenhouse emissions.

Rainforests are being cleared at the rate of 300 football fields per hour to make way for palm oil plantations. While there are millions of hectares of degraded land that could be used for plantations, many palm oil companies choose instead to use rainforest land to gain additional profits by logging the timber first. Palm oil companies also frequently used uncontrolled burning to clear the land, resulting in thousands of orangutans being burnt to death. Those that survive have nowhere to live and nothing left to eat.

The increased demand for palm oil, which is grown only in tropical environments, is fuelling destruction of the rainforest habitat of Sumatran and Bornean orangutans, pushing those endangered species even closer to extinction. Estimates show that if something is not done soon to stop the spread of palm oil plantations into the forests, orangutans will be extinct within 10 years.

Many everyday products contain palm oil. It is found in ice cream, chocolate biscuits (including Arnott's bestseller, Tim Tams, in its many varieties), crackers, chips, margarine, fruit

juice, batters, soap, toothpaste, laundry powders, detergents, cosmetics and pet food, just to name a few items. It is also found in a wide array of products sold in natural food stores.

It is difficult to know whether palm oil is in a product as it is usually simply labelled 'vegetable oil'. However, the label must declare the amount of saturated fat in the product. If the product has saturated fat, you can safely assume that the vegetable oil is palm kernel oil, palm oil or coconut oil.

Public and political pressure is the best weapon in bringing about change but, in order to do this, products containing palm oil must be clearly labelled. Currently, only three vegetable oils must be labelled in food products in Australia and New Zealand. My constituents tell me food labelling is woefully inadequate and this constantly results in consumers purchasing products they would not choose to buy if a thorough compulsory labelling system existed.

I would also like to see more encouragement given to buying Australian or locally made food items wherever possible. Clearly indicating the origin of products for sale should be imperative in the labelling of goods. Every dollar spent on Australian made or grown goods benefits the Australian economy.

Residents in my electorate are interested in buying Australian products and produce and want to support our local growers and manufacturers. In conjunction with Mike Rogers and his AusBuy 'Fightback' campaign and Drake Foodland, I know we are all keen to promote local and Australian goods to consumers.

Time expired.

SCHOOLS, ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (16:52): Today, I want to speak about the lack of opportunities for regional companies to tender for school building projects. The federal government's much publicised stimulus package includes many measures relating to schools: provisions to build or upgrade large scale infrastructure such as halls or libraries in every one of Australia's 9,540 schools; to build 500 new science laboratories and language learning centres in schools that can demonstrate need; and to give up to \$200,000 to every Australian school for maintenance and renewal of school buildings.

There has been much debate about whether or not the measures relating to schools in the package will help improve educational outcomes for Australian children, and many from within school communities are critical that they do not have a choice in where the money is going to be spent within their schools. They are being told that they have to have a new hall or an upgrade to the library, when, in fact, they may need extra computers.

The aim of the stimulus package (as stated in the press release by the Prime Minister) is to support jobs and to invest in future long-term economic growth. However, I strongly doubt that this will result, as is starting to show. Rather, our country will be thrust into a period of extreme debt. It has been brought to my—

The Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith interjecting:

Mr VENNING: Wait until I have finished. It has been brought to my attention by a constituent that there is no directive in the federal plan encouraging regionally based companies to tender for the work or giving them any sort of priority to provide services in the building of schools' infrastructure within rural and country South Australia. By 10 May, the federal Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure will announce the selected builders to whom various schools will be allocated. However, there is no requirement or encouragement by the Rudd Labor government for the builders to invite or select local or regional suppliers or contractors to provide the services or equipment needed.

As quite rightly pointed out by my constituent, this could very well mean that no work could be allocated to any regionally based organisations on projects being undertaken at schools within that region. It makes one ask the question: how then is the building schools part of the stimulus package going to create jobs and stimulate the economy for local businesses located in rural and regional areas? Or is the Rudd government aiming to help big companies and corporate organisations based in cities or metropolitan areas?

There are many businesses and companies located in rural and regional South Australia, and no doubt Australia, that would be capable of providing the services needed to construct and upgrade school infrastructure. Given the current strain being felt by country communities as a result

of the drought and difficult economic times, I believe that the federal Rudd government should have encouraged regional businesses to tender at the very least and should have even mandated that a certain percentage of the work should be allocated to regionally based companies.

The long-term goals that the Rudd Labor government has for future generations of sustainable employment, thriving small business and a strong rural market economy will not be helped one bit by the building schools program, or any part for that matter of the stimulus package. This on top of the state government's shared services initiatives is hurting country South Australians. This particular constituent I have mentioned here—

The Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith interjecting:

Mr VENNING: I am happy to show the detail to the minister, if she will keep quiet for a bit. This particular constituent heads up one of South Australia's very long-term businesses of historic significance—a name synonymous with our state—and it has been one of the largest and most successful. Its success is pivotal to the small country community where it operates. I hope this can be addressed before it is too late.

SOUTH ADELAIDE FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell) (16:55): This afternoon I would like to speak about two initiatives relating to young people in the south. The first is an exciting new initiative of the South Adelaide Football Club, the Panthers (as they are now known). The Panthers has set out to really make a place for itself in the southern community. It has been based in the south for some time now, but it cannot yet be said that South Adelaide has the same identity in the south as Central Districts Football Club has in the north. However, we are aiming to change this significantly.

The South Adelaide committee has consulted with a number of activists in the community about ways that it might be able to stamp its mark on the southern community and contribute to it significantly. My suggestion is something that has been taken up by South Adelaide and called Southern Man-Made Program. This is a mentoring program for young boys who have no father figure in their family. We are targeting boys in the 12 to 14 age group, starting modestly with eight boys, each of whom will be assigned a mentor from within South Adelaide players.

The boys will have a gym program, which they will undertake in conjunction with their mentor on a Monday night, and then, through the Hackham West Community Centre, they will also be involved in some life skills development programs for young men, targeting particularly healthy living and emotional health for young men.

The boys in the program will also be part of the South Adelaide volunteer program, so that they get into the habit of giving back to their community, as well as receiving benefits from it. They will become part of a vibrant community where both men and women work together for the recreational benefit of the south.

The Hickinbotham Group is sponsoring this, and we are hoping that, as part of this, Hickinbotham will provide work experience opportunities for some of these young men, because, often, when there is not a man in the family, it is very hard to find really relevant work experience opportunities.

Another exciting thing for the young men involved is that they will go with their mentor to an AFL match and sit in the box at AAMI Stadium where, no doubt, they will partake of healthy food, as we all do when we sit in boxes at AAMI Stadium. They will be able to spend a day out with their mentor and see an AFL match, which many of them would not have had the opportunity to see before.

I congratulate the South Adelaide Football Club for taking up this initiative. I put it forward as something that would benefit young people in the south, even though it is starting off in a small way, and I am very pleased that it will be launching the program this evening.

The other youth initiative in the south that I want to mention is the ANZAC Youth Vigil, which this year had its seventh vigil. Again that started from an idea when talking to a couple of local activists on ANZAC Day and I said, 'There is this youth vigil in the city, why can't we have one in the south?'

As I said, we have had seven vigils in the south, thanks to a lot of volunteer organisers in the community and 28 sponsors. I want to particularly mention Bradley's Bakery and Chem-Loo Chemical Toilets, both of whom have been sponsors right from the beginning and were two of the

first sponsors to come on board. Everyone would understand that, if you are keeping 200 young people fed for the night, you need both a bakery and a chemical toilet.

St John's is quite special in the south, providing overnight first aid coverage for everyone. This year Tayla Cooling, who is the City of Onkaparinga's Young Citizen of the Year, was the youth speaker. She spoke movingly about having talked with her two grandfathers about their experience during the Second World War. This has been an important event for the south and I congratulate all involved.

ELECTRICITY (FEED-IN RATES) AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

MARATHON RESOURCES

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Adelaide—Minister for Education, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Tourism, Minister for the City of Adelaide) (17:02): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to Marathon Resources made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Minister for Mineral Resources Development.

SOUTHERN STATE SUPERANNUATION BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 8 April 2009. Page 2337.)

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (17:04): I confirm that I will be the lead speaker on this bill. The opposition supports the bill, without the need for amendment to be considered in committee. This bill was introduced by the Treasurer on 8 April. I am grateful that Mr Deane Prior, Director, Superannuation Policy, Treasury and Finance, was available to give me a briefing some eight days ago. As usual when talking to Mr Prior, the briefing was detailed and he was very knowledgeable.

As I understand it, the intention of the bill is to take away a lot of the detail included in the Southern State Superannuation Act 1994 in order to create a simplified act of parliament to control the superannuation scheme and put much of the detail (which is occasionally required to be amended) into regulations. I asked a question during the briefing about the availability of the draft regulations. I am somewhat concerned about the intent of some legislation that comes before the chamber to take issues out of the act and put them into regulations which are not necessarily subject to the same degree of scrutiny before they become law.

While I recognise that there is an opportunity to consider the regulations through another process, an indication was given to me during the briefing that the draft regulations would be available because they had been given to groups with whom the government consulted on the bill. But they have not been given to me, so I formally put on the record that I seek provision of the regulations in order to allow scrutiny by the opposition between the houses to ensure that, when the bill progresses through the upper house, we have an opportunity to consider what is contained within them.

My review of the second reading explanation and the clauses and my understanding of the superannuation scheme which applies to these employees is that it is an accumulation scheme. Therefore, it is fully funded superannuation, not subject to other members who are part of the defined benefit scheme, which has an unfunded liability. The very strong emphasis in the second reading explanation that the benefits to public sector employees who are part of this scheme will not be affected in any way gives me assurance that the intent of the bill is appropriate.

When seeking confirmation from the South Australian Superannuation Board about what it thought of the bill, a very strong commitment was given that it has been driven by the board to some degree, that its members fully support the bill, and that they seek support from the opposition.

The bill aims to modernise and simplify the legislation and provide flexibility for changes to occur quickly in the future by reducing the scope of the act but increasing the use of regulations. As part of the briefing it was pointed out to me that, because many changes are made within the federal sphere in relation to superannuation, by the time they can be considered by the individual states and incorporated into state legislation there is a delay; so by simplifying the legislation, inserting only the core principles required for superannuation management into the bill and putting the majority of the issues that require flexibility into the regulations, it would allow the changes to be made quickly and ensure that members of the scheme get the greatest benefit as quickly as

possible. Certainly, from the opposition's perspective, there is no reason for us to hold it up, and in our party room debate there was unanimous support for the bill in its current form.

I note that the Triple S scheme is an accumulation scheme available to persons employed in the public sector and that the changes that will become part of the management of the scheme, through the introduction and support for this bill, allow for approved employers to pay employee superannuation into the scheme. A question was put to me, and an example was provided at the briefing, about approved employees, who may be people such as those engaged by the education department to undertake Vacswim programs and who are not permanent employees of the department or the Crown.

They may have a variety of other roles in the community, and their role in the VACSWIM programs is very much part time for a few months of the year. While the government has a liability to pay superannuation for them, I understand that, traditionally, they have not been caught up within this super scheme. I am not sure where their super money has gone, because the government, as the employer, has a liability of 9 per cent it is required to pay. Opening up the membership opportunity via these amendments promotes what the Triple S scheme is about.

Certainly, in his briefing with me, Mr Prior talked about the fact that it is one of the low cost management schemes that are available. In doing some comparative work on this scheme and others, I know that that is a very valid and factual statement. While many super schemes in the marketplace may seem attractive, they have quite considerable management costs; however, for a very reasonable fee (I believe it is less than \$1 per week), this scheme provides management of what is in many cases a person's largest investment opportunity beyond their home, and that is why I think security really needs to be provided.

All of us in this chamber, and most people who have some understanding of what has been occurring around the world in the past 16 months, appreciate that all our superannuation investments have been hit to some degree. People who have chosen more conservative arms of investment have not been hit to such a large extent because their investment options have been slightly more preserved from the great fluctuations that have occurred in returns on property and investment of assets.

However, those who have taken higher risk options in superannuation, such as many of those of a younger age who think that it will be a long time before they need their superannuation and that they can afford to accept some level of risk—that is, the possibility of one period of negative return over a five to seven year period, with the possibility of greater returns—have been severely affected. That is why it is particularly pleasing that this scheme and the proposed changes do not diminish any of the benefits payable upon their retirement or their leaving the employer and transferring their super, if they so choose. It makes sure that people have their asset.

As part of the briefing, Mr Prior provided the valuation of the funds held within the scheme, and it is important to note the way they are managed at the moment. Two funds are held: one comprises the employee contributions and the earnings of those investments, and that total is held in a sum; the other fund is the value of the employer contributions and the investments. I do not quite understand why they have been separated in the past, but the intention now is to consolidate them into one investment fund, and that is again a simplification of the process.

It is interesting that as at 30 June 2008 \$5.9 billion was being held in those two funds. Again, there have been some considerable drops in the value of investments since that time, and I am sure that we will get an update on their value as they currently stand. Sadly, it will be much less than \$5.9 billion, and every dollar lost is a dollar out of somebody's pocket to help fund their retirement option.

At the briefing, I noted that, as at 31 December, the Triple S scheme holds 161,560 member accounts, which includes 55,400 preserved member accounts. That is a very large number when you consider that South Australia has some 780,000 people in work and, for 161,000 of those to hold funds within the Triple S scheme, it really identifies that a lot of people who work or who have worked in the Public Service have chosen to invest their funds through superannuation; indeed, in many cases they may have left them in the scheme, a fact that is highlighted by the preserved member accounts, that is, those who are no longer employees but who have chosen to leave their dollars with the Triple S scheme.

As at 31 December 2009, about 9,500 people had chosen a specific investment strategy other than the default option, which is usually the balanced fund. That is actually quite a good number, and it represents 6 or 7 per cent. In indications previously provided to me, Mr Prior talked

about a much lower percentage of those who had made a conscious decision to determine their superannuation investment program. Most people are quite bamboozled about the options available to them and choose the default option because they think that, if somebody else within the industry has determined that that is the best form of investment, it is the easiest one to pursue.

In conclusion, simplification seems a reasonable option because it provides flexibility for changes to be made quickly. In his summing up, I ask the minister to give a commitment to provide me with a copy of the draft regulations so that I can ensure that they are considered by the opposition between the houses. I look forward to the steady progress of the bill through the chamber.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:14): I rise, too, in support of the bill, which was introduced into this house on 8 April 2009 by the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis on behalf of Treasurer Kevin Foley. The bill will create an act to continue the Triple S contributory superannuation scheme for persons employed in the public sector. It will also make consequential amendments to certain other acts and repeal the Southern State Superannuation Act 1994. Consultation on our side of the house has advised that the bill proposes the replacement of the existing statute that establishes the Triple S scheme with a new act that will continue the scheme. The Triple S scheme is not being changed under this legislation.

The bill's target aim is to modernise and simplify the legislation and provide flexibility for changes to occur quickly in the future by reducing the scope of the act, but increasing the use of regulations. As mentioned by the member for Goyder, this seems quite reasonable, so as to ensure that changes can be implemented quickly in order to meet new industry standards and commonwealth requirements. I note that the member for Goyder has asked for a copy of the draft regulations so that we can see how that will be implemented.

Importantly, assurances have been given that the regulations may not reduce the amount of a person's accrued benefits. The Triple S scheme is an accumulation scheme available to persons employed in the public sector. However, changes will be made to allow for approved employers to pay employee superannuation into the scheme. For example, government funded programs such as VACSWIM will be able to utilise Triple S rather than using non-government superannuation schemes, which have higher management costs.

As at 30 June 2008, the Southern State Superannuation Scheme held \$5.9 billion in two funds, one being employee contributions, funds rolled over from other schemes and earnings, and the other being employer contributions and earnings. Under the bill this money will be held in the one fund, the Southern State Superannuation Fund.

The number of member accounts in Triple S as at 31 December 2008 was 161,560, and this included 55,400 preserved member accounts. In relation to the number of members who have selected a specific investment strategy, other than the default balanced option, as at the end of December 2008 there was about 9 per cent of the membership who took up that option.

From our briefings on this bill, it seems as though it will simplify the scheme and put it in far better order. So long as the regulations are in place, it will be a benefit for everyone involved in this with their superannuation. Superannuation funds have certainly had their battles over recent times with the global financial crisis and we can only hope that things, as far as an earning capacity, recover shortly. With those few words I support the bill.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel) (17:18): I, too, am pleased to make a contribution this afternoon in the house on the Southern State Superannuation Bill 2009. Along with my colleagues on this side of the house, I also wish to acknowledge my support for this particular piece of legislation.

I do not necessarily need to go into the finite technicalities of the legislation, given the fact that the shadow minister for finance has done that extremely well, as is his norm. However, there are a couple of points that I would like to make specifically in relation to the bill. If I could have the indulgence of the house, I would like to expand and broaden my comments concerning superannuation in general.

The bill aims to modernise and simplify the legislation and provide flexibility for changes to occur quickly in the future by reducing the scope of the act but increasing the use of regulations. I refer to the minister's second reading explanation that he made a couple of weeks ago. That was the Minister for Correctional Services and the then minister for road safety—however, we know that that is all changed now. However, I do not want to dwell on issues such as that. There are some

points that the minister covered that I think are worthy of looking at again. I will quote from his speech:

With superannuation rules and standards constantly changing, often to meet commonwealth requirements, this restructuring of the enabling legislation will enable much quicker responses to required changes to scheme rules. Often changes to scheme rules need to be implemented at relatively short notice in order to meet new industry standards or commonwealth requirements. Being able to change scheme rules quickly is often necessary to prevent inconvenience to members and prevent them from being disadvantaged by necessary changes to rules being delayed.

That all makes perfect sense. As the member for Hammond pointed out, the Triple S scheme is an accumulation scheme available to persons employed in the public sector. However, changes will be made to allow for approved employers to pay employees' superannuation into the scheme. The member for Hammond quite correctly pointed out that government funded programs, such as VACSWIM, will be able to utilise the Triple S scheme, rather than using a non-government super scheme which has high management fees.

I can advise the house that I have a small amount of money in the Triple S scheme, having been a staffer.

The Hon. J.W. Weatherill: A bit smaller now.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY: Yes, indeed. I received a statement the other day, minister, and it was not particularly pleasant reading. Having been a staffer for a number of years before coming into this place, there were some contributions made into the Triple S scheme. Obviously there would be a number of members in this place, also being staffers in a previous career, who would have funds held in this scheme.

I will talk about superannuation in a broader sense. Superannuation is a very important part of financial planning, particularly as people leave full-time employment and move into semi-retirement or retirement. The superannuation guarantee was introduced, I think, under the previous Keating federal government and it was quite controversial when it was introduced. I must admit that, at the time, I had some reservations about it. However, as we have progressed as a society, as the country has progressed economically and markets have changed and aspects concerning financial management, the management of funds within the country, the deregulation of the markets and the like, deregulation of the banking system and so on, it has really brought about superannuation being part of the landscape.

If you do not have superannuation in one form or another, you will be at a disadvantage. I am fairly confident in saying that you would be at a disadvantage when you move into retirement. Really, the superannuation guarantee, while it was resisted a number of years ago during the Keating administration, I think has really been accepted as part of the landscape.

Superannuation is a vitally important part of financial planning. However, we have seen, in recent times, with the sharemarket crash and the global financial crisis (GFC), that that has had a significant effect on some superannuation schemes and also, obviously, with funds that are held in self-funded retiree situations.

With the sharemarket crash and the general effect of the GFC, the returns on the investments of the self-funded retirees have reduced and, unfortunately, those people have found themselves having to avail themselves of a part, if not all, of the old age pension in particular. Obviously, with people moving from a self-reliant scheme, where they are relying on their own funds to manage through retirement, they are going onto social security, basically, and availing themselves of the old age pension, and that is obviously placing more pressure on the government coffers.

I am not necessarily moving away from the relevance of the bill, but I make the comparison in relation to land tax. Land tax is having an impact on the net income of some self-funded retirees and having an impact, you could say, on their superannuation because property could be held within their superannuation portfolio. Obviously, with the enormous increases that we have seen in land tax over the past three years, that is having a negative impact on the bottom line for some of these people and, therefore, they have to avail themselves of the pension.

This was highlighted at a recent public meeting at the Norwood Town Hall, which was attended by 1,000-plus people and which I attended with my colleagues and the leader. This specific issue was highlighted from the floor at that meeting. People are having to look at going onto the pension because land tax is having a significant negative effect on their earnings. That is a very important point to make: that land tax is having an effect on superannuation funds.

Obviously, managed superannuation funds invest in a range of properties, commercial properties and, I would presume, residential properties as part of a portfolio mix. Land tax would obviously be charged on those properties and, again, would have an effect on managed superannuation funds. This particular tax is extremely pervasive; it covers a wide range of areas within our economy. Obviously, it affects business, but it also affects self-funded retirees and superannuation funds. I am pleased to speak to the bill and, as stated earlier, I intend to support it.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (17:27): As other speakers before me have indicated, we support this bill and we certainly understand and appreciate the importance of superannuation, not just for those on the public payroll, of course, but for all members of our community.

Superannuation has been part of the Australian way of life for all wage earners for the best part of 20 years now—or even longer than that. It would be closer to 25 years when compulsory superannuation contributions by employers were introduced. I think the initial start-up was about 5 per cent and it gradually went up to the 9 per cent that it is now. Of course, in the Commonwealth Public Service it is about 15.4 per cent, and there are different companies around the country that offer different types of superannuation packages.

Some chief executives in the state Public Service, for example, choose to salary sacrifice rather large amounts of their \$330,000-odd salaries into superannuation. Obviously, they understand the importance of providing for themselves in their retirement. In a report that is tabled annually I think I have seen some chief executives stashing away \$100,000 or more a year in salary sacrifice for superannuation. They obviously understand the importance of providing for their future.

Of course, every member of either the public or private sector who has a superannuation account will have noticed how difficult it has been over the past year, in particular—and even prior to that—to maintain growth in superannuation accounts. I know that in my case, once I was elected to parliament, we made a family decision that my wife would be a full-time carer. So, she has a stagnant superannuation account, and we cringe every time the account comes in, because it gets smaller and smaller as no contributions are being made to that account. I think that, at the moment, the Superannuation Act at the federal level does not provide for women as well as it could. I think there needs to be more flexibility for women in particular, or for any sole or primary carer who makes the decision to be a full-time carer and suspend their earning capacity.

I hope this is an area that will be addressed some time in the future so that women really do have a choice as to whether they want to stay in the workforce or be a full-time parent—or men, for that matter; caring for children is not exclusive to women. However, I think it is a fact—and it is silly to deny it—that the vast majority of primary carers of children are, in fact, women. Certainly, it is for that reason that I believe some changes at the federal level would go a long way to preserving women's superannuation entitlements and their nest eggs while they are not working. While people are not contributing to those accounts, maybe there should be somewhere they could park it so that they are not as vulnerable to market forces.

I pick up on the point that the member for Kavel made in his speech about the impact of land tax on superannuation. I think he made an interesting point. Property trusts are a big part of superannuation portfolios and, of course, properties are in fact subject to land tax. We know that, in South Australia, we have the worst land tax regime in the country, so we see investments being made outside of South Australia—in other states. We know of South Australians who have invested in other states. Our very own Treasurer has invested in real estate in Sydney. So, the rate of land tax and the effect that it is having on investments are of concern for many South Australians.

I want to relate a story that Rachel Sanderson—the Liberal candidate for the seat of Adelaide—told me when we attended at the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association AGM on the weekend. Currently, she rents some space in the Qantas building just across the road, but that is no longer convenient. It is getting very difficult for her clients, her models, and so forth—she runs a very successful modelling agency that she started from scratch—to find parking when coming to see her to inquire about their portfolios and the work available to them. So, she is looking to move. She wants to stay within the city of Adelaide.

She told me about a property for lease in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide. The interesting scenario there was that the rent being asked by the landlord was \$55,000 for only a small office. Rachel does not have a big business; only a handful of people in the business need office space. The rent being asked was \$55,000 and Rachel, being the shrewd businesswoman that she is, said, 'I think I'll need to squeeze you a bit on that; that's an awful lot of money—over \$1,000 a week—to

lease this property.' The landlord said, 'I've got no choice. Here's my land tax bill.' The land tax bill from Revenue SA for the property she was looking at renting in North Adelaide was \$35,000.

On top of that, the landlord has his council rates and insurance, of course. The only way the landlord could hope to make any money and try to earn some income from that property was to charge what Rachel and many others perceived, because it had been empty for a while, an above market rate. Of course, that runs right across investment portfolios that have property trusts and investments in South Australia.

We know that property trusts are a great way to get investment moving and capital expenditure happening in a state. If a state has favourable property taxes, property trusts take that into account when they are working out their prospectuses and when they are out looking for investors. They approach superannuation funds to fund those developments, whether they be commercial, semi-commercial or developments that combine retail, service and residential.

For a city like Adelaide, for example, it would be great if we could increase the density of those living in the square mile. We could reduce the number of people using our roads; we could encourage people to use public transport or walk. Wouldn't it be great to have a lot of younger couples moving into the city in the five or six years that many of them spend together prior to planning a family? They could live in the city of Adelaide, develop their careers and put some money away so that they could then put it towards a family home when the time comes.

Superannuation is a very important part of the South Australian psyche. I think it is very interesting that, in a period of about 20-odd years, we have seen Australia go from a country of very conservative investors, where investment in shares and property was seen as being for the elite, or for a very small part of the community. Through a series of privatisations of government assets, which started with the Keating years, with Qantas, Australian Airlines, through to the Telstra sell-off of the Howard years, we have seen more and more Australians participate in buying shares.

Australia is now, per capita, one of the largest holders of shares in the world, so, everybody has an interest in what is happening in the economy. They are much more interested in the effects of government management, for example, the effects of trade and management of companies, because they are investing their own money. They have a personal stake in how their money is invested, whether they invest it themselves through their self managed superannuation funds or whether they are investing with surplus funds using their computer in their home office and reading the papers every day and making their own decisions, or investing through share brokers or stockbrokers or getting advice from investment advisers, people are now a lot more aware about what is happening in the commercial world.

I think people are much more aware and, I think, it is fair to say, about how money is made and lost, and that is a good thing for Australia in the long term. I think it helps to keep governments responsible that people are aware of the implications of government decisions on their own investments.

We are obviously supporting this, as we see it as an improvement and a simplification of the system. We know that there has been consultation on this issue, so, obviously, we are happy to support the bill.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Federal/State Relations) (17:40): I thank members opposite for supporting the bill. The member for Unley gave us a fairly rambling contribution. I am not sure what the fixation is on my investment property in Sydney as it relates to land tax. I would hope that the member is not suggesting that there is anything improper in me owning an apartment in Sydney.

The Hon. G.M. Gunn: It's your right.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Yes—unfortunately, because it has been a dog of an investment. I will let others make the comment, but I think the member for Unley has more issues on his plate to worry about than what my investment properties may be, given his involvement in what today will turn out to be a very embarrassing question time for the state opposition.

Mr Pisoni: How?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Just wait and see.

Mr Pisoni: Give details.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pisoni: You're a coward.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pisoni: You don't have details.

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Unley!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I think you will find the ALP state director is now advising the media that the documentation you have referred to, member for Unley, is, in fact, a fraud, is not ALP documentation at all. But, that is for the State Secretary of the Labor Party to handle. So if you are searching and I am 'Mr Coward', I think you've got some explaining to do.

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley will come to order!

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley, I have called you to order! I don't like being ignored. The Deputy Premier.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: He's a nasty man, that member for Unley, isn't he? A very nasty man. He is a very nasty man, involved in a very embarrassing incident today that I think will haunt the opposition leader for many days to come, if not many months to come. We have nothing more to say on the bill.

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

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

ELECTORAL (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

In committee.

(Continued from 26 March 2009. Page 2168.)

Clause 2.

Mrs REDMOND: Attorney, you may recall that on the last occasion (26 March), we went into committee somewhat unexpectedly. Your advisers were not here, so when I asked my first question about why the commencement clause was divided into two parts, you originally took that question on notice. First of all, could we clarify that aspect as to why the commencement clause is in two parts?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Clauses 9 to 14 are a package and they must not start at different times. They all pertain to registration and they must start together and, with experience of government, would come—

Mrs REDMOND: Which I do not have, Attorney. I had two hours.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Yes, of course. I had forgotten that glorious two hours in here while the member for Heysen was on this side of the chamber, and she has been exiled to the other ever since. What was the date? March the—

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I have forgotten. March the something in 2002. Anyway, the member for Heysen would perhaps not be aware that different sections of acts that have received the royal assent can be proclaimed on different days. So, what we are saying by this provision is that clauses 9 to 14 inclusive all have to come in on the same day. Don't play around with clauses 9 to 14—they are a package.

Mrs REDMOND: As it happens, the member for Heysen is aware that different sections can commence on different days. Indeed, there are some sections of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act that are yet to be proclaimed to commence, like the one which provides that it can apply to self-employed persons. I am well aware of the fact that things can commence on different dates.

What puzzled me was that, normally, a bill simply provides that the act will commence on a date to be proclaimed. I understand the idea that you will take out clauses 9 to 14 and make sure that they are going to commence on a day. Is there an intention for those clauses to commence on a date which is different from the date of commencement of the rest of the bill?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Not really.

Mrs REDMOND: I have one further question on clause 2 relating to the second question that I asked on the previous occasion. I want to confirm, given the Attorney's comments on the previous occasion about the registration of the FREE Party, that the intention of the commencement provisions will be that the FREE Party, or any other party that chooses to form between now and whenever clauses 9 to 14 commence under proclamation, can operate in accordance with the current electoral provisions. That is, if you have 150 people, you can register a party; so, as at today, until we get this bill through and this is all registered, the intention will be that 150 members remain sufficient for people to register a party so that they can contest the next election. Is that correct?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Yes.

Clause passed.

Clause 3 passed.

Clause 4.

Mrs REDMOND: I want an explanation about the difference between the definition in the current act and the definition now proposed for a voting ticket square. Is there any difference in practical terms or is it just a matter of some sort of semantic tidying up of the provision, because I cannot see the essence of what the change to the definition of voting ticket square does?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I think semantics is the answer. It is just the new provision allows flexibility about where the box is alongside the name of the candidate. Previously, the box was stipulated to be above the candidate's name.

Clause passed.

Clause 5.

Mrs REDMOND: The first part of clause 5 simply allows for the provision of copies of the rolls in printed or electronic form, and I do not really have a question about that. The next part is the deletion of the requirement to make those available at the offices of returning officers, and I do not have a question about that. The next part, subclause (3), is about deleting existing subsection (2) and substituting new subsections (2) and (3). Subsection (2) currently states:

The Electoral Commissioner must make copies of the latest prints of the rolls available for purchase at prices determined by him or her—

Grammatically, it should only be 'him' since it involves the female, as well. That is as it currently stands. New subsection (2) says that the Electoral Commissioner has to make copies. The earlier amendment says that those copies can be printed or in electronic form, and the latest copies are available for purchase at prices determined by him or her. It does not stipulate in any way to whom—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:

Mrs REDMOND: I have the feeling that the Attorney is not listening to my question.

The CHAIR: He is slightly distracted.

Mrs REDMOND: Under the existing provision, the Electoral Commissioner does not seem to have any discretion. Anyone can walk in and ask for a copy of the electoral roll and obtain a copy. They have to be available for inspection without fee and available for purchase at a price determined by the commissioner. That is as it stands at the moment. We then broaden it under the first part so that it can be electronic or printed—it does not have to be in a printed form—and it is not available at the offices of the returning officers.

However, new subsection (2) states that the Electoral Commissioner must, on request, provide a member of the House of Assembly with an up-to-date copy—and I have already made a comment about this peculiar situation whereby those of us in this chamber can only get a copy of

the electoral roll for our area, but those in the upper house can get a copy for the whole state because that is their electorate—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: What would I do to you if I had the electronic roll for Heysen?

Mrs REDMOND: That relates to my question, Attorney. The first part of the question is this: is it the case that, whereas under current section 26 anyone can get a copy of the roll, under new section 26 it will be restricted to members of the House of Assembly, members of the Legislative Council or the registered officer of a registered political party; and is it the intention then that members of the public, at least under section 26, will not be able to apply for a copy of the roll?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Yes.

Mrs REDMOND: Will the Attorney expand upon the reasoning? That is quite a dramatic change from a situation where any person can go to the Electoral Commission and say, 'I want to see a copy of the roll for this district.' I know, for instance, that a lot of process servers access copies of the roll so that they can find the people on whom they want to serve process. This seems to then say that will not happen any more. Is that the intention?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Process servers and people who have a commercial reason for access to the electoral roll can inspect the roll. What they cannot do is carry away a copy of it, put it on computer and use it for marketing and other purposes of which I would hope the house does not approve.

Mr VENNING: They have access to the electoral roll via the State Library, but, as far as I am concerned, there is nothing stopping people from taking a photograph of it or, indeed, just writing down in longhand the information they want. Is that the case?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: The member for Schubert is correct.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

AUTHORISED BETTING OPERATIONS (TRADE PRACTICES EXEMPTION) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 18:01 the house adjourned until Wednesday 29 April 2009 at 11:00.