

The Fifty-First Parliament of South Australia, having been prorogued until 1 March 2010, and the House of Assembly having been dissolved on 20 February 2010, general elections were held on 20 March 2010. By proclamation dated 16 April 2010, the new parliament was summoned to meet on 6 May 2010, and the First Session began on that date.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 6 May 2010

The house met at 11:00, pursuant to proclamation. The Clerk (Mr M.J. Lehman) read the proclamation summoning parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

At 11:05, in compliance with summons, the house proceeded to the Legislative Council, where a commission was read appointing the Hon. John Jeremy Doyle, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia, and the Hon. Thomas Andrew Gray, a judge of the Supreme Court, to be commissioners for the opening of parliament.

MEMBERS, SWEARING IN

The house being again in its own chamber, at 11:14 His Honour Justice Doyle (Chief Justice) attended and produced a commission from His Excellency the Governor appointing him to be a commissioner to administer to members of the House of Assembly the oath of allegiance or the affirmation in lieu thereof required by the Constitution Act. The commission was read by the Clerk, who then produced writs for the election of 47 members of the House of Assembly.

The oath of allegiance required by law (or the affirmation) was administered and subscribed to by members.

The commissioner retired.

SPEAKER, ELECTION

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) (11:33): I remind the house that it is now necessary to proceed to the election of a Speaker. I move:

That the member for Giles take the chair of the house as Speaker.

The CLERK: Are there any further nominations? Is there a seconder?

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (11:34): Yes, sir. I have pleasure in seconding the proposal for the nomination of the member for Giles as the Speaker of the House. May I say that it was the only way she was ever going to become the tallest person in the chamber. May I also wish her well in her quest in the holy grail to keep control of the House of Assembly.

The CLERK: There being no further nominations, I declare the member for Giles elected as Speaker and call her to take the chair.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. L.R. Breuer was escorted to the dais by the mover and seconder of the motion.

The SPEAKER (Hon. L.R. Breuer) (11:34): Standing here on the steps, which is the traditional approach to the chair, I would like to express my thanks to the mover and to the seconder for their call to this high office. I want to thank all members here present for their confidence in me and their support for me. I will uphold the traditions of the Speaker and show fairness in my dealings with members and preserve the protection of members' rights, collectively and individually, including the majority decision. I ask for the support of members to maintain the prestige and dignity of the chamber.

I am very honoured to be the first woman to hold this role and, although it has taken over 150 years for this to happen, I want to pay tribute to all those brave women who went before me and made this possible, including especially the suffragettes from over a hundred years ago, and I am proud to stand here in front of them. I also want to thank my feminist sisters from the 60s and 70s. This is certainly an important milestone for women, and I pay tribute to all those sisters from

the past and throughout our wonderful state here today. They will now hear us roar in big numbers—too big to ignore—but with some authority.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

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) (11:36): Honourable members and Madam Speaker, congratulations on being the first woman Speaker of the House of Assembly of South Australia in this state's history. I inform the house that His Excellency the Governor will be prepared to receive the house for the purpose of presenting the Speaker at 12.15pm today. I therefore move that the sitting of the house be suspended until 12.05pm.

Motion carried.

[Sitting suspended from 11:37 to 12:05]

PRESENTATION TO GOVERNOR

The SPEAKER: It is now my intention to proceed to Government House to present myself as Speaker to His Excellency the Governor, and I invite all members to accompany me.

At 12:06, accompanied by a deputation of members, the Speaker proceeded to Government House.

[On the house reassembling at 14:30]

SUMMONS TO COUNCIL CHAMBER

A summons was received from His Excellency the Governor desiring the attendance of the house in the Legislative Council chamber, whither the Speaker and honourable members proceeded.

The house having returned to its own chamber, the Speaker resumed the chair at 15:10 and read prayers.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES, ELECTION

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy) (14:30): I move:

That the member for Bright be appointed Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.

The SPEAKER: Is that motion seconded?

Honourable members: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Are there any other nominations? I will put the question.

Motion carried.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

The SPEAKER (15:11): I have to report that, in accordance with a summons from His Excellency the Governor, the house attended this day in the Legislative Council chamber, where His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. I have obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be published.

COLLIER, DR PAUL

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) (15:12): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Dr Paul Collier, a candidate for the Legislative Council in the 2010 state election, and places on record its appreciation of his dedication and service to the disability sector in South Australia, 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 year, during the campaign for the recent state election, we were saddened to learn of the untimely death of Dr Paul Collier. As a candidate for the Dignity for Disability Party, Dr Collier was a passionate advocate for people with a disability who was never afraid to take up his cause at the very highest levels of government.

Since suffering spinal injuries in a car accident shortly before he turned 21, Paul Collier devoted his life to social justice issues and to improving the lives of others, to help them receive the opportunities and respect that allowed them to take their rightful place in the community. He was also an acclaimed author and historian, who completed a doctorate at the University of Oxford in England. He played an important role in a number of state and national arts and disability organisations and was also a dedicated supporter of the Adelaide United Soccer Club.

Paul Collier passed away on 9 March 2010, just before the election, at the age of 46. He was born on 4 February 1964 in England and grew up in the county of Kent. From a young age his ambition was to become an RAF fighter pilot, and at the age of 17 he sat the preparatory test at Biggin Hill RAF base in Kent—of course, very famous in World War II as a Spitfire base during the Battle of Britain.

Soon after, his family relocated to Adelaide and, several years later, while driving alone in the north of the state, he was involved in a car accident that left him with a fractured neck. He spent three months in the Royal Adelaide Hospital and a further nine months at Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.

Upon leaving hospital he began studying in the field of computers and technology, first at TAFE and then at the University of Adelaide where he took courses in mathematics, computing and history. But it was his passion for history that led him to study at Oxford University, where his doctoral research centred on the role of logistics in the North Africa campaigns of World War II.

Paul Collier's interest in military history was matched by his commitment to social justice. He served as South Australia's representative on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Advisory Council as well as a range of other community organisations. He was a member of the National Disability Advisory Council and chaired the council in South Australia. He also served as chair of Arts Access Australia, as well as chair of the organisation here in Adelaide. In that role he oversaw the inclusion of the High Beam Festival in the Adelaide Fringe—which is a great success—and the development of Club Cool, a mixed-ability radio program. He was also involved in the establishment of Radio Cool—an ongoing radio show dedicated to disability arts.

Paul Collier was the Dignity for Disabled candidate for the Legislative Council at the 2006 election and then led the party's ticket again at the most recent poll. In light of the party's subsequent success in winning a Legislative Council seat, I have absolute no doubt that Dr Collier would have made a most valuable and valued contribution to this parliament and the political debate and process in South Australia.

I am equally sure that the Dignity for Disability representative who has succeeded him, Kelly Vincent, will carry on his work and his passion for a society in which everyone is respected and valued equally. I wrote to Kelly last month to congratulate her on her election to the Legislative Council as the youngest female ever elected to an Australian parliament. It is a truly historic achievement. I have also offered her any practical support in addressing any issues relating to the level of resources she requires in order to discharge her responsibilities as a member of this parliament.

Madam Speaker, Dr Paul Collier was a man of undoubted intellect and unstinting commitment whose achievements, passion and perseverance should serve as a great inspiration to all of us. His legacy and his memory will remain with us well into the future. On behalf of all the members on this side of the house—and I am sure on behalf of every MP—I extend my condolences to the family and friends of Paul Collier, especially to his mother Wendy, his sister Joanne, his brother-in-law David and his three nephews.

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (15:18): It is with some sadness, of course, but a great deal of pride that I have the opportunity to second this motion. I say 'with some pride' because I have known Paul for a number of years. I met him because I became the shadow minister for disability in 2004, having entered the parliament in 2002. It was not long afterwards that I met Paul Collier. I found him to be a person who related easily to everyone. He did not take account of the fact that he was in a wheelchair in the way that he related to people. As the Premier said, he came to be in a wheelchair, according to what Paul told me, because of a tragic accident when he was actually on the way to his own 21st. One cannot imagine what that must

have been like for a highly intelligent young man who had an aspiration to be a fighter pilot with the RAAF. To have that ambition so tragically torn from him in that way must have been a devastating loss, yet in my dealings with Paul over a number of years there was never any sense of bitterness or failure in his life. He was a person who just got up and got on with what was available to him to do.

In his very short 46 years, he accomplished more than many of us do in living a long and healthy life. He spent, as I said, all those years (25) after the accident in a wheelchair. His lifelong dream of becoming a fighter pilot had been thwarted, but his ambition was not in any way diminished, and neither was his tenacity and drive to achieve great things. He did not let his disability define him. He was determined to continue to follow his passion for all things military, and he studied hard to become a reputable military historian. So, in 2001 Paul travelled to Oxford University where he earned a Doctor of Philosophy; and his thesis was, in fact, the basis for the book that he was in the process of writing.

His intellectual capacity and the rigour he applied to whatever life dealt him without self pity was truly inspirational. He had, seemingly, inexhaustible energy to rail against the injustices dealt to people with disabilities, yet he never railed against the injustice that life had dealt him in that tragic accident. His capacity to fight for other people and their circumstances was always evident. He worked tirelessly advising government, lobbying government and harassing government to provide the appropriate services, particularly for disabled people here in South Australia.

I know that, as the Premier said, he was a member of Arts Access, and he had many engagements through the arts community, particularly trying to meld people with a disability engagement in arts with those without disability. He was also a member of the ABC board. His courage, vision and leadership lifted the profile of the inequity and hardship that is endured every day by Australians living with a disability. He was frustrated by the lack of access to services, the lack of funding for equipment and the lack of resources to assist disabled people and their families, and that was what propelled Paul into political action.

So, as the Premier also said, in 2006—always one to embrace a challenge—he stood as a candidate for the Legislative Council at that election (and again at the most recent election) as the Dignity for Disability candidate. I think it is quite apparent that, but for his untimely death on 9 March, Paul Collier would have joined us in the other place as the first member for Dignity for Disability. Sadly, he did not live to see the 2010 election results or take his place in the Legislative Council; but I am sure that, if it were not for his perseverance, his tenacity and his determination, we would not today have the first member of Dignity for Disability in Ms Kelly Vincent taking her place in the Legislative Council.

From today, because of the work and effort of the affable, intelligent and compassionate Dr Paul Collier, the South Australian government will not be able to hide its treatment of the disabled in our community. They are here to be heard. They are here to ensure that the human rights of the disabled in South Australia are upheld. They will ensure that we as a society are held to account for the way in which we treat the disabled and the vulnerable. Dr Collier's legacy is one of hope, inspiration and justice. He was in my view a truly great South Australian and, on behalf of all opposition members, I extend to his family and his friends our truly deep condolences. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr MARSHALL (Norwood) (15:24): I rise to speak in support of this condolence motion proposed by the Premier. I first met Dr Paul Collier when he agreed to participate on a panel at a disability forum held in the electorate of Norwood last year. He spoke very candidly about his own disability and also told us a lot about his experiences with disability services throughout the world that he had researched and, of course, experienced while studying for his PhD at the University of Oxford. He was a passionate supporter of individualised funding.

I then had the good fortune to catch up with Dr Collier on a number of occasions throughout the state campaign. He was an intelligent, articulate and practical advocate for disability here in South Australia. He treated all people of all political persuasions with respect and, indeed, dignity. It is most disappointing that he will not take his place in this parliament. He would make a very worthy contribution, undoubtedly, to this parliament. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and many supporters.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Housing, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability) (15:25): There is no doubt the South Australian community lost a very valuable member in the sad passing of Dr Paul Collier. When I

became Minister for Disability in 2008, he was one of the first people from the disability community whom I met. When meeting Paul, you could not help but be impressed by his intellect and passion to improve the lives of those living with a disability. At his funeral it was plain to see that his unexpected passing had sent shock waves through the disability community.

Paul was a strong advocate for reform and believed strongly in choice. He championed causes such as self-managed funding, which is now being rolled out in South Australia. As a lifelong student of politics, he understood that more could be done when groups with similar aims and views stood together. He was the voice of unity, working to bring together the different sections of the disability community to work together productively. Paul was the inaugural Dignity 4 Disabled candidate for the Legislative Council in 2006, as the Premier has said. As someone who believed the political arena to be the best pathway to change, Kelly Vincent's election to the Legislative Council is one of the many significant legacies of Dr Paul Collier. Disability touches the lives of many South Australians, and I am no exception. As the minister, I look forward to working closely with Kelly.

As with all of us, Paul had more than a political life. He was a much-loved son, brother and uncle. We heard at his funeral that he took particular delight in his nephews. His ambition as a young man to be a pilot was cut short by a tragic accident. I believe the measure of a successful life is not avoiding difficulties and challenges but how you deal with them, and that is how Dr Paul Collier will be remembered—as a man of courage, determination and very good humour, and a man who faced up squarely to the challenges in his life and committed himself to bettering the lives of others. I extend my sincere condolences to Dr Paul Collier's family and friends.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Development) (15:28): I would like to share one experience I had with Dr Paul Collier in my role as the former minister for disability. Of course, Paul was one of the very first people who came to see me, and he made some very strong representations on behalf of the disability community. What struck me was a fierce sense of the injustice, frankly, of what was happening to not only him but also his community. He was a powerful and strong advocate, and he made a real impression.

There was one particular point that he made that I found very persuasive, and that was his own story about how he received funding which permitted him to receive support services for a particular set of hours in a day. He made the point to me: 'Why should I have to accept services that means that someone can assist me until 9pm,' or whatever the arrangements were, 'when I might want to stay up until 11pm because I might have a particular reason for doing that?'

There might be something on the television, and I might need the services at the end of the day, and I might be prepared to trade something off for that even if it is a more expensive service to have somebody there at that later hour.' He said, 'Why shouldn't I have the right to make that choice? Why shouldn't you give me the opportunity to receive my funding in a parcel so that I can make those choices, because that is how you truly get dignity for somebody who is disabled so they have control over their own lives.'

I was so persuaded by that that I persuaded my colleagues to permit me to explore this question of individualised funding. I am very pleased to see that the next minister has made that a reality and, hopefully, it can become a bigger part of our system. So, he shaped disability policy in this state because of the strength and the coherence of his advocacy.

It was a real shock to hear of his passing, because only a few days before his untimely death I saw him at a Fringe event in the East Parklands. I think a lot of us were shocked when we heard this news and, of course, the shock must have been even greater for his family and friends, and I pass on my condolences to them.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Gambling) (15:31): The last time I saw Paul Collier was when he was on his way to nominate for parliament. I was walking to buy some flowers for my wife because the campaign was on and she was annoyed with me again, and I had a long chat with Paul. I had come into contact with Paul earlier in the year when one of my constituents had attempted to take his own life because of his disability.

I rang Dr Collier at the time, and he was amazing in the support he showed the young man. He and I worked with this young man for a long time, to give him some hope, giving him access to services. He was a young man who really did not see the benefit of living on with his disability, but Paul Collier inspired him, and this young man has moved on since that first attempt. He told me a

few weeks ago that Dr Collier saved his life. That is just one example of how Paul Collier touched people's lives.

There are not many of us in this chamber who can say that we started a political movement or that we have a heritage and members of parliament action to come. His legacy will live on in the Hon. Kelly Vincent, and her work will honour and fulfil the promise of Dr Collier. The promise of Dr Collier was that he went about his work quietly. He was a very astute politician; he knew when to grab the headlines and when not to. He never attempted to use this young man's situation in any way to gain any publicity; he just did the job of helping the young man.

For me, Dr Paul Collier was one of greatest human beings I have ever met. I did not know him very well, and I do not claim to have had some great intimate friendship with him, but he helped me out in a situation and, more importantly, he helped this young man. I think he was a great South Australian and a great loss to this state. I am sure Kelly Vincent will honour him in the work she does in the council.

The SPEAKER (15:33): I join with members in expressing my condolences to the family. As the Minister for Disability said, disability touches many lives, and I know that all of us feel great concern for what happened to Dr Paul Collier. My condolences go to the family, friends and colleagues of Dr Collier. I welcome the Hon. Kelly Vincent here, and I know that she will do a great job in following him. I will ensure that members' comments today are passed on to the family.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 15:34 to 15:45]

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Office of the Employee Ombudsman—Annual Report 2008-09

Reports of Committees which have been received and published pursuant to section 17(7) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991:

Economic and Finance Committee—71st Report—Renewable Energy: Release of Evidence

Public Works Committee:

362nd Report—GP Super Clinics and GP Plus Health Care Centres—Modbury and Noarlunga

363rd Report—Social Housing—Noarlunga Centre, Christies Downs and Findon

364th Report—Tramline Substation and Traction Power System Upgrade

365th Report—Muller and Regency Roads Trunk Water Main Renewal

366th Report—Aldinga Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

367th Report—Bird In Hand Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

368th Report—Chowilla Environmental Regulator

369th Report—Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Program

370th Report—Glengowrie Tram Depot Upgrade

371st Report—Rail Revitalisation Project Stage 3 (Gawler Line, Adelaide-Gawler Central)

372nd Report—Seaford Rail Extension

373rd Report—SA Police Headquarters Fitout

374th Report—The Materials and Mineral Sciences Building and Plazzo

375th Report—Nation Building and Economic Stimulus Plan Stage 2—102 Waymouth Street, Adelaide

376th Report—Woodville West Urban Renewal Project

377th Report—South Road Superway

Pursuant to section 131 of the Local Government Act 1999 the following annual reports of local councils:

Adelaide City Council—Report 2008-09

Campbelltown City Council—Report 2008-09

City of Burnside—Report 2008-09

City of Charles Sturt—Report 2008-09

City of Holdfast Bay—Report 2008-09
 City of Marion—Report 2008-09
 City of Mitcham—Report 2008-09
 City of Mount Gambier—Report 2008-09
 City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters—Report 2008-09
 City of Onkaparinga—Report 2008-09
 City of Playford—Report 2008-09
 City of Prospect—Report 2008-09
 City of Tea Tree Gully—Report 2008-09
 City of Unley—Report 2008-09
 City of Whyalla—Report 2008-09
 Coorong District Council—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Cleve—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Grant—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Karoonda East Murray—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Loxton Waikerie—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Mallala—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Mount Remarkable—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Peterborough—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Robe—Report 2008-09
 District Council of The Copper Coast—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Yankalilla—Report 2008-09
 District Council of Yorke Peninsula—Report 2008-09
 Kangaroo Island Council—Report 2008-09
 Kingston District Council—Report 2008-09
 Light Regional Council—Report 2008-09
 Mid Murray Council—Report 2008-09
 Naracoorte Lucindale Council—Report 2008-09
 Northern Areas Council—Report 2008-09
 Renmark Paringa Council—Report 2008-09
 Roxby Downs Council—Report 2008-09
 Southern Mallee District Council—Report 2008-09
 The Barossa Council—Report 2008-09
 Town of Gawler—Report 2008-09
 Wakefield Regional Council—Report 2008-09

STURT STREET BIKE TRACK

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide): Presented a petition signed by 218 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the Adelaide City Council to remove the bike track from the western end of Sturt Street.

STATE FINANCES

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Federal/State Relations, Minister for Defence Industries) (15:58): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer you my warmest congratulations in achieving the high office of Speaker of this parliament, and I look forward to working constructively with you over the course of the next four years. Madam Speaker, you can be assured of my cooperation: the Treasurer of the past in this chamber shall not be the Treasurer in the future.

The Hon. J.D. Hill interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: No, I'm staying as Treasurer; don't worry. Don't get any ideas, guys.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: No, you haven't got rid of me that quickly. I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I rise today to update the house on the government's fiscal priorities for the next four years. As members would be aware, the government framed the 2009-10 budget in the midst of the global financial crisis. The government was faced with a massive decline

in budgeted revenues, over \$3.3 billion less in GST and state revenues over the forward estimates period.

Treasury and other economic forecasters were predicting the state and national economies to slow dramatically, and governments at both levels were charged with doing all they could to limit the impact of an economic slowdown. The Rann government's response was to provide a massive stimulus to the South Australian economy in partnership with the commonwealth government, with \$11.4 billion of capital investment over the forward estimates and \$3.9 billion in 2009-10 alone, supporting nearly 14,000 jobs.

We maintained our commitment to cut payroll tax, with the latest round of payroll tax cuts implemented from 1 July 2009—a rate cut from 5 per cent to 4.95 per cent and an increase in the tax-free threshold from \$552,000 to \$600,000. Operating funding was also increased for our hospitals, schools and in the areas of families and communities.

In doing all this, the government took on an increased but responsible level of budget debt. We also outlined a commitment to review areas of government expenditure and identify savings going forward.

The government announced the Sustainable Budget Commission, chaired by noted economist and founder of Access Economics, Geoff Carmody, who, as we know, also undertook a similar exercise for former Liberal prime minister John Howard and Peter Costello. It includes the chief executive of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Under Treasurer, Monsignor David Cappo, Bruce Carter, Chairman of the Economic Development Board, and Jennifer Westacott from KPMG.

The commission was initially tasked with reviewing the annual budget process and recommending an appropriate budget date for the post-election 2010-11 budget. The government released the commission's first report prior to the election and has accepted the commission's recommendations.

The commission's more substantive task, which is currently underway, is to review all areas of government expenditure and revenue and identify a menu of budget improvement measures to reach the savings targets outlined in the 2009-10 budget. The commission has been undertaking this task since the election. They have sought very significant amounts of data from government agencies, outlining what we spend, where we spend it, and why we spend it.

Cabinet has also approved the 2010-11 budget process and, as part of that, has allocated the savings task to individual agencies. Agencies are now expected to identify measures to meet their specific savings task, and to submit them to the commission for appraisal. In doing so, cabinet deliberately sought a larger amount of savings from agencies than what is required to meet the government's budget objectives. This enables the cabinet to make appropriate choices from the measures submitted by each agency.

The commission will report to the government, outlining its recommendations to improve the budget and, from those recommendations, the government will select the measures that it wishes to incorporate in the 2010-11 budget and rule out those that it does not intend to implement.

Prior to the election the government also released the 2009-10 Mid-Year Budget Review, which outlined better budget outcome forecasts across the forward estimates than at budget time. The Mid-Year Budget Review advised that revenues had begun to recover: 2009-10 revenue forecasts were expected to recover nearly \$200 million against the \$850 million anticipated as a loss of revenue at budget time. Across the forward estimates a revenue improvement of just over \$1 billion was forecast against the \$3.3 billion estimate of revenue lost at budget time. Further revisions to GST estimates were outlined in Treasury advice provided to the government and to the opposition prior to the election campaign.

The government has recently received further information in relation to the GST pool and the state population shares that supersedes the advice that was provided to the opposition during the election. GST revenue estimates will be further revised following the release of the commonwealth budget next Tuesday.

Current estimates indicate that even with these improvements in revenues the state budget is nearly \$1.2 billion down on revenue across the forward estimates against what was originally forecast in the 2008-09 budget prior to the global financial crisis. This means that the work of the commission remains as necessary today as when it was announced in June last year.

It is important to put on the record yet again that, while we are at the end of what has been the global financial crisis, we are not anywhere near back to the revenue strength we had prior to the global financial crisis and, if we look at what is now occurring in Greece and what may yet occur in other European countries and what, if any, contagion effect there is, there are still global difficulties with the global financial environment.

Therefore, the ongoing review of expenditure should be a priority for any government, let alone one faced with the challenges of lower revenues, strong demand for increased and improved service delivery, and a mandate for ongoing infrastructure investment.

The Rann government has never shied away from seeking out savings and reviewing expenditure priorities. In the government's first budget for the 2002-03 financial year \$967 million of savings were identified across the forward estimates. In the following budget a further \$538 million of savings were identified. In 2006, following the state election, the Greg Smith review of priorities identified a further \$695 million of savings. Further savings tasks have been outlined in each budget since.

It is an important and necessary part of strong budget management to target public expenditure as accurately and as effectively as possible. The public expects nothing less. I expect that the commission will recommend to government a series of measures which will better focus our expenditure on the key priorities of government: better services for the community and increased investment in infrastructure while maintaining our AAA credit rating and keeping debt levels low.

I also expect that some of the decisions that will be necessary to deliver these savings will be difficult and will cause angst and concern both inside and outside the public sector. These decisions will be made to ensure that the government continues to deliver quality services and infrastructure to South Australians, maintains our AAA credit rating and ensures that this state continues to live within its fiscal means, and continues to underpin the best performing economy in all Australia.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier. I am sure we will enjoy a very cordial and respectful relationship through the next four years—or else.

PUBLIC INTEGRITY

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Tourism) (16:09): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Madam Speaker, can I also—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: —offer my congratulations to you on your election. I am sure that you will do an excellent job. You are one of the few people—aside from the former speaker in this chamber—who appreciate the great pleasure of wearing a wig like that.

The SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I just wonder whether it will become a feature of your presentation all the time, but it looks magnificent today, so thank you.

The SPEAKER: I did notice you yesterday, Attorney, in your wig, and I thought I would look as attractive as you today.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Thank you very much. Prior to the recent state election, the government promised to push ahead with the Premier's plan to pursue the establishment of a national anti-corruption body. I am today travelling to Melbourne to a meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to argue the case for a national approach.

The South Australian government supports the establishment of a national body with the ability to root out corruption unbridled by state borders. Corruption does not respect state borders. Demands for the establishment of a state so-called ICAC have been noisy but unsupported by a substratum of fact or logic. No evidence has been presented to show that systemic failures by existing state-based agencies are allowing corruption to flourish in South Australia.

Allegations, no matter how sensational, are not evidence. In the absence of evidence, logic does not suggest the need for an ICAC. Evidence in New South Wales suggests that, in 2008-09, from—

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

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

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The Leader of the Opposition gave notice about introducing a bill in relation to an ICAC, and the minister is arguing against the bill before the house.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order; it has not been introduced as yet. The Attorney.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Perhaps I should read that bit again. Evidence in New South Wales suggests that, in 2008-09, from 2,714 matters reported, its ICAC made corrupt conduct findings against 52 people and recommended that the advice of the DPP be sought with respect to the prosecution of 51 people for criminal offences. This shows that only a tiny proportion of complaints led to findings of corruption.

In this context, the police commissioner, Mal Hyde, has had some wise words, and I quote:

...we often have many politically motivated matters referred to us because what politicians and people involved in politics want to do is to be able to say that there is an anti corruption branch inquiry into one of their opponents and they get political mileage out of it.

Does anyone in parliament seriously support wasting taxpayers' money on facilitating witch-hunts and cheap political stunts? Of course not. That would be an abuse of process that all honourable members would abhor. All members would abhor that. Currently, South Australia has a combination of agencies and statutory authorities working against corruption, as well as a fine judiciary. The diverse nature of these bodies is a strength, not a weakness.

South Australia's current public integrity system includes:

- the SAPOL Anti-Corruption Branch;
- the Ombudsman;
- the Police Complaints Authority;
- the Auditor-General;
- the Government Investigations Unit in the Crown Solicitor's Office;
- whistleblower protection legislation;
- the DPP;
- an independent judiciary; and (in some circumstances)
- the Royal Commissions Act 1917.

All this said, the government holds no illusions about the possibility of corruption at any level of government. It seems apparent to me that the public expects a higher level of assurance that concerns and complaints about public accountability are being dealt with effectively and transparently. The recent state election clearly dictates that the government should listen more closely to community concerns and feedback.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the Attorney.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I will say that again. The recent state election clearly dictates that the government should listen more closely to community concerns and feedback. This was one issue of concern. We can, and should, do more to improve confidence in our public integrity system. This is central to confidence in good government and the rule of law.

Therefore, I will review the operation and effectiveness of South Australia's existing public integrity system and, if areas are identified that might be improved, they will be improved. I look forward to keeping the parliament abreast of developments.

QUESTION TIME**ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL**

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (16:16): My question is to the Premier. Given that 51.6 per cent of the state's population voted for a Liberal government at the March election, including a 15 per cent swing in the seat of Adelaide, does he concede that he does not have a mandate to transfer the Royal Adelaide Hospital to the contaminated railyard site, and will he cancel this project?

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) (16:16): The Governor in his speech today was, I believe, emphatic in outlining the government's program for the signing of the contract for the Royal Adelaide Hospital at the end of this year and the start of construction next year. However, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about election outcomes, I think she will find that the member for Waite received well over 52 per cent of the vote for deputy leader as opposed to—

The Hon. K.O. Foley: 54 per cent.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —54 per cent, apparently, not the three votes that account for 11 per cent; but, apparently, that is—

Mr WILLIAMS: I have a point of order, Madam Speaker. The Premier is clearly debating the answer.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The member for Light.

PREMIER'S ANZAC SPIRIT SCHOOL PRIZE

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (16:17): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PICCOLO: I am quite happy to discuss the election result in Light.

The SPEAKER: Do you have a question, member for Light?

Mr PICCOLO: I do, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Can he inform the house about this year's Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize?

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) (16:18): First, I should say that I have just been informed today that, with Graham Gunn's retirement after 39 years in parliament, I am now the father of the house—not because of my age but because of the number of years I have served in this chamber. So, I want to take this opportunity, as father of the house, to congratulate the Speaker on her election as the first female Speaker in the history of this parliament. As has been pointed out, it has been a long time coming. In 1894 we were the second place in the world to have votes for women after New Zealand, but, of course, we were the first place in the world to enable women to run for parliament. It has taken a long time, but I congratulate the Speaker on this very historic moment.

I thank the member for Light for his question. This year, six South Australian students won the fourth Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize and a chance to retrace the footsteps of Australia's World War I servicemen on a study tour of Europe's battlefields. The judging panel included representatives from the History Teachers' Association and the South Australian branch of the RSL.

This year the successful students were Renee Farr and Chloe Searles from Loxton High School, Sean Lloyd from Brighton Secondary School, Jack Jercic from Christian Brothers College, Brigid O'Farrell from St Ignatius College and Shane Rosenzweig from Faith Lutheran School. Two teachers, John Griffen of Willunga High School and Susan Howlett of Mitcham Girls High School were selected to accompany the students. His Excellency Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, and his wife, Mrs Van Le, joined this year's tour, along with Mr John Spencer, Vice President of the South Australian RSL.

The purpose of the ANZAC Spirit School Prize is to encourage young people to discover the Anzac spirit through researching the life of a fallen South Australian Army or Navy World War I

personnel. It is about making connections with and learning about our diggers' experience as people rather than numbers in a history book.

The prize gives the students a personal insight into the impact of this war on the troops in Europe, the Australian families waiting for their return, and the development of the Anzac spirit that is so important to the culture and ethos of our nation. It also provides them with a historical, cultural and social perspective of Australia's involvement in World War I campaigns in Europe.

On 15 April the students arrived in London where they toured Churchill's bunker and cabinet rooms in Whitehall. They also visited the Australian War Memorial at Hyde Park Corner and the Royal Geographical Society, where they viewed the original maps. From London they travelled through France to Belgium, where a new tour guide, who specialises in tours for Australians and New Zealanders and is a World War I specialist, was engaged. They undertook site visits to Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Passchendale, the Tyne Cot Military Cemetery and the In Flanders Fields Museum.

Members would have heard of the new Australian film recently released called *Beneath Hill 60*, the story about the secret struggle beneath the Western Front and the men who dug the tunnels under that hill. I was delighted to hear that a visit to Hill 60 was included on this year's itinerary. Other destinations included Messines, Armentieres, Fromelles and the new cemetery Cobbers Memorial and VC Corner, as well as their German cemetery at Illies.

As I have mentioned to members before, a commemorative service is held every night of the year at 8pm at the Menin Gate. The students attended a service, and both Hieu Van Le and John Spencer placed wreaths. From Ypres (not, as my grandfather who fought there referred to it, 'Wipers') it was on to Amiens in France with a visit to Escanaffles Communal Cemetery and the Wellington quarry to see the World War I tunnels.

In Perrone, the students joined an English class at the Perrone High School with like-minded French students. Following that, they taught French students how to play and kick an Aussie rules football. Students then met officials from the city council and enjoyed a three course French cuisine lunch catered by the high school students. I am advised that both the French students and our students are now excitedly communicating via Facebook.

Following lunch, they visited the Great War Museum, viewed the Mont Saint Quentin digger statue and visited a farm. Other sites included the Normandy region as well as battlefields in the Somme, the township of Villers-Bretonneux the Victoria School, the Australian War Memorial and a cemetery close to the township of Hazebrouck, where many South Australians are buried. In Dernancourt the students were warmly received by the mayor, Mr Lionel LaMotte (people remember the mayor's visit here last year), who accompanied them, along with other young children of the township, to the local cemetery where two wreath laying ceremonies took place.

On Sunday 25 April students attended that sacred ceremony the Anzac Day dawn service at the Australian War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux in France. Hieu van Le and the students placed wreaths at the ceremony, the most anticipated event of the tour. After the service they travelled to the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles where the Armistice was signed.

I take this opportunity to thank Hieu van Le, his wife, Lan, John Spencer and the teachers for escorting the students to Europe and for the guidance and support which they showed them. I have to say that I think all members have probably met some of the students both in their electorates and after past visits. There is absolutely no doubt that these opportunities will have a life changing impact upon them.

STATE ELECTION

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (16:24): My question is again to the Premier. Given that 51.6 per cent of the state's population voted for a Liberal government at the March election, including a 15 per cent swing to the seat of Adelaide, do you now concede that you do not have a mandate to destroy the iconic Adelaide Oval and superimpose on the site, and on a significant area of parkland surrounding it, a concrete monolith; and will you cancel this project?

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) (16:25): I know we have different backgrounds in terms of our studies, and you would be aware that I do have an interest in football and have been to AAMI Stadium and its previous incarnation, Football Park, as well to more celebrated venues such as those down at Panther Park at Noarlunga.

However, as someone who has studied politics and as the father of the house, I should not need to remind members of parliament that, under the Westminster system that applies in Great Britain—in fact, voting I would imagine has already started—and in New Zealand and in Canada and in Australia, you win elections by winning a majority of votes in a majority of seats. This should not be a revelation. We are aware of the Playford era, but we are also aware of the results of the 1998 federal election.

On 20 March Labor was elected with a majority of seats, according to a research paper published by the Parliamentary Library on 1 April, with 48.5 per cent of the two-party preferred vote across the state. Under our system of government, one inherited from Westminster, the party that wins the majority of votes in a majority of seats in the lower house forms government. That should not be a revelation to anyone who is in this parliament, let alone anyone with a leadership position.

It is not the Labor Party's fault that, because of the system that we all voted for where there is a redistribution after each election in terms of the fairness rule, you did not campaign well in marginal seats and that you were let down by key shadow ministers in the last week. There is nothing new in governments being formed where the total notional two-party preferred vote to the government is something just less than 50 per cent. I understand that that was the case for John Howard in 1998, and there are many other examples involving both major parties.

South Australia's electoral laws have safeguards built in to avoid political bias. There is a requirement that the independent Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission draw boundaries to ensure that electorates have, within a narrow tolerance, an equal number of electors. There is also a fairness test. Section 83(1) of the Constitution Act provides that the independent commission 'must ensure as far as practicable' that the group that is the party that attracts more than 50 per cent of the vote will be elected in sufficient numbers to enable a government to be formed.

There can be no deliberate slewing or political interference in the drawing of electoral boundaries. The independent commission has adopted complex and sophisticated methods to meet, as far as practicable, this requirement. However, even the commission has acknowledged on a number of occasions that it is not part of its task to forecast how people will vote in a general election to be held several years after a re-redistribution.

The independent commission also concludes that circumstances affecting the outcome of a general election are not confined to the configuration of boundaries: the perception of voters in a particular seat, the quality and intensity of campaigning in particular seats, local issues and the stature of candidates—a whole range of things—are all factors the commission acknowledges have an effect.

Many things will influence the outcome. The parliamentary library research paper referred to earlier acknowledges the factors that may influence the outcome and return a government with just under 50 per cent of the vote. The research paper concludes that the 2010 result was not due to electoral bias but due to non-uniform swings. Specifically, the author concludes in that research paper that Labor ran 'the most successful defensive marginal seats campaign seen in South Australia'. Labor's focus on marginal seats was 'based on local issues and on effective representation by Labor sitting members'.

Conversely, the Liberals' campaign was presidential in style and leader-focused; and this at a time when the Liberal Party was gripped by disunity, division, mistrust and competing ambitions and egos. I might add—

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: You prefaced the question; you knew what you would get. I might add that we had the better candidates in our sitting members. In short, this is not a failure of the electoral system; this outcome certainly does not reflect bias by the judges and others who were involved in the distribution. What it shows is the failure of the Liberal Party to win the hearts and minds of voters in the marginal seats, the working families in the north and south of Adelaide and elsewhere. The Liberals just were not, and are not, ready for government.

Now let us go to the other part of the question. We will proceed with the building of a new Royal Adelaide Hospital, and what I said to football and cricket—and I've been to both the cricket and the football on many occasions—the key thing we said to cricket and football was, 'When you make up your mind come and see us and tell us what you want.' There they were in the cabinet room—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: What an elite group in the cabinet room. We had Port Power, we had the Crows, the SANFL, the Cricket Association, we had the AFL, with Andrew Demetriou. They said (and I was there) that they wanted us to pursue with them Adelaide Oval—and that is exactly what we are going to do.

THINKERS IN RESIDENCE

The SPEAKER: Member for Bright, I think you have a question; and congratulations, I am sure we will work very well together.

Ms FOX (Bright) (16:31): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! We want to hear the member for Bright.

Ms FOX: My question is also to the Premier. Can the Premier tell members about the state's newest Thinker in Residence?

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) (16:32): This is our 19th Thinker in Residence—and I know it was one of the first schemes that was to be abolished, apparently along with the film festival, the film hub, and so on.

I am pleased to advise the house that one of the world's most respected road safety experts, Professor Fred Wegman—he is from Holland and it is actually pronounced 'Veckmann' but, after having tried several times, he has said that 'Wegman' would do—is South Australia's newest Adelaide Thinker in Residence. The residency is linked directly to two targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan: to reduce road fatalities to fewer than 90 per year by 2010 and to reduce serious road injuries to fewer than 1,000 per year by 2010.

Mr Goldsworthy: You've run out of ideas about road safety.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: We've run out of ideas about road safety, says the member over there. When I arrived in South Australia in the 1970s about 370 people were killed on our roads, and during the term of the last government it went down to a record low—since 1946, from memory—of 99. It has gone up again—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —but we want to make sure that it keeps tracking down. I do not apologise. Members opposite may not support what we did, but I will not apologise for bringing in random drug testing.

Professor Wegman graduated from the University of Technology in Delft in the Netherlands in 1972 with an MSc in Civil Engineering-Traffic Engineering. Professor Wegman served as a traffic engineer in the municipality of Amsterdam from 1974 until 1977, when he joined the Institute for Road Safety Research in the Netherlands as a researcher and research manager and then as research director. He is currently managing director of the centre. He is regarded as one of the top three experts in road safety in the world. His institute's areas of expertise include sustainable safety—

Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Kave!l

The Hon. M.D. RANN: —road safety costs, high risk behaviour, road safety policy, modes of transport, high risk groups, data and analysis.

Professor Wegman advises the Dutch Minister of Transport, the Dutch parliament and the European Commission on Road Safety. In addition, he has also advised countries such as Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland and South Africa on road safety programs and projects. From a strong research base, Professor Wegman advises on how road safety results can be improved and provides insights into how road safety issues need to be managed into the future and in connection with other societal demands. He is also the co-author of several books, hundreds of reports and articles, as well as a regular contributor to conferences.

Professor Wegman has strong connections with Australia. He has been the keynote speaker at conferences and has been part of the development of the Western Australian road safety strategy. His organisation has a memorandum of understanding with the Monash University Accident Research Centre in Melbourne, which involves a number of research projects. Together, they are currently researching innovative intersection design. In late 2008, Professor Wegman hosted an Austroads young professional study tour to Europe, lead by DTEI's Executive Director, Safety and Regulation. He is also known to the Centre for Automotive Safety Research University of Adelaide and uses the centre's research in addressing speed management issues.

Professor Wegman is one of the leading international figures in road safety and is a member of a number of boards and committees. The Netherlands is one of the best performing countries in terms of road safety, with a fatality rate some 40 per cent lower than in South Australia. This is largely due to their sustainable safety approach which aims to make road use safe for everyone, preventing crashes from occurring and reducing crash severity.

Professor Fred Wegman commenced his residency yesterday. I was delighted to meet him and to welcome him to South Australia. He is a person who believes in inspiring the new generation about road safety, as well as improving the safety of older road users. Through his residency, it is expected that Professor Wegman will help promote a culture of safe road use among South Australians; provide policy leadership and road safety in Australia through alignment of state and federal strategies; establish links between state and local government initiatives on road safety; and integrate road safety into the vision of the Greater Adelaide 30-Year Plan and other transport and built environment initiatives. He will also be involved in workshops, as well as a regional forum in Mount Gambier.

We all need to do better on road safety. We need to look at our entire system—the roads, the vehicles, road users and travel speeds. Professor Wegman's vast experience will help us tackle the difficult problem of road safety and outline issues that will characterise road safety in years to come. I am sure that all of you will join me in welcoming Professor Wegman to our state.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Before I go on, I am going to be very lenient today and for the next few question times, but if the noise does get too much, I will take some action. Member for Kavel, I think you have been drinking too much red cordial. I think you need to calm down a little and perhaps the deputy leader might like to direct some of his energy to his question rather than across the floor comments.

BHP BILLITON

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:38): Madam Speaker, I put on the record my congratulations to you for your elevation to that high office. I am sure you will rule the house with an iron fist. I look forward to some of my colleagues on the other side receiving—

The SPEAKER: I come from the steel city!

Mr WILLIAMS: My question is to the Treasurer. Treasurer, what discussions have you had with BHP Billiton regarding the new 40 per cent tax on mining profits and has the government any concerns regarding the impact of the commonwealth government's tax proposal on BHP Billiton's plans to develop an expanded Olympic Dam mine and produce new jobs in the state's economy?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Federal/State Relations, Minister for Defence Industries) (16:38): It is a good question and it is an entirely appropriate question, but can I say—and I will address the question—that in the lead-up, and certainly over the past 12 or 18 months, the opposition has done everything they can to frustrate and to put offside BHP Billiton. Whether—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Had they had their way, they would force BHP Billiton to build the desalination plant—

Mr PISONI: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The question is about the Rudd government's resource tax of 40 per cent. I ask that you direct the minister to relevance, please.

The SPEAKER: I don't think that is a point of order.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I am simply making the point that the opposition was very hostile to BHP, so much so that the leader of the opposition refused to meet with BHP.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: It is true.

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I think the leader's comments were loud enough to be picked up by all on this side and all in the chamber. I would ask your indulgence, Madam Chair, for me to put on the public record that that was an outrageous reflection on a professional, in Kym Winter-Dewhirst.

Mr PISONI: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley has a point of order.

Mr PISONI: It is disorderly to respond to interjections.

The SPEAKER: No point of order.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Kym Winter-Dewhirst is an outstanding professional. For the leader of the opposition to refer to him as a Labor staffer—

Mr PISONI: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley has a point of order.

Mr PISONI: This question was about the Rudd government's 40 per cent resource tax. The Treasurer so far has not addressed any part of that question.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley's point of order has some relevance, but I think it has been carried on by his side also. I would ask the Deputy Premier to get back to the substance of the question.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Thank you, madam. I will simply say that the senior government relations officer has been at Santos for many years and is a former Howard government staffer and a former Alexander Downer government staffer. He is totally professional. I make no reflection on him, so you should not make any reflection on Kym Winter-Dewhirst.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will continue.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: He is a former Democrat. In terms of BHP, as the minister responsible for the Olympic Dam project I have had a number of discussions with BHP as recently as the last 48 hours. Those discussions will remain private between the government and BHP Billiton for obvious market sensitive reasons.

Mr Williams: Robert Gottliebsen made a very good speech last night.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Who did?

Mr Williams: Robert Gottliebsen.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I don't know who Robert Gottliebsen is? I have known him well for 15 years.

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Sorry?

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I did. You're interjecting all the time today. You are very—

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, can we get back to question time please?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: You've got quite bitter since you've lost, haven't you? You are still very angry. I thought the treatment of Martin might have just been a passing phase, but obviously not.

It is no secret. To quote my mentor, the Premier, breaking news: BHP is not happy with the tax increase. I can assure you it is not happy, and that is pretty obvious. As we have said in this house, as a government that has worked for eight years to ensure that Olympic Dam goes ahead, Olympic Dam will go ahead. We will do all we can to ensure that that occurs.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: He's making an early move, an early bid. The member for Norwood has had a look over his competition and from day one he says, 'This is for me; I reckon I can do this.' Have a look at him. He has heard the member for Adelaide out there staking her leadership credentials at whatever function she attends, so we have a bit of jostling going on. I would just watch our friend the member for Stuart. I've got money on the member for Stuart; I think he will be the one to come through.

Mr WILLIAMS: Madam Speaker, I have a point of order. For a few brief moments in the middle of his answer the Deputy Premier almost got to answering the question. I ask you to draw him back to the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I uphold the point of order. Would you get back to the question. We are already 30 minutes into question time and we have had two questions.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I think I was naughty, Madam Speaker, and I accept your ruling.

The SPEAKER: Your were naughty but I forgive you this time.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I accept your ruling, but we will watch with great interest the game plays opposite. All I would say to the member for Norwood is 'a little more subtlety'.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Subtlety has never been my strong point or one of my qualities, but I am developing that skill. As I said, I have had discussions with BHP and those discussions will remain confidential.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (16:46): My question is to the Minister for Health. How will the introduction of a four hour emergency department target help to improve patient care in South Australia?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurana—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (16:46): I thank the member for Taylor and congratulate her on her election to this place and her first question. During the election campaign the Labor Party committed \$109 million if we were elected—which we have been—to ensure that by June 2013 at least 95 per cent of people seeking treatment in our public hospital emergency departments would be treated and either admitted to a ward or discharged within four hours. I am pleased to say that that four hour emergency department target has now been adopted as a national target through the COAG health reform process. It will be fully operational right across Australia by 1 January 2015.

The benchmark of a four hour maximum is a simple tool that patients and staff can use to keep—

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The Hon. J.D. HILL: He is ready for a debate now, but he will have to wait for a time.

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Morphett! The minister.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know the rule is that I should not respond to inane interjections. The benchmark of a four hour—

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morphett! It is the first day.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The benchmark of a four hour maximum is a simple tool that both patients and staff can use to keep the South Australian hospital system and the government accountable. An essential aspect of the policy is that progress will be tracked and the results will be made available publicly on the department's internet site.

The Labor Party was only in a position to make this commitment at the last election because of the work we have undertaken over our previous two terms in government to reform and rebuild the health system. Over our first two terms we increased the capacity of our health system by investing billions of extra dollars in building new health infrastructure. For example, since 2002 we have employed an additional 1,074 doctors, 3,692 nurses and 931 allied health workers. Our four hour target is, of course, a very ambitious one. Across Australia the average time spent in an emergency department by patients who are subsequently admitted to hospital (that is, the average time right across Australia) is six hours and two minutes. In South Australia that figure is five hours and 44 minutes. Not only are we below the national average but it is the lowest of any state or territory.

While we are ahead of the game on that figure, we have a long way to go to achieve a four hour target. Over the last two completed financial years, 61.7 per cent and 59 per cent of emergency department presentations had a total visit time of less than four hours. So, we are about two-thirds of the way to reaching that target. It will be difficult, but achieving the target will require building on current initiatives to increase capacity within our hospital system and further reduce demand; and, if I may, I will outline to the house how we will go about doing that.

Capacity across the hospital system will be increased by over 250 beds through the current set of capital works. An extra \$3.5 million each year will be provided to help patients with disabilities move from hospitals to access accommodation in the community. On any given day there are up to 35 patients with disabilities who have recovered from their illness and should be discharged from hospital but there is nowhere appropriate for them to go to continue getting care, and so we keep them in hospital beds until those places become available.

I can advise the house that \$3.5 million extra will create extra spaces, and \$2.5 million, too, will be made available to provide more services for treating patients with mental health problems. We will also be establishing acute medical units at Modbury Hospital and the Lyell McEwin Hospital and we will be expanding the unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital—this is in addition to the two units we already have at Flinders and the Royal Adelaide Hospital. We will also employ more than 100 additional doctors, nurses and other staff across metro hospitals and, in particular, this includes more senior staff after hours and more diagnostic services so that we can move towards having 24 hour, seven day a week decision making in the emergency departments, because if you have that in the emergency departments and other parts of the hospital you can move patients through more quickly and more safely.

We will also accelerate our programs to reduce demand on emergency departments by employing additional extended care paramedics to provide treatment to patients in their own homes, as well as an additional \$5 million a year to increase the current range of home care packages to reduce emergency department attendances.

I was extremely surprised that the opposition health spokesperson opposed the four hour target and dismissed it as a 'farce'. In South Australia the policy was developed in conjunction with the SA Health Emergency Access Task Force, which includes representatives from the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and representatives of all the emergency departments in Adelaide, as well as other doctors and other medical experts.

The four hour policy (the same policy) has dramatically decreased waiting times in United Kingdom emergency departments, and here in Australia the Western Australian Liberal government introduced the same initiative last year and recently hailed its progress. The way they are reaching these goals is by going through the same measures that we are going to go through here in South Australia. In fact, my colleague and friend, the Western Australian health minister, Kim Hames, said on 17 April this year:

Waiting times in Western Australia's major emergency departments are now among Australia's best, and patients safety and quality of care have been maintained since the program began.

We are very pleased to be following in that direction and following what the Western Australian Liberal Party thought was a good idea. It is a shame that the South Australian Liberal Party does not share that point of view.

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:53): Will the Premier advise whether his government has a mechanism in place for collating details of problems with Building the Education Revolution projects or for providing details of costings to principals and governing councils at schools where projects are taking place; and, if not, why not?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy) (16:53): Can I say—

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley will come to order! The Minister for Transport.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Bad news! Here is the member for Unley. We do know that the Liberals opposed this funding going to South Australian schools. We do know that. I do note that the Unley Primary School does have a BER building, but I don't notice—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: They are extremely rude. The Building the Education Revolution program in South Australia should be a matter of pride for South Australians, because it is being done better in South Australia than it is being done anywhere. I invite the Leader of the Opposition, if she has any evidence at all, instead of making interjections, to provide it and ask the question herself. The member for Unley asks: where is the Premier? Instead of interjections, let us get a question, with some evidence, from the Leader of the Opposition, not just anger or disappointment. The truth is that the Building the Education Revolution program, run by Rod Hook and assisted by Bob Boorman (who, of course, has also been the subject of extremely unfair criticism from the Liberal opposition), is doing an outstanding job. The program is being run on an administrative cost of 1.5 per cent and is delivering projects for hundreds of schools across South Australia in a timely and affordable fashion.

I am quite prepared to give any member of the opposition a full and comprehensive briefing on how the project works. It is working outstandingly in South Australia because of the very good relationship between the government, the people operating it and the private sector, and I think if opposition members were to talk to people in the private sector they would understand that for themselves. If they want to know how well this is going, what I will say is that we welcome any scrutiny and investigation of this program, because it will show that Rod Hook and the people in the office of infrastructure have done an outstanding job and delivered to schools.

I will tell you how many complaints I have had across my desk from these schools. How many have come across my desk? None; zero! So, opposition members can talk it down and oppose buildings for their own schools. They can talk it down, but I take pride in the work South Australians have done on this—South Australian public servants and South Australian firms. I welcome members coming to get a briefing on it.

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:56): My question is to the Minister for Education. Now that the official national inquiry has been launched into the cost blowouts of the BER stimulus program, will task force head Brad Orgill and his 30 staff have as much difficulty getting a list of complaints from DECS as I have? I was refused access to documents through FOI, the excuse being that my inquiry was too broad and required too many resources of the department to comply.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Development) (16:57): The reason the FOI request was rejected is that the member for Unley was invited to get back to the agency to respond and narrow his request from a request that would have required us to look at every document concerning every school and every document that touched the BER so that we could establish whether anything looked like a complaint. You can bet your life that, if we pulled out just a few concerns that did exist, there would be howls of complaint that we had not carried out a thorough exercise. Therefore, wanting to be thorough, we asked him to narrow his request because, frankly, there is not a file on complaints, because there are just not enough to justify one. Because we wanted to be thorough and answer the request in a diligent fashion, we simply asked him to narrow his request beyond every document that exists in a school or every document that exists in the BER program. He refused to do that so, on that basis, the application was rejected.

EDEN HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (16:58): My question is to the Minister for Education. Why will the state government not fund approximately \$110,000 for two 35,000-litre rainwater tanks required for bushfire fighting purposes at Eden Hills Primary School? Eden Hills Primary School is building three new classrooms and has been told the state government will not fund the \$110,000 for two rainwater tanks required for bushfire purposes. Instead, the school has been told to reduce its budget for the fixtures and fittings component of the project at a cost of \$110,000 to the project.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Development) (16:58): If I understand the question, it is about a BER project. In relation to BER projects, the simple principle (which would apply to any project) is that the proponent (in this case, the commonwealth government) meets the cost of the project. I do not know the specific case but there is another school that has a similar issue, and the particular project triggers a CFS guideline that says there has to be an upgrade in the firefighting capacity of the project. So that becomes a cost of the project and part of the responsibility of the BER project. It is simply a matter of it being the cost of doing the work. It is a simple answer.

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (17:00): I have a similar question for the Minister for Education. Why is \$103,000 of federal funding being used to install state government required water tanks for firefighting purposes under the Building the Education Revolution funding program? In this instance, it relates to a contribution—and I note the minister's previous answer—for gym facilities, but they were required to upgrade the water storage tanks to provide for these firefighting services. That is different from what the minister has just answered. Now, of course, that is a responsibility, they are being told, of the minister's government.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Development) (17:00): Can I just respond to the member for Bragg's question by adding some further information, so she can treat the answer that I gave to the previous question as substantially answering her question.

To elaborate, an assessment was done, I am advised, of all the school sites across South Australia to make various schools safe. The state government funded that work. Upgrades were made of various school facilities around the state. There was another category of schools which did not fall into that category of work that needed to be done, but the CFS guidelines provided that, if additional buildings were put in place in that school environment, it would trigger the requirement for the upgrade of the firefighting facilities.

That, as I understand it, is the reason the new works have triggered the need for the extra firefighting capacity in those schools. Essentially, if a school building was built on a site and some soil remediation work was needed, that also would be the cost of the project, and it would be met by the proponent—in this case, the commonwealth, because it is a BER project. Here you have the unusual situation where there is a need for upgrading the firefighting capacity; that becomes a cost of the project.

Of course, schools want to maximise the education bang for the buck they get out of every project, but the truth is that each site has its own complexities. Some of the sites are sloping, some of them have soil remediation, some of them have the need to upgrade the firefighting equipment. That is the cost of doing the project and it is met by the commonwealth.

The truth is that I spoke to a private school in my electorate just the other day and they described it as 'manna from heaven'. These would otherwise be facilities that they would have to fund through fetes and fundraisers. They have long-term strategic plans, where many of them imagine seeing these buildings in 10 years' time. What they see is a federal government motivated by two things, one of which is the global financial crisis that was going to threaten jobs. They said, 'We won't stand for that; we're going to defend Australian jobs.' And when they thought about how they were going to stimulate the economy, when they decided which construction jobs they should stimulate, they, in a classically Labor way, said, 'We're going to invest in the most important thing we can imagine, that is, our children's future.'

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (17:03): I have a supplementary question for the Minister for Education. Will the state government provide the Yankalilla Area School with the difference in what

is necessary for them to complete their gymnasium so that the children can use it as a result of this policy?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Development) (17:03): I will take the honourable member's question on notice. I am not precisely clear about the scope of works in that particular project. In the broad, though, the answer to the question is that the cost of doing the project has to fit within the BER funding.

I think the commonwealth has been very flexible with particular sites in trying to find ways of making these projects fit, given the time lines and given the fact that this is a national scheme with national guidelines. As I said, we welcome the scrutiny. As the Minister for Infrastructure mentioned, this has been an incredibly well-run scheme. We welcome the scrutiny of the small number of cases where concerns have been raised.

I do not rule out the fact that adjustments might have to be made. In answer to the question that has been put to me about why these additional components of the project are being visited on the school as opposed to being picked up by the state government, the truth is that they are part and parcel of the project, but if there are things that can be sensibly done I will look into that and respond to the member.

SUPER SCHOOLS

Mr PISONI (Unley) (17:04): My question is to the Premier. After the loss of the former education minister's seat of Adelaide, with a swing of 15 per cent, will the Premier now be abandoning his super school program and will he now build a second campus of Adelaide High School?

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) (17:05): We will not be abandoning the super school program.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:05): My question is to the Minister for Housing. Can the minister explain why regulations designed to fast track development approvals for projects under the commonwealth economic stimulus plan are being used to override established development plans and provide approval for developments which would otherwise be regarded as inappropriate?

I have been contacted by a member of the Naracoorte Lucindale District Council and local ratepayers expressing concerns that the South Australian Housing Trust is proposing to build multiple dwellings on sites on which such developments would not be approved under the local development plan and normal planning processes.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy) (17:05): I am not quite sure where the deputy leader—I congratulate him on that elevation, and it is quite extraordinary with the number of votes he had that he got there.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: He was the little train that could!

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I would like to, but your friend keeps interjecting. I assume he is your friend—you never know on that side.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister, continue.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I think it is hilarious, Madam Speaker, to get a whole range of interjections from the opposition about how we are not friends on this side. It is like Colonel Sanders demanding rights for chickens! I don't know where the deputy leader has been. The stimulus program was precisely that: it was a stimulus program. It was intended to put money on the ground as quickly as possible, and it worked. I have some breaking news: it actually worked. Australia and South Australia's economic performance has been outstanding by world standards.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I know that their disappointment burns in them. Part of that was to shorten the process of approvals on stimulus projects, which has worked very successfully. It does not mean they apply different standards; they simply shorten—

Mr Williams: They are. Answer my question: why are they?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I have explained why that has been taken. It is strange that it has worked. The member for MacKillop does not agree with it. I cannot help him with that disagreement.

SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFF REVIEW

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:08): My question is to the Minister for Energy. What is the status of the solar feed-in tariff review and when will the report of the review be released? In May 2009 the feed-in scheme reached a 10 megawatt capacity, which triggered the statutory review. The member for Light told the house in June 2009 that the government would respond to that review in September, but at the end of October 2009 the minister announced that the review was about to begin and would be finalised by the end of December 2009. We are still awaiting any information.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Energy) (17:09): There was the small matter of an election recently, which has made it a little difficult. In fact, my understanding is that the Sustainability and Climate Change Office is actually answerable to the Premier and not to me. It is very near to completion, and I expect that cabinet will see something from it very soon. Naturally, cabinet did not deal with these things during the caretaker period, but my understanding is that we will see something soon.

It is absolutely true that there is now a great deal of activity in this area around Australia, and this has had to inform the review. A great number of changes took place during the course of the review, and members would understand that the commonwealth itself changed its MRET scheme to, if you like, a small scheme and a scheme for large-scale installations. All those things had to be, and will be, taken into account, and I am sure something will be with cabinet soon. I note that I am sure this is a matter of burning concern to that greenie from Millicent.

SUDANESE COMMUNITY

Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (17:10): My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister update the house on SAPOL's work on building ties with the Sudanese community?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Lee—Minister for Police, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (17:10): I thank the member for his question and congratulate him for joining us here in the house. I also congratulate you, Madam Speaker.

SAPOL has a strong focus on working with communities to enhance relationships and mutual understanding, and it is making a special effort to develop bonds with South Australia's Sudanese community by appointing Juma Abuyi as a community constable. Juma was displaced from Sudan by civil war and spent years in a Kenyan refugee camp before immigrating to Australia nine years ago. Since immigrating to Australia, Juma has worked closely with the African Communities Council, the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia, and Families SA's refugee program helping new communities settle and understand the justice system in South Australia.

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: You will get another question, as long as you shut up and stop interrupting. It will not take very long, I promise you. I know you did not get very many votes, Mitch; the party wanted Martin, the leader wanted Ian, but look what we finished with!

Since Juma's emigrating to Australia, SAPOL recognised that his personal and professional history provided the experience and understanding required to act as a bridge between SAPOL and the Sudanese community, leading to mutual benefit. As the Sudanese liaison officer for South Australia Police, Juma will provide SAPOL with a vital understanding of the structure and traditions of South Australia's Sudanese community. Police now have someone who can communicate perfectly with members of the Sudanese community, cutting through the language barrier and the fog of misunderstanding. As a large proportion of young Sudanese people in Adelaide were born during civil war and have spent many long years in refugee camps, the notion of a police force can be unusual or even threatening to many.

By understanding the work that police do, and the protection and support they offer, a foundation of trust, respect and confidence in our police force can be built. Confidence is essential to police forces all over the world; when people trust police and are confident that they will get results, police operate with the information flow they need for maximum efficiency. I congratulate SAPOL for introducing this initiative, which will improve understanding and develop stronger bonds with the Sudanese community.

LOCUST PLAGUE

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:13): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I congratulate you on taking your exalted position. My question is to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. What is the minister, and his department, doing to combat a locust plague across the state's farmland? Locust larvae must be sprayed with pesticide to prevent them hatching and destroying farmland. In the major locust plague of the year 2000 over 500,000 hectares of South Australian farmland was treated with insecticide in an effort to halt the locusts' advance. Some 420,000 hectares of this land was sprayed by the government of the day.

The conditions that spawned the current plague have been evident since early this year; however, the opposition has been advised that the government has not committed the personnel, the pesticide or the equipment required to combat the plague before it potentially wipes out billions of dollars worth of crop and pasture.

The Hon. M.F. O'BRIEN (Napier—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Northern Suburbs) (17:15): I welcome the question—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.F. O'BRIEN: A couple of years with Elders at an international level does one wonders in coming into this portfolio. I welcome the question from the member for Hammond. I was in the Riverland a fortnight ago and met with the new member. I spent an hour with him giving what I hope was a reasonably substantial briefing on the Riverland Futures Task Force project. I attended a number of meetings and at one of those meetings that particular proposition was put to me. I am also aware that on either Monday or Tuesday night there was a meeting of about 250 farmers in the Riverland which was reported extensively in the rural media and at which the same proposition was advanced. The response from PIRSA officers at that meeting is exactly the same as the reply I will give. We have to deal with this issue in a manner which results in what we hope will be around 90 per cent eradication. At the moment, these locusts are widespread and dealing with them by way of pesticide on a statewide basis would be both extremely expensive and highly ineffective. We also know—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The Hon. M.F. O'BRIEN: The advice that I have been given by technical officers within PIRSA is that, with the onset of a period of cold and wet weather which we are currently experiencing, it will kill what locusts are currently swarming. Tomorrow I will be seeking advice from PIRSA officers in the field as to what the effect of this cold spell has been. Has it dealt with the issue of swarming? I am expecting the reply to be that it has largely dealt with the issue.

What we have in front of us is the emergence of literally billions of locusts come spring. We are putting in place a strategy. There have been 11 major locust plagues since European settlement. I am advised that this is probably different from the previous 11 in that, with the previous 11 (or the bulk of them) the swarming came from the north-west and impacted on grazing country. The response was fairly straightforward: we went through with aerial spraying. What is happening in this particular instance—and it could be the result of long-term drought and then heavy rain in the Gulf Country to our north—is that we are facing a locust plague on two fronts (which we have never had to confront before), one of which is impacting on high quality horticultural and broadacre land around the Riverland and the Mallee.

It is a challenge that we have not faced in the recent past. To deal with this particular issue we are dividing the state into two fronts, if I could refer to it in that way, one of which is the Upper North grazing land which will be dealt with by way of aerial spraying. The other front is the Mallee and the Riverland, which, in some instances, will be dealt with by way of an aerial onslaught but, given the nature of the chemical that has to be employed on cropping land, it cannot be used close to waterways or urban centres. So, there will have to be large, widespread utilisation of particularly local government resources and the resources of farmers to do spraying on the ground.

I think members opposite are also aware that, with the onset of warm weather, these locusts basically group together. I am informed that, in some instances, you can have a line running 10 or 15 kilometres long by six or seven metres wide. We have to wait for that phenomenon to occur. We will map the location of these particular concentrations of locusts. I think we have something like a two or three week window of opportunity to attack them while they have grouped together in this manner.

At the moment we are securing the chemical. Western Australia has advised us that they have a large stockpile which is available to South Australia. We are booking the aircraft and I am travelling to Canberra to meet with the Australian Locust Plague Commission. I am also meeting with my New South Wales and Victorian counterparts to ensure that we have a coordinated attack in early spring. The last thing I want to see is that South Australia has its house in order but that the Victorians have failed to deal with the issue in the Victorian Mallee and we have swarms across the border—and similarly with New South Wales.

I am hoping within a fortnight to have concluded those meetings and to have gained the assurance that the other two states and the commonwealth are doing their part. I will also be seeking assurance that the chemical is on order because it has to be imported. We have the surety of knowing there is a large stockpile in Western Australia.

I also want to be assured that the aircraft are being secured. The Country Fire Service are going to assist us. They have expertise in the targeted water bombing of fires and will be employing that technology and technique in the field, on the ground, directing aircraft into these particular concentrations of locusts.

I am prepared, at any time, to give members of the opposition thorough briefings, because this is an issue that is going to impact on the electorates of a large number of people on the other side of the house. I will be available at any time to sit down and listen to your concerns. When I come to your electorates—because I intend to get out in the field to be doubly assured that local government and our agencies in the field are dealing with this—I will be calling on you, explaining in some depth what is happening locally and asking for your feedback. I want to be assured that you are firmly of the view that, locally, efforts are being put in place to deal with this issue come spring.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

MINING INDUSTRY

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:23): On each of the last two evenings, I have been to functions which have been attended by a significant number of people from the mining industry in South Australia. The government has been talking up this industry for a significant period of time. In the context of the recent election, the government has also been talking up jobs growth in South Australia. The Premier, as part of his election strategy, has suggested that in the next six years—I think he was claiming he was going to do it by his own hand—we will see 100,000 jobs created in the South Australian economy. We also know that the Premier often states that most of the jobs that will be created in the South Australian economy in the next period will be in either the mining or defence sectors.

Last Sunday, we saw the federal government and the Prime Minister of this country take an axe to the mining industry. We saw the federal government announce a 40 per cent super profits tax (as the Prime Minister referred to it) on the mining sector. I inform the house that every member of the mining industry to whom I spoke last night and the night before is devastated by this news. They honestly do not believe that our mining industry is going anywhere while it remains under the threat of the new tax imposition. Yet we have heard very little from this government which has been arguing that the mining sector will be the saviour of our economy and will create another 100,000 jobs in the next six years.

What does the Treasurer say about this? On ABC radio on Monday the Treasurer said, amongst other things, 'By and large, this is a pretty good package.' But what else did he say? He revealed that it was also his intention to double the royalty rates on our mining sector. We had an election six weeks ago. The Labor Party put out a manifesto for that election, part of which included policies relating to the mining industry. There was not one mention of a proposal to increase the royalty rates. The Treasurer said, 'We have been doing this for some time. I have had the Budget Sustainability Commission work on this for some time and we were going to double it.' He did not mention it to what has been identified as the most important sector of this economy.

Madam Speaker, the worldwide press over the past few days has noted that the Canadians, in particular, are jumping with joy at the prospect of what will happen here in Australia. The mining industry is worldwide competitive and the one thing for which they compete is finance.

People with lots of dollars to invest in mining have a lot of sense, and one of the things they look at is where they will get the best rate of return. That certainly is not in Australia. Today—before the next tax is imposed—the average Canadian tax rate is 23 per cent on the mining industry. In Australia today it is 38 per cent—and it will rise to 58 per cent.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am running out of time but I direct members' attention to Robert Gottlieb's Business Spectator online newspaper. An article today states that he expects a major financial strike to hit our mining sector. He said:

I have never seen an industry so angry. As we saw in the medical area, Rudd just put the proposal on the table and tried to bully his way through, but miners are much tougher than state premiers and the international majors have a raft of projects in other countries that will now take precedence over Australia.

Here in South Australia we have been pinning our hopes for a number of years on BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam project. It is under serious threat from the federal Labor government.

AUSTRALIAN BLIND BOWLERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (17:28): It is my privilege to rise today on the first day of the 52nd parliament to thank the electors of Florey for placing their trust in me to again represent them in this place and to pledge myself to their service and to be true to the values of access and equity. Madam Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the electors of Florey I congratulate you and the Speaker on your historic appointments.

I acknowledge that we gather on the traditional lands of the Kurna people and I pay my respects to them as the custodians of the Adelaide Plains. I look forward to the day when the place of First Australians is acknowledged in all parliaments every day of sitting.

I place on record my congratulations to all the men and women who participated in the 31st Australian Blind Bowlers Association (ABBA) National Championships held recently at Salisbury Bowling Club. As patron of the South Australian Blind Bowlers Club I was honoured to accept the invitation to attend in order to deliver, on behalf of the Premier, the message at the opening ceremony last month.

Since its formation in 1977, the association has played a vital role in providing sporting and social opportunities for blind and vision-impaired people, none of which would be possible without the efforts of the fantastic volunteers who support the association, including my local residents Ray and Jill McKay. Although South Australia did not win the championships, we did not come away empty-handed. We had several people win awards: a silver in the mens' B2 singles to Brian Cameron; a gold in the mens' B2 pairs to Neil Cundy and Brian Cameron; a silver in the B4 ladies' singles with Rebecca Arbon's performance; and a gold in the ladies' B4 pairs to Marylyn Koch and Rebecca Arbon.

I would like also to put on the record the outstanding performance in his first appearance in the association's championships by Des Warner, who won the Encouragement Award. I would also like to pass on the thanks of the association to the Premier for his message and for his funding, and also to the Salisbury Bowling Club, which graciously let its wonderful clubhouse and greens to the blind bowlers; and I thank John Cooper for his graciousness at the closing ceremony. Also, I thank Jean Jackson and the kitchen and bar crew for their fantastic hospitality and feeding so many people so well for the entire week.

Also, I thank Ron Peters, who was on loan from the Hope Valley Bowling Club in my electorate, and to the other people from other clubs who acted as umpires. I thank the raffle sellers who made sure that everyone helped with the fundraising effort and Richard Berry, the MC for the whole week. Many great contributors are part of the Blind Bowlers Association. South Australia's own Kath Murrell is stepping down after competing in 31 nationals and acting for five years as vice-president and a delegate and 10 years as South Australian president. Dr John Vance from New South Wales will assume the role of ABBA President, and he has asked bowlers to assemble again in Rosehill, New South Wales, in 2011.

I would also like to mention the Western Australian and ABBA Treasurer, Bobby Tanner, who has been blind for 18 months. He has been involved since 1984 and in executive roles between 1990 and 2004.

On the subject of healthy lifestyles, which is what blind bowlers encourage, I would like to mention the Grains and Legumes Health Report which was recently launched in Adelaide and which concluded that eating two to three slices of wholegrain bread each day could reduce heart disease and diabetes by up to 30 per cent. Wholegrain consumption has been shown to be linked to improvements in body mass index, insulin sensitivity and diabetes, all of which are important risk factors for health and heart disease.

Including wholegrain breads regularly in a balanced diet could cut Australia's annual health bill by \$1.2 billion, and this is something worth bearing in mind when we host or attend community sausage sizzles. It has been my quest for some years now to insist on or ask for wholegrain bread, which is not readily available; so I urge all members to encourage all their clubs and associations to make that bread available. While my campaign has been going for some time, as I said, I have met with a great deal of cynicism, and this new report will, I hope, change acceptance of the science and change the eating habits of people.

This breakthrough follows my speech on broccoli last year—the importance of that best of all vegetables being reinforced by a study noted in today's *Advertiser* announcing findings about its cancer reducing properties. Florey will be holding its annual Cancer Council morning tea shortly, and this year I hope that all members will be involved in those sorts of events in their electorate.

I would like also to talk about other issues, which I will in my address in reply, but I want to assure members that I look forward to working with them on all the wider issues that impact all our electorates. In my electorate particularly, I look forward to the works on the Modbury Public Hospital taking place. The recent campaign announcement of \$44 million for funding for the hospital and its services secures its future and will provide all people in the north-eastern suburbs with fantastic service delivery.

Along with the anticipated GPS Plus centre things look very good for health in the north-eastern suburbs.

Time expired.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (17:33): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and congratulations on your appointment to that position. I will do this more formally in my address in reply speech and congratulate the member for Giles on her elevation to the position of Speaker. I have had a long association with the member for Giles through the Aboriginal Lands parliamentary standing committee. I know that she is a woman of integrity and passion, and I look forward to seeing her in that position for a long time to come.

As we all know, the result of the 2010 election was that we are on this side and the Labor Party is still in government. We can argue about the outcome of the result, but the bottom line is that, as the shadow minister and being part of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, I will be doing my utmost to show that the portfolios for which I have been given responsibility this term are examined very closely. The minister who is in charge of those various portfolios will be put under a lot of pressure, and I can guarantee that will happen from day one.

I am continuing with the health and mental health portfolios this time around. I also have substance abuse and have picked up the very important, but sometimes overlooked, portfolio of veterans' affairs. I have relinquished my real passion of Aboriginal affairs for one reason only, and that is because Aboriginal affairs takes up a lot of time and needs a lot of input from a lot of areas all over the state. With the other responsibilities of health, mental health and substance abuse (many of which overlap into Aboriginal affairs), I have made the decision, after consulting the Leader of the Opposition, to give the portfolio to the Hon. Terry Stephens in the upper house, who I know will do a very good job in that area. He and I will work very closely to ensure the issues surrounding Aboriginal affairs continue to be advanced as they should in this parliament.

The health portfolio has been described to me as everything from a basket case to an absolutely abysmal mess, and that is after eight years of Labor government. We have just seen a series of CEOs and senior health bureaucrats resign, and we will ask questions about why that has happened. It is a serious issue when you have top executives with many years of experience packing their bags and going. We want to know why, and what is going on in health. We have just seen the amalgamation of the Central Northern Adelaide Health Service with the Southern Adelaide Health Service to create one monolith, and it looks as though we will have two regions in South Australia—the Adelaide metropolitan region and also the country region. If the rumours I am

hearing are right, that we will then have only two local hospital networks, a city network and a country network, they are not much in the way of networks.

This goes completely against what the Prime Minister was trying to achieve and, should I say, what the Liberal Party would have done had we been elected, that is, local governance of local hospitals. Local boards is something we would have had. The federal government is looking for local management and local input, but you cannot tell me that what I am hearing about two local hospital networks, out of a total of 150 but brought back to 90 nationally, will be good for South Australia. It is not good to have remote bureaucrats dictating to hospitals their outcomes and the way things should be managed. The Prime Minister says this in his local hospital network report.

What is happening in health in South Australia has to be re-examined and changed. We cannot continue to do things the same way. Today we had the minister standing here talking about the four hour maximum wait for patients in emergency departments. I really wish him luck, because the people of South Australia deserve that—they deserve even better—but the overseas and Western Australian experiences show that is an almost impossible task unless you put massive resources into the staffing and emergency departments and, also, further down the chain. You have to make sure there are beds available and there are facilities to examine people and diagnose and treat their ailments, and, if they do not need to be admitted to an acute bed (if there is one available) they can be discharged to an appropriate facility or, better still, go home. That has to be able to happen but it is not happening at the moment. We have seen massive increases in the waiting lists and waiting times in our public hospitals. We have heard the Premier and the minister today again say that we have thousands of extra nurses and doctors. That may be the case, but we are not seeing the benefits that we should see. We hope to see that in the next four years.

Time expired.

ARGENT, MS R.

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (17:38): In my first opportunity to address this house I bring to the house's attention the story of a woman in my electorate who has devoted her life to family and community service. It is also the story of a community group that has provided the opportunity for friendship, recreation, support and information to the frail aged and younger disabled in the greater Gawler community. This woman is Ms Rita Argent. The community group is the Gawler Care and Share Group Inc.

The Gawler Care and Share Group is the life work of Rita, who has been the coordinator of the group since it was first established 33 years ago in March 1977. Rita will retire from the position shortly, aged 78 years. Rita, with some other volunteers, established the group as they saw a need for elderly in the area who lived in their own homes (many widowed) to have a place where they could meet with other people to have fun, fellowship and support. A former member for Light (Hon. Bruce Eastick) was also instrumental in establishing the group alongside Rita. Many other volunteers also assisted, namely, Rita Summerton, Mrs Higgins, Audrey Ahrens, Joy Connors, Josie Shinkel, Monica Brown, Betty Alison and Mary Harnett.

For the first nine years, the group was run solely by volunteers and later gained some government assistance through a range of programs. The group's success is also due to the wonderful support given by service clubs, church groups, local doctors, the Meals on Wheels Association, the health service, council officers and a number of other volunteers. The group has been assisted through the kind and generous support of the Catholic Women's League and the Red Cross, which has provided many meals for the group.

On the first day the group met in March 1977, they charged 30 cents per session; 33 years later they only charge \$3 per session. The funds generated from the memberships help provide support for the various programs they run. The group had 30 members at its first meeting, growing to over 100 over the years, but with the advent of more in-home care the membership has stabilised at about 50 to 60.

The group meets in the Gawler Elderly Centre, which was just a tin shed in the early days, without the modern conveniences now available. The centre underwent a major upgrade in the early eighties when Gil Harnett was mayor. Over the years the group has provided over 120,000 meals and opportunities for friendship for hundreds of local people.

While the group provides a great service to its members, the real story behind its success is the commitment and devotion of Rita to serve others. It is no accident that Rita came to this role.

Prior to establishing the group, Rita was caring for her parents and, in particular, her mother, who passed away prior to her setting up the group.

It was this experience as a carer for her parents that motivated Rita to establish the group. Trained as a nurse and midwife, Rita gave up her career to help support and care for her parents. It has been a life of caring and sharing with and for others. She spent some of her working life employed at the local Hutchinson Hospital, the place where she entered the world 22 years earlier.

Her service to the community was acknowledged by the town of Gawler when she was awarded the 1985 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award for Gawler. To understand this commitment you need to have a better understanding of Rita's life. Born on 6 August 1931 at the Hutchinson Hospital, Gawler, to her commission agent father, Walter, and housewife mum, Vera, Rita grew up in Wasleys (north of Gawler). She has a younger brother, Cedric, who became a detective and worked alongside the well known King O'Malley.

Born at the height of the Depression, the farming community was hit hard and, as a consequence, commissions dried up and her father sought work in other areas. Rita attended Wasleys Primary School and Riverton for her high school education. The trips to Riverton were by train.

While the family lived in Wasleys they spent a great deal of time in Gawler, the nearest major centre. The family would go to Gawler for shopping, the annual show, doctors, etc. More importantly, as Rita would put it, 'Wasleys didn't have a frock shop.' The family's experience in Wasleys has been documented in the recently published book by Nancy Wood, *Wasleys As It Was*.

In 1956, the family moved to Gawler where her dad commenced work with the E&WS. In 1974, Rita interrupted her nursing career to provide care for her parents, and in 1977 she delivered her labour of love, the Gawler Care and Share Group. When asked about her work with the group she humbly responds, 'I have been cared for by them' and that she 'wouldn't change anything' had she had her life over again. She states that she is 'very grateful for family and friends'. I wish to pay tribute to the life and work of Rita Argent.

BAROSSA VALLEY HEALTH FACILITY

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (17:43): I congratulate you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on your elevation to the office of not only Deputy Speaker but also Chairman of Committees. Congratulations, again, to the member for Giles on her elevation to the chair, which is very good. She was an excellent chair of the ERD Committee and I think her appointment is very suitable. Of any woman I know that could handle this job I think the honourable member for Giles can handle it very well because she can express herself quite clearly and succinctly if she needs to and wants to, and she has done that on many an occasion and in many a forum.

I also want to congratulate the brand new members on both sides of the house. I offer my help to them as, probably, the oldest member of the house, which is not the greatest—

An honourable member: Young at heart.

Mr VENNING: Young at heart; you are right there. I am not the father of the house; the Premier has been here longer, and I think the member for Fisher is probably older than me, but we won't go there. I am very pleased to be back here with my best vote ever: a 12 per cent swing, 70 per cent two-party preferred. That is a good way to go out, isn't it, to finish like that? I thank my constituency very much for that strong endorsement.

Today I want to raise a matter in relation to the Barossa community. The Barossa community has been waiting for a new health facility to service the region for a very long time—in fact, over 15 years—and it has been extremely patient, as have I as the local member representing the region. My patience and the community's is wearing very thin.

In 2001 the Liberals committed to building a new facility to be located in Nuriootpa, with construction to commence in the 2004-05 financial year. However, since the Rann Labor government came to power in 2002, very little progress has been made. Finally, in the 2008 budget, I think in response to my constant pressure, \$100,000 was allocated for a business case study into a new facility. This business case has never seen the light of day. The minister has had a business case for a new hospital since July last year, and still the community is waiting to learn the results of the investigation. The community wants to know what the hold-up is, and so do I.

Prior to the 20 March election the state Liberals committed to building a new health facility in the Barossa if elected. Unfortunately, that did not happen. I was extremely surprised that the Rann government failed to respond to the Liberal announcement and, despite commissioning a business case, it did not put forward its own proposal or commitment—nothing. Over the past eight years the Rann Labor government has given false expectations to the Barossa and surrounding communities about a new health facility. It is time for answers; it is time for action.

I have written to the Minister for Health requesting an update on the progress of the business case, but to date, aside from receiving an acknowledgement of my correspondence, I have not received a formal response to my concerns. I will meet with minister Hill as soon as I can, both socially in this place and at any other opportunity, to get an update on the situation.

Following the election, I was contacted by many extremely disappointed constituents, disappointed because the Liberals were not elected to power, meaning that our commitment to build a new health facility in the Barossa would not come to fruition within the next four years. I vowed to continue the fight and assured the community that I would continue to lobby the Rann Labor government for a new health facility in the Barossa, a new facility that the region deserves.

I have never been in favour of the federal government taking the control of the health system away from the states. I think it will result in poorer service if management is taken away further from a local level. I have been lobbying on behalf of the Barossa community for over 10 years for a new health service and I am not getting anywhere. I feel like I have been bashing my head up against a brick wall.

In this case, requesting intervention from the federal government may be the only way we get some action on this. I have told the minister that before I make any representations to the federal government I will wait for his response; so I implore him to sign off on the business case and make it public. The Barossa community has been very patient and deserves a new health facility. This issue is above just playing politics; on a needs basis and also fairness and equity, a new hospital for the Barossa is long overdue. My big concern is that once the new RAH gets underway it will totally absorb all the health funds and the Barossa will continue with a far below standard facility many years into the future.

I thank the people of the Barossa for their support. I commend the people who work in this facility. They give excellent service in a rundown, outdated, antiquated facility, and I do commend them very highly. Never give up; we are still fighting.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (17:49): I move:

That Ms Geraghty and Mr Pengilly be appointed to act with the Speaker on the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee and that Ms Fox be appointed the alternate member of the committee to the Speaker, Mr Gibbons alternate member to Mrs Geraghty and Mr Marshall alternate member to Mr Pengilly and that a message be sent to the Legislative Council transmitting the foregoing resolution.

Motion carried.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (17:49): I move:

That Mrs Geraghty, Ms Thompson, Mr Venning and Mr Williams be appointed to act with the Speaker on the committee.

Motion carried.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (17:50): I move:

That a Publishing Committee be appointed consisting of Mr Bignell, Mr Kenyon, Ms Sanderson, Mr Gibbons and Mr Whetstone.

Motion carried.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (17:52): I move:

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

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (17:53): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable me to move for the adoption of sessional orders in relation to the time of meeting an adjournment of the house, a right of reply, the delivery of messages and private members' business without notice.

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (17:53): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to provide for the meeting of the house on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11am, the extension of sitting beyond 6pm, the moving of the motion for the adjournment of the house before 5.30pm, a citizen's right of reply, the delivery of messages by the Clerk, and receipt of messages by the Speaker when the house is not sitting, and the private members' business times and procedures as set out in the document that has been distributed to members.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (17:53): I nominate the member for Mitchell to move an Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech and I move:

That consideration of the Address in Reply be made an order of the day for 11 May 2010.

Motion carried.

At 17:54 the house adjourned until Tuesday 11 May 2010 at 11:00.